Reviewer’s report

Title: Massive single visit cervical pre-cancer and cancer screening in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo

Version: 0 Date: 26 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Lin Zhu

Reviewer’s report:

This study examines a cervical cancer screening campaign in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It evaluates the screening intervention, and the findings generated important policy and research implications. Cancer screening interventions and studies in understudied and underprivileged countries like this one is urgently needed.

The authors could consider addressing the following issues to further improve the quality of this paper.

1. The authors provided a detailed description of the screening procedures, which is very important. However, it would also be interesting to have more details on the recruitment strategies. One of the challenges of cancer screening campaigns or interventions is to recruit those in need, and as we know from previous studies, those who were most underprivileged are usually the hardest to recruit or reach. This could be addressed in the Methods section, and/or the Discussion section. What kind of message was included? Was is culturally tailored? It's provide some implications for future studies.

2. Related to the previous point, community-based participatory research has proven to be effective in promoting cancer screening in underprivileged populations, such as low-income, ethnic minorities in the US. Some example articles are included below. These studies were conducted in collaboration with faith-based organizations, similarly to this study under review. It'd be interesting to see how this approach could be explored to expand the efforts to promote screening and vaccination. The authors should consider discussing this point in this article.


3. The authors mentioned that there are strong need for HPV vaccination. Did the study actually measure the knowledge/awareness of HPV vaccination? When the HPV vaccine is available in DRC, what would be some good strategies to promote the vaccination? This might also be a good discussion point.

**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:

Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal