Reviewer's report

Title: Determinants of gastric cancer screening attendance in Korea: a multi-level analysis

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Reviewer: Katsuaki Kato

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Major

1. Participation in screening program was defined by self-reports, however there was no information about whether symptomatic individuals undergoing upper GI examinations at clinics or hospitals were discriminated from asymptomatic attendance.

Responders without taking a screening examination within 2 years prior to the interviews were uniformly defined as non-participants in screening program. According to the NCSP guidelines, endoscope or UGI are provided every 2 year in Korea (this was not described in the body, but was found out in Reference 6). Is this right? If so, uncontrolled participation at longer intervals or occasional missing of biennial examination seems to be conceivable. Is it acceptable that these behaviors were ignored as inappropriate attendance of gastric cancer screening program? The validity of definition of screening program attendance should be discussed.

3. According to reference 7 shown in the introduction of the manuscript, lifetime and recommendation screening rates of gastric cancer in 2012 were 77.9% and 70.9% respectively, although the present data reported 43.95% of participation rate in 2007-2009. What is this discrepancy? Further discussion seemed to be required about this issue.

Minor

1. Section of 'Materials and Methods' seemed to be insufficient, since there were no descriptions about followings i.e.; what services and intervals were provided by the NCSP, what queries were made by the KNHANES # concerning participation in gastric cancer program, and so on. Such information seemed important to understand the present study.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.