Reviewer's report

Title: A cross sectional study on the barriers and motivators for Asian women to attend opportunistic screening mammography

Version: 2

Date: 17 February 2015

Reviewer: Sarah Nechuta

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
This is an interesting report. One main issue is that the discussion is underdeveloped. A comparison of this present study to previous research in Malaysia and in other Asian countries, including how this study fills a gap in the current research and addressed limitations of these previous studies is lacking. More detail on the interpretation of the main results of the study (e.g., what do the results mean, were any results unexpected) is needed. Another key issue is that it is unclear why the breast cancer risk profile of women in Malaysia was compared to women in British Columbia. Some rationale for this is needed, and why not compare to an Asian country that has a population screening program in place? This also impacts the interpretation of results and conclusions.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. Overall: The paper needs to be carefully reviewed for grammatical errors. Here are some examples:

   Line 44, …in Asia at low risk… (missing word “are”)

   Line 59, By contrast to developed countries with high incidence where organized national mammographic screening…. (“In contrast” instead of by contrast). Also when using the word incidence, need to clarify incidence of what? Breast cancer? Similar issue in line 74.

   Line 97, missing the word “or” before “symptomatic”

   Line 116, As to test for differences…..(should be “To test”) 

   Line 127, extra comma in the sentence

   Line 188, sentence missing period

   Line 204, Although ethnicities is excluded from this cluster analysis, but further examination… (consider revising to “Although ethnicities were excluded from the cluster analysis, further examination…”)

2. Abstract, Conclusion and Conclusion of Paper- it seems some implications of results are missing. For example, why not target high risk women for screening, as it appears low risk women make up the majority of those screened? In addition, what are the implications that women with higher breast cancer risk factors profiles (e.g., obesity and diabetes), were of lower education and less likely to receive a mammography? Also, what about the need to target women of
non-Chinese ethnicity? That is, those ethnic groups less likely to attend screening, such as Malay women.

3. Lines 162-163, please define low risk, medium risk, and high risk.

4. Line 163- please provide rationale for comparison with Screening Mammography Program of British Columbia.

5. Lines 177-178 is not needed. Instead, it would be clearer to simply provide the size of each cluster in the first sentence of each paragraph that describes each cluster.

6. Lines 214-217. This sentence is confusing….who is the comparison population. That is, who are the “women attending population-based screening programs”. It seems these should be women attending these programs in Asian countries, such as Japan and Korea. It is not clear the purpose of comparing to women in British Columbia, who have completely different risk profiles for breast cancer.

7. Table 1 – please add “by mammography history” to table title to be more clear.

8. Table 1- please consider replacing “missing menopausal status” with just “missing” and this can be done for all variables, to be less wordy.

9. Table 1 – please consider replacing “have had a mammo before” with “previous mammogram”.

10. Table 1- therapy is misspelled in the HRT variable

11. Table 2- the table appears to have footnotes, but there are none listed under the table.

12. Figure 1- not sure how helpful this figure is. In particular, the comparison to British Columbia.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests