Reviewer's report

Title: Knowledge of cervical cancer and HPV vaccine in Bangladeshi women: a population based, cross-sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 27 Dec 2016

Reviewer: Echo L. Warner

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript aimed to assess knowledge of cervical cancer and willingness to receive the HPV vaccine among Bangladeshi women. Given the high global burden of cervical cancer and other HPV related diseases, research that explores current knowledge and awareness about HPV-related morbidity (e.g., cervical cancer) and receptiveness to HPV vaccination is needed. In that light, this study provides valuable baseline information for the development of future interventions in Bangladesh. The manuscript could be strengthened by addressing the comments below.

Major comments:

It is unclear how the questions related to knowledge of cervical cancer were operationalized. Were the questions open-ended in the sense that they generated data for which a qualitative analysis would have been appropriate? On the other hand, were the "open ended responses" limited to those listed in Table 2? Please clarify in the methods.

Lines 121-123: Please explain the rationale for excluding pregnant and post-partum women.

Lines 163: Please explain more. Were women ineligible because they were found to have had cervical abnormalities or for some other reason?

Line 179-180: How was vaccination history determined? If self-reported, please clarify.

Lines 238-243: This paragraph needs more detail. In the first sentence it is unclear which findings from the population based study relate to the current one. It is also unclear in the second sentence whether the authors are recommending the development of educational programs in general, about HPV, HPV vaccination and/or cervical cancer to improve access to preventive methods. Furthermore, the recommendations made in this paragraph do not acknowledge potential differences in educational programs and differential access to preventive methods for rural vs. urban communities.

There are many grammatical/technical errors throughout the manuscript (misspelling, inconsistent punctuation, etc.). Please revise and address these issues throughout. Some are detailed below.
Tables: Please clarify how variables with small cells (i.e., less than 5 observations) were handled. Typically I would expect to see a Fisher Exact test performed for these comparisons, however it appears that these comparisons were either not calculated or were incorrectly calculated using Chi-square tests.

Minor comments:

Lines 165: area should be plural

Line 167: 'characters' should be 'characteristics'

Line 172: It would be helpful for the reader to provide an approximate conversion of 20,000 BDT to USD or Euro.

Line 253: Missing period in the middle of this line.

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.

Unable to assess

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

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
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