Reviewer’s report

Title: Mapping Evidence on Women’s Knowledge and Practice of Breast Self-Examination in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Scoping Review Protocol

Version: 0 Date: 15 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Alfred Farrell

Reviewer's report:

This article indicates an intent to undertake a scoping review to gather evidence of an association between breast self-examination and early detection of breast cancer among women in Sub-Saharan Africa.

It is not actually a scoping review but rather an intention to conduct a scoping review and a description of methodology proposed to be followed. In my view it does not add anything of merit to the literature.

I believe the authors should go ahead and conduct the scoping review and submit their findings for publication. I honestly see very little merit in this manuscript.

I believe the methodology they plan to follow needs to be reviewed. They need to be mindful of the fact that international literature reports of Breast self-examination have not conclusively been found to be associated with early stage detection of breast cancer - at best they are inconclusive - before embarking on such a scoping review I would suggest they conduct a brief literature review on screening methods to apply for early detection of breast cancer in the absence of population mammography screening. Self-breast examination and associations with early detection of breast cancer are at best controversial. I suggest rather an assessment of the association of a clinical breast examination screening perhaps together with even ultrasound for suspicious lesions and earlier breast cancer diagnosis may be a more effective approach.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of limited interest

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
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