Reviewer’s report

Title: Determinants of cancer screening awareness and participation among Indonesian women

Version: 2 Date: 24 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Lindsay Forbes

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for asking me to rereview this interesting paper.

The authors have to a large extent addressed my comments.

However, I am still not convinced by the approach to examining multiple indicators of comorbidity i.e. comorbidity score, blood pressure, BMI, and various types of medication use to assess the association between comorbidity and cancer screening awareness and participation. How blood pressure can directly influence cancer screening awareness or participation is unclear to me. Also, medication use is likely to be strongly associated with SES, health insurance coverage and/or number of contacts with health services, and one of these is far more likely to be the cause of poor participation in screening. Medication use is pretty clearly a confounder. I am happy with the idea that comorbidity might be associated with cancer screening awareness but because it is highly unlikely to be a causal relationship it is not worth introducing multiple variables indicating comorbidity into the model.

Can the authors explain better why they included all variables in all models rather than choosing those that had a significant association in univariable analyses, or had a very good a priori reason for including them? What was the evidence that the model was improved by including all these variables rather than those that make most sense to include?

In the abstract, the first sentence is a little unhelpful. It cannot be anything but true. Do the authors mean cancer awareness and participation is likely to be lower in low- and middle-income countries…?

In the introduction, bottom of first page, the assertion needs a reference.

Page 3 of material and methods. I do not understand the classification of physical activity. The categories do not look mutually exclusive and talk about different activities. Cannot walking be vigorous?
In the results section, in several places, it is not clear where the authors are talking about the univariable analyses and where they are talking about multivariable analyses. It is not clear to me what a high school 'degree' is.

There are still a number of areas where the English could be improved.

Introduction

Page 2 of introduction, 2nd line - should be 'which is'

Material and methods

Page 2 of material and methods, 4th and 5th lines - the syntax of this sentence could be improved. i.e. 'without self-reported history of cancer' should come earlier in the sentence. Plus it should be 'a' self-reported history of cancer.

Page 2 of material and methods: subhead should be cancer screening awareness and behaviour or participation. Final line of this paragraph should be 'participants were asked whether they had performed BSE in the past year' - it can only be either 'ever' (which means in their whole life), or over a defined period ie in the past year.

Next paragraph - do the authors mean health insurance?

Statistical analysis section: I don't quite understand the first line. There is a 'the' missing before IFLS in the 4th line.

I am not clear what the authors mean by 'whereas household clustering was not included to maximise numbers of samples analysed in each category.' I don't really understand the next sentence either.

I am not sure what the authors mean by a different 'cut-off' for BSE. There is a 'The' missing inform of 'Dataset was prepared with SAS'.
Results

line 3
Should be 'lived in an urban area and had not completed high school'

Line 7 should be 'had had a mammogram'

Line 8 same problem about BSE as mentioned above. Ever? Or in last year?

Line 10. Comprised should not be followed by 'of'

Last sentence of first para of results, English needs improving.

Subheadings still say awareness 'to' paper smear and mammography - should be 'of'

In the section 'determinants of pap smear participation' the English of the first and last sentences should be improved.

Discussion

The discussion still needs a lot of improvement to the English in terms of articles, prepositions and many other errors. In many places it is not clear what the authors are trying to say, and where their arguments, which are clearly important, could be strengthened.

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 recommend additional statistical review

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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