Reviewer's report

Title: Clinicopathological characteristics and health care for Tibetan women with breast cancer: a cross-sectional survey

Version: 0 Date: 13 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Benjamin Calhoun

Reviewer's report:

General Comments: The study and the manuscript have several strengths. The patient population for comparison is appropriate as is the inclusion of central review of histopathology and staging following WHO and AJCC. Confining the analysis to invasive carcinoma is also a strength.

Specific Comments:

The pages are not numbered.

Background, line 23: change et al. to etc.

Methods, Study Design and Quality Control, 2nd paragraph, line 48: separate medical oncology into two words (medical oncology)

Methods, Statistical Analysis, 1st paragraph: Instead of making new categories called LNM +/- or invasion +/- why not just use the AJCC designations? One grouping could be N0 vs N1-3 and the other could be T1-T3 versus T4. And, later in Results, it looks like N2 was the most common 'LNM' group - why not just say N2?

Methods, Statistical Analysis, lines 1-4: Was the Nottingham combined histology grade used? Please clarify.

Results, Clinicopathologic characters of 273 Tibetan female with BC, line 48-50: List the AJCC stage here For example, list the stage group (e.g., Stage IIIA) or list the TNM (e.g., T3 N1 M0).

Results, The relationship between clinicopathological characters of 273 Tibetan females with BC and different HCSs, lines 20-31: Include the stage groups here - were Stages I-III compared to Stage IV?

Results, The relationship between clinicopathological characters of 273 Tibetan females with BC and different HCSs, lines 28-31: The increase in advanced disease in the rural and urban HCS seems counterintuitive. Could this be attributed to increased access (i.e., patients who ordinarily would have stayed home went to the clinic or hospital)? Did these patients have other diseases that prevented them from seeking care earlier for breast cancer?
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?
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Yes

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