Reviewer’s report

Title: Risk of colorectal cancer among immigrants to Ontario, Canada

Version: 0 Date: 23 Mar 2017

Reviewer: Monica Robotin

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper, adding to the body of epidemiological knowledge about variations in cancer risk in migrant populations.

I have a few comments and queries:

1. The Background section states that the study aimed to “inform the CCC of the variability of risk by origin of immigrants and the potential relative significance of low screening in participants by origin of immigrants”. This needs rephrasing for clarity, as does the paragraph referring to screening rates in migrants in the Discussion. While it is likely that screening rates in migrants are lower, the Discussion needs to refer to the published literature to support this contention.

2. Were the authors able to tease out whether the CRC risk was different for people who underwent screening, compared to those who did not?

3. The Discussion section sells the paper short and needs to be augmented and the contribution of this study highlighted.

4. The sentence about data from British Columbia (preferably the entire paragraph) needs rephrasing and include an interpretation of the cited statistics.

5. Given the brevity of the paper, it includes a disproportionate number of tables and figures. Perhaps Figures 3 and 4 could be included as Appendices.

Small points:

1. The first paragraph in the Background section needs rephrasing for clarity.

2. In the Results section - countries of birth appear in Table 2, not Table 1

3. Spaces and typos on Page 6 compared to male; by the Kaplan-Meier method the risk…
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

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I recommend additional statistical review

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Needs some language corrections before being published

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