Reviewer’s report

Title: When the patient is a physician, more magnetic resonance imaging is used: a population-based cohort study in Taiwan

Version: 2 Date: 23 May 2013

Reviewer: Evelina Pappa

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Major Compulsory Comments

The resubmitted manuscript has been improved significantly, but there are still some major compulsory comments. More specifically:

1. The title needs to change again. This title limits the objective of the study to MRI utilization, whereas the objective is the utilization of radiological services. Involve all the radiological services. The authors may try something like "Investigating the utilization of radiological services by physician-patients: a cohort study…….."

2. Abstract
   -Methods: the basic statistical analyses that were applied should be addressed
   -Conclusions: the sentence describes a result rather than a conclusion. Conclusions should be written again.

3. In Background section (page 6) put a reference at the end of the first sentence.

4. Please explain in Statistical analysis section why logistic regression analysis was used to examine the predictors for only one radiology modality, the MRI.

5. In table 3, put an asterisk in Odds ratio and explain at the bottom of the table that it is adjusted for age, gender, ……etc

6. It is not clear to me why in table 2 par example the utilization of MRI per 1,000 persons-year is 34 for physicians and 14 for non-physicians and in table 4 the total utilization of MRI per 1,000 persons-year, irrespective of the existence of major diseases between physician and non-physicians is 153 and 53 respectively. Why there is this difference?

7. In Discussion section, it is mentioned that medical knowledge, familiarity with health care system and…. are the factors that may explain the higher use of MRI by physicians. In Background section, it is mentioned that every physician in charge has the right to prescribe radiological examinations. Could the self-prescription of the physicians be another reason for higher utilization of MRI by them?
8. In Discussion section, page 13, 2nd paragraph, please remove the below sentences "Physicians’ care-seeking behavior…………..among general adults [25]" because they are irrelevant.

9. In Discussion section, page 13, 2nd paragraph, it is mentioned that physicians treat their peers differently because the treating physician feel pressure from these informed patients. Is it only the pressure from the well informed fellow doctors or it is also a sort of showing favors to colleagues? Analyze the relationship between the treating physician and the patient-physician.

Minor comments
1. In Results section, 3rd paragraph at the end, it is post-matched and not past-matched group.