Reviewer’s report

Title: Women's knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) relating to breast and cervical cancers in rural Zimbabwe: A cross sectional study in Mudzi District, Mashonaland East Province

Version: 2 Date: 26 Sep 2018

Reviewer: J Townsend

Reviewer's report:

The revisions made to this article have improved the quality of this manuscript. The inclusion of figure 1 helps with understanding the sampling strategy. Also, your survey design may be best described as stratified random cluster survey, since you randomly selected villages, which could also be viewed as "clusters." I would suspect women from the same village may be more similar to one another in their cancer beliefs and screening practices compared to women from other villages. So in theory, the variance in your estimates could be higher than those generated in a simple descriptive analysis that assumes a simple random sample. In this version, there are several items that need to be addressed.

Methods section - line 11 change "Linkert" to "Likert"

Results section - line 51 on page 5: The last two sentences in this paragraph seem to say the same thing. Do both sentences refer to the same survey question regarding "getting either breast or cervical cancer is a death sentence?" If so, I would recommend keeping the sentence that is a bit more detailed.

Table 3 - Non Hodgkin Lymphoma - remove "brain" in parentheses because this is classified as a blood cancer.

Table 4 - It looks like the percentages are based on the entire sample size (n=409), not n=249. You may want to note that as a footnote.

Table 6 - You may want to double check the denominator. The percentages do not align with n=270. Were there missing values? Or, was 409 the actual denominator? If so, please note that as a footnote.

Discussion section –

Page 7, line 56 change "interrogate" to "investigate"?
As a study limitation, I recommend stating that your analysis did not account for the survey's complex sampling design. Your results may only generalizable to the study population.

In Zimbabwe, is there a minimum age for cervical cancer screening? Given that women as young as age 15 were included in the study, this may partially explain the very low screening levels found since nearly 19% of women were age 15 - 19 years.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published
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