**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Prevalence of breast-related symptoms, health care seeking behaviour and diagnostic needs among women in Burkina Faso

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 09 Feb 2018

**Reviewer:** Clemence Tarirai

**Reviewer's report:**

Minor comments

1. Page 1 line 1 (the title), abstract and the text have non specific term: ...'breast-related'..... Perhaps, change this to 'breast cancer-related' OR 'breast-related symptoms of cancer'?

2. Page 2 line 32: the term 'unknown' should be removed.

Major comments:

1. The questionnaire used in the study was designed with some parts adapted from an instrument used in other countries. Was this data collection tool piloted in Burkina Faso to validate its applicability to the study population (e.g. accuracy of language self-translations by participants?)

2. What was the purpose of the intervention at the end of the study? Was it need-specific and individualized to meet the varied demographic (e.g. education, cultural/religion) profiles of the participants?

3. Current paper:

The authors provide descriptive frequencies on the purported primary factors (e.g. primary symptoms), intermediate factors/outcome (e.g. health seeking behavior after first symptoms) and the outcomes (e.g. current diagnostic outcome). This satisfies the current title 'PREVALENCE of breast-related symptoms, health care seeking behaviour and diagnostic needs among women in Burkina Faso.', but not the current aim.
The authors may consider rephrasing the aim to: 'This study aimed to estimate the PREVALENCE of breast-cancer related symptoms, health care seeking behaviour and diagnostic needs among women in Burkina Faso' and keep the paper in its current state.

The alternative scenario:

In the current paper, the aim: 'This study aims to estimate the unknown diagnostic needs ASSOCIATED with breast related symptoms in the female population of Burkina Faso.' was not addressed. The current title and the current aim do not speak the same thing i.e. the title relates to the data, but not the aim. The authors made no further attempt to assess the presence and strength of association between the proposed motivating factors (primary symptoms cluster) and the intermediate health-seeking behaviors of participants after first symptoms with the outcomes group i.e. the current diagnostic status? Yet they reported on page 9, lines 4-5 that "In 65% of all 205 cases, the symptoms were associated with breastfeeding." What was the association and how was it determined e.g. reported concurrently in space/time/event by participants or by statistical analysis?

If the current aim is to be meaningfully related to the results section, perhaps consider rephrasing the title to: Prevalence of breast-cancer related symptoms, health care seeking behaviour and the ASSOCIATED diagnostic needs among women in Burkina Faso', and then add further statistical analysis data (e.g. odds ratios, 95%CI, p-values) to describe the assumed associations. Such models for associations should account for the contribution of the recorded participant background and sociodemographic characteristics (Table 1) on participants' health-seeking behaviour and consequently on their current diagnostic status.

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

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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