Reviewer's report


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Reviewer: Paulo S Pinheiro

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting analysis of the occurrence of endometrial cancer among women in the island of Puerto Rico. The comparisons made here are relevant but could be further improved with a different comparison group - the Puerto Rican women in the mainland United States. The main results here are the increasing incidence of endometrial cancer in the island and the survival disparities observed between US Whites on one hand and Puerto Ricans in the island as well as US Blacks on the other and the authors appropriately address this.

Major Compulsory Revision:

A better characterization of the USH population should be made in the sense they are not directly comparable to the Puerto Rican population which is herself another Hispanic population.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Page 10. Paragraph 1. These survival rates are not adjusted for age and therefore not suitable for comparison.

2. The last paragraph of Page 9 and the last sentence of Page 10 in the first Paragraph both refer to mortality. Both statistical analyses are adjusted for age but they show different results especially in the comparison between Puerto Ricans and non-Hispanic Whites. Can the authors explain further?

3. In terms of data quality how does the proportion of death certificate only cases compare between Puerto Rico and the US? In the age group 20-34 where an increase in incidence was noted, what was the average annual number of cases? Endometrial cancer is very rare in this age group, were unlikely morphologies like squamous cell carcinoma possibly misclassified cases? In other words how strong is this finding of an increase in endometrial cancer among such young ages? Could it be explained by misclassification, low numbers or be artefactual?

4. Page 10 second paragraph "... obesity and diabetes have increased among PR..." - there is a reference missing here.

5. Page 11, Paragraph 3 - Why the comparison with Europe when the study is between PR and the US populations. Also, which is the reference relating parity and age at menarche with endometrial cancer? - [25] is an unlikely reference.
6. Other points: why are cancer data from PR not included in US cancer statistics. Is it only the data for endometrial cancer? Page 6 - brackets for reference 9. Page 8 - check English in the first two sentences of paragraph 3. Page 8 - The proportional hazards model compares the whole survival experience, not only after 5 years. Page 9 - remove percentage signs for incidence rates. Page 10 Paragraph 1 - suggest the authors rewrite the 3rd sentence. Page 13 Paragraph 2 - suggest the authors rewrite the 3rd sentence. Page 14 - Unsure of the Lead time bias in this case. Explain further or if minimal maybe no need to mention it. Limitations - please see major revision topic.

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.