Reviewer's report

**Title:** Identifying women at risk for delayed presentation of breast cancer: a population-based cross-sectional study in Estonia

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 4 June 2013

**Reviewer:** Wendy Wing Tak W Lam

**Reviewer's report:**

This article reported the extent of patient delayed in seeking help for breast cancer symptoms among women in Estonia. This is under-studied population. Hence, this study contributes to the knowledge about the occurrence and correlates of prolonged delay in women presenting breast cancer symptoms.

To improve the manuscript, the following comments should be addressed:

**Minor essential revisions**

(1) A priori hypotheses of chosen factors in relationship to prolonged patient delay should be given and discussed in the introduction.

(2) How was information of BC being measured in the study?

(3) Discussion: the authors mentioned the populations were differed across studies. More elaboration of such differences and its impacts on the findings should be given.

(4) In the present study, how was “the number of close persons to confide in” being measured? Previous studies consistently showed disclosure to others about the breast symptoms prompted women to seek help earlier. However, this study did not find such effect. This should be addressed in the discussion.

(5) Clinical implications resulting the study findings should be addressed.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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.