Reviewer’s report

Title: Female Sex and Cardiovascular Disease Risk in Rural Uganda: A cross-sectional, population-based study.

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Reviewer: Andrea Saglietto

Reviewer's report:

Magodoro et colleagues performed an interesting cross-sectional, population-based study, to understand whether female sex, traditionally considered as a protective factor for CVD in high-income countries, was also protective in sub-Saharan Africa, focusing on Uganda. They used a modified AHA cardiovascular health (CVH) tool ideal CVH, with CRP as a further variable, in order to examine potential sex-based differences in the prevalence of CVD risk in rural Uganda. They found that female sex was associated with lower rate of optimal cardiovascular health (6-8 metrics at ideal level), driven particularly by lower CVH health factors if compared to male sex, despite having better profile for ideal CVH behaviour.

I congratulate that Authors for the work, which I really appreciated. They deal with an interesting topic, and they demonstrated that the paradigm "male sex = CVD risk factor", which is valid in high-income countries, might not be applicable to other countries, such as in Uganda, thus prompting future assessment of potential role of socio-behavioural sex-specific risk factors for ideal CVH in SSA and more generally in low-income countries.

Particularly, I really appreciated the statistical design of the work, since this study is nested on a longitudinal studies currently ongoing in that area. Through the brilliant use of IPTW weighting the authors have addressed the issue of generalizability of the data, making possibile to infer information about general population in Uganda starting from data of selected people of the parent census that attended the health fair.

Minor edits:
- page 6, line 121: no comma required
- page 7, line 127: comma after the ref (18)
- in general, I would put reference number before the full stop at the end of the sentence. For example, in line 142 I suggest to write (21). rather than .(21).
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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