Author's response to reviews


Authors:

Rachel Eyre (Rachel.Eyre@ncl.ac.uk)
Richard G Feltbower (R.G.Feltbower@ncl.ac.uk)
Peter W James (P.W.James@ncl.ac.uk)
Karen Blakey (Karen.Blakey@ncl.ac.uk)
Emmanuel Mubwandarikwa (e.mubwandarikwa@tiscali.co.uk)
David Forman (d.forman@leeds.ac.uk)
Patricia A McKinney (P.A.McKinney@leeds.ac.uk)
Mark S Pearce (M.S.Pearce@ncl.ac.uk)
Richard JQ McNally (Richard.McNally@ncl.ac.uk)

Version: 7 Date: 30 April 2010

Author's response to reviews: see over
POINT-BY-POINT RESPONSES TO REVIEWERS’S COMMENTS

Reviewer: Archie W Bleyer

- **Response to Essential Revisions**
  1. **Page 6 - Methods - Statistical Methods, second & third sentences:** The rationale as to why the world population was used for age standardization is now given. “Comparison of age-standardised incidence rates (ASRs) are only meaningful if they are standardised in the same way. The world standard has the most widespread use and calculation of world ASRs allows comparisons to be made with other published UK and international (especially European) studies”, such as data presented in references 3, 9, 11 & 15.

  2. **Page 6 - Methods – Statistical Methods, first sentence:** “Age-specific incidence rates were calculated based on annual mid-year population estimates.”

      **Page 6 – Methods – Statistical Methods, fourth sentence:** “ASRs were calculated using the age-specific incidence rates for five-year age groups weighted using the standard world population (originally proposed by Segi, but modified by Doll and constructed from the pooled populations of forty six representative countries that had accurate population census data).” Three additional references are also given (19, 20 & 21).

- **Response to Discretionary Revisions**
  1. **Figures 1 & 2:** We have removed the horizontal grids from both figures.

Reviewer: Sean Scully

- **Response to Comments**
  1. All changes are now marked (highlighted & underlined). Misleading statements have been clarified (see response (4) below).

  2. We agree that the word “older” may be misleading and have changed the wording throughout the text as follows: (i) **Page 3 - Background, second paragraph, second, third & fourth sentences:** “Older adults” specifically refers to those aged >65 years; (ii) **Page 12 - Discussion, fourth paragraph, second sentence:** The words “older age range” have been changed to “extended age range”;

      **Discussion, paragraph nine, first sentence:** The words “older adults” have been changed to “adults aged more than forty years”.


Page 11 - Discussion, first paragraph, final three sentences. We have changed the wording to clarify the statement regarding the accuracy of the incidence and survival data. “The basic case incidence and survival data were accurately recorded by the registry. However, data on stage and treatment were not consistently and reliably recorded. Therefore, some of the differences in survival may be due to differences in case mix with respect to stage or treatment regime”.

We agree that the grouped results for all bone cancer may not be useful. We now only present separate disease specific analyses for osteosarcoma, Ewing sarcoma and chondrosarcoma. There is more in depth focus on these three diagnostic groups. Changes have been made throughout the text as follows: (i) Page 3 - Background, second paragraph, second, third & fourth sentences: Details concerning the age peaks for osteosarcoma, Ewing sarcoma and chondrosarcoma are given separately, recognising the “second peak in incidence for osteosarcoma” and that chondrosarcoma peaks in older adults (aged >65 years) & three new references [4 – 6] have been added; (ii) Page 4 - Background, third paragraph, fourth sentence: We now make it clear that we are concerned with “osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma and Ewing sarcoma” rather than all “bone cancer”; (iii) Page 12 - Discussion, fourth paragraph: We state explicitly that the incidence of all three diagnostic groups - “osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma and Ewing sarcoma” was higher among males than females; (iv) Page 12 - Discussion, fifth paragraph: We state explicitly that there were incidence peaks for osteosarcoma and Ewing sarcoma in the 15-29 age group.

Reviewer: Piero Picci
  • No response required

Reviewer: Dae-Geun Jeon
  • No response required