Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Multiplicative Disadvantage of Being an Unmarried and Inadequately Insured Woman Living in Poverty with Colon Cancer: Historical Cohort in California

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 15 October 2014

**Reviewer:** Nele Brusselaers

**Reviewer’s report:**

I read with interest the article of Levitz et al, on the influence of gender, marital status, poverty and health insurance on the treatment of colon cancer by means of chemotherapy. The article is clearly presented and shows interesting and important findings considering inequalities in health care in the United States. I do have a few comments:

**Major:**
- How did the authors manage missing data? Complete case analyses? Please specify in the methods section.
- Last sentence of the results: gender? I thought all analyses presented in this paper were based on women only? Maybe the results of the cox regression model should be presented as well? Now the authors mention only that there is no difference.

**Minor:**
- The authors like to use abbreviations, but this hampers readability. Some of them are only used once or twice, so these could easily be omitted (e.g. AA, African American). E.g. abbreviation of chemotherapy (CT) does not add any benefit (even the same word count), and even writing marital status and health insurance in full would not be a burden for the reader (on the contrary).
- Line 190: should be previously married I suppose, instead of previously unmarried?

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests