Reviewer’s report

Title: Screening for esophageal adenocarcinoma and precancerous conditions (dysplasia and Barrett’s esophagus) in patients with chronic gastroesophageal reflux disease with or without other risk factors: two systematic reviews and one overview of reviews to inform a guideline of the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care (CTFPHC)

Version: 0 Date: 12 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Renyan Liu

Reviewer's report:

1. The study was conducted to explore the effectiveness of screening for esophageal adenocarcinoma and precancerous conditions (dysplasia and Barrett's esophagus) in patients with chronic gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) with or without other risk factors; and investigate how adults with chronic GERD weigh the benefits and harms of screening, and identify what factors contribute to their preferences and decision to undergo screening; and finally review the treatment options for Barrett's esophagus (BE), dysplasia or stage 1 EAC. The results suggest that little evidence exists on the effectiveness of screening and values and preferences to screening. Overall, there is uncertainty in understanding the effectiveness of screening and early treatments. Therefore the study is of particular interest in the research of screening and treatment of BE and EAC.

2. Generally, the paper is clearly written and the methods are reasonably employed.

3. On page 33, the authors stated that there was little difference in the incidence rates of EAC, BE, and dysplasia using alternative screening methods and implied that the results from these studies may encourage increased usage of alternative methods of screening for BE and EAC. The potential problem is that conventional EGD and alternate methods may not be accurate in diagnosing BE or EAC. Are there any gold standards that can confirm the accuracy of conventional EGD and alternate methods? Please discuss or explain.

4. On page 37, the authors stated that the lack of a definition of chronic GERD, or even how studies defined GERD, leads to a serious concern for the direct generalizability of the population represented in these studies to the target population of this review. Please discuss how this might change the conclusions of the present study.

5. Since there is uncertainty in understanding the effectiveness of screening and early treatments for esophageal adenocarcinoma and precancerous conditions, please discuss future directions following this study and how the study paves the way for future studies.

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

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
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 organisation 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

Were you mentored through this peer review?

No