Reviewer's report

Title: Management of patients with early stage lung cancer – why do some patients not receive treatment with curative intent?

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Reviewer: David Palma

Reviewer's report:

The authors present a study of 3331 cases of lung cancer, including 583 patients with early-stage disease, to identify factors associated with receipt of curative intent therapy. Importantly, the authors also aim to assess these factors within an indigenous population that has historically been under-served by the medical system, the Maori. Overall, approximately 70% of patients with stage I/II disease received curative-intent treatment, and the majority of those received surgery. Logistic regression indicated several factors associated with receipt of curative intent therapy, but did not detect differences in receipt of curative treatment or curative surgery between Maori and non-Maori patients. It think this is an important paper because it assess possible disparities in lung cancer treatment.

I have only a few minor suggestions:

- The paper would benefit from some suggestions on how to improve rates of access to curative-intent therapy, if possible.

- The discussion sentence "Our study also shows that patients who identify as Māori are less likely to receive curative surgical resection of Stage I and II lung cancer than those who do not identify as Māori" is based on the unadjusted analysis. That should be noted in the sentence. Usually the findings from a multivariable analysis will supercede the findings from an unadjusted analysis, and this could suggest that the NZ system is doing a good job of ensuring access to curative-intent treatments for all.

- In Tables 3 and 4, the columns with the effect estimate (OR or HR) and 95% CIs should be to the left of the column with the p-values.

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 am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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