Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 12 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Feng Gao

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written manuscript. The authors conducted a study, for the first time, to assess the clinicopathological characteristics of Tibetan females with breast cancer at presentation. The statistical methods are properly used. The authors are well aware of the strength and limitation for this study. However, there are a few issue in the data presentation and interpretation, especially in the paragraph for "Relationship between clinicopathological characteristics of 273 Tibetan females with BC from different HCSs".

1. page 8 line 4: The statement "Only invasive BC was included in analysis" is rather confusing. Are these 3 cases with DCIS included in Tables 1 and 2?

2. Page 8 line 28: it is unclear which assumption was used for "multinomial logistic regression". Is it using the generalized logit function (in which each non-reference category is contrasted with the reference category), or adjacent-category logit function (in which each category is contrasted with the following category), or the cumulative logit model (which assumes a natural order among all categories). The reviewer expects it is the cumulative logit (which is the default choice for major statistical packages such as SAS and SPSS), but it is better to spell out because it seems the authors also mentioned the other choices at the end of paragraph (page 10 lines 40-45).

3. Page 8 line 31: it is unclear why other baseline characteristics such as "Social economic status" were not included as covariates.

4. Page 9 line 53: the statement "we included only invasive BC that were only 3 cases of DCIS" is rather confusing.

5. Page 10 line 23: the statement "based on the local advanced (III) stage" is rather confusing. Does the author mean "using stage III as reference"?
6. Page 10 lines 15-20 and Table 3: for the logistic model of T4 stage, it is unclear why the variable HCS ends with only a single OR. Because HCS is a categorical variables with 3 levels, it is better to be presented by two indicators (similar to that of presented in the model for AJCC stage).

7. Table 3: is is unclear why multinomial logistic regression was used for AJCC stage if the comparison is only between I+II vs III.

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?
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I am able to assess the statistics

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