Reviewer's report

Title: EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND HISTOPATHOLOGICAL PROFILE OF MALIGNANT MELANOMA IN MALAWI

Version: 1 Date: 03 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Lisa Altieri

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for your thoughtful responses to comments. The revised submission has been substantially improved. The following are my recommendations based on reading the revised article.

Abstract:
- Results: change from "male" to "males"
- Conclusion: Can delete the first sentence. Conclusion also says that "Surprising frequency of MM suggests that the burden of disease may be under-appreciated." What is the frequency? Why is this frequency surprising?

Introduction:
- (page 7, line 52) Would recommend deleting reference about cutaneous glaborous skin, as this isn't really an specific anatomic site like the other ones included in this sentence
- Perhaps include the reference from the discussion regarding genetic differences between African Americans and black Africans. Some readers may think that because cutaneous melanoma is largely UV-related, populations with similar skin pigmentation would have similar rates of melanoma.

Methods:
- Would add a line about how statistics were calculated

Results:
- In table 2, please say what the numbers in parentheses indicate

Discussion:
- First paragraph, please cite the systematic review. Any difference in the conclusions seen between your work and the systematic review?
- Would consider removing the discussion of how many years the study was done in - even if the study was done in a shorter amount of time compared to other studies, it doesn't give more weight to the study results
- (page 15, line 15) Second paragraph, spell out "to" rather than have the colon
- (page 15, line 33) please clarify wording "out study could not infer on incidence…"
- Third paragraph (page 15, line 39-44) These would seem more like limitations.
- (page 16, line 28-40) In the discussion about trauma causing ALM, please cite source. Why would trauma cause ALM? Perhaps instead of discussing trauma with lacking statistics and sources, you could expound more on any genetic differences
- Limitations: change the first sentence to "a few" or "several"

Conclusion:
- Could consider deleting the second line because readers may not likely expect that this report would encompass all cases or melanoma seen during this time period

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?
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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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