Reviewer's report

Title: Prognostic factors for rural endometrial cancer patients in a population-based cohort

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Reviewer: Sherri Stewart

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written manuscript discussing differing survival trends from uterine/endometrial cancer among urban and rural women in Utah. It adds to the literature on the topic, and is especially important because as the authors note, uterine cancer is one of a few cancers that has been increasing in recent years. While the methods and conclusions are sound, the authors are very limited by the small sample size of their rural population to make more significant associations. This is noted by the authors, and for me doesn't take away from the importance of this article, given the increasing cancer trends. I have a couple specific suggestions for authors to consider: 1) I suggest adding a couple of sentences to the intro and perhaps discussion to note the specific treatment modalities for endometrial cancer. It may help to provide context to the findings given that chemotherapy and/or radiation treatments are done over a longer period of time compared to surgery. It's possible that rural cancer patients may have difficulty with the continued and cyclical nature of these treatments with regard to easy geographic access/instrumental support, etc. This could help explain why late stage rural patients have a higher risk of death compared to urban. Also, on Pg 9 in the Discussion, it is likely best to not refer to screening for high-risk individuals, because this is not a universally accepted or mandated guideline. Removing these sentences will not take away from the paper. Likewise, I would consider deleting the sentences in lines 227-231, Pg 9, Discussion about death rates, and Figure 1. Survival is the much better measure for endometrial cancer because it is highly survivable, as shown by the author's comprehensive survival analysis and death percentages listed in Table 1. An unadjusted Kaplan-Meier survival curve would likely add more to the paper than the current Figure 1.

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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