Reviewer’s report

Title: Effect of providing risk information on undergoing cervical cancer screening: a randomized controlled trial

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Reviewer: Etsuko Miyagi

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The authors investigated whether providing information on possible risks of cervical cancer screening prevent people from participation using a population based screening program provided by a local self-governing body, and they concluded that the information might not prevent people from the screening. The subject is important, however, several points should be revised.

Major points

1. Explanations for the results are insufficient, even considering the some limitations of this study the authors described. At least, the demographics of the participants including age distribution and the history of Pap test should be shown.

2. As a control group, the women allocated in Group C received nothing. The possibility that the documents sent to the target women in Group A and B played a role as a simple reminder of cervical cancer screening, indifferent to the information, should be discussed.

Minor points

1. In the abstract, using the word “patients” is inappropriate to describe the target women of cervical cancer screening.

2. Concerning the cervical cancer screening rate (32.4%) in the introduction, the source of the data and the calculation method should be clarified.

3. The authors stated that the screening program was an annual to triennial Pap smear and HPV DNA testing for women over 20 years. Does it mean that every target woman has HPV DNA testing even for the annual screening?

4. The style to show the reference #10 in the discussion is inadequate.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.