Reviewer’s report


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Reviewer: piero picci

Reviewer's report:

In the literature there is a lack of epidemiologic data regarding rare tumours, as bone tumours. In these cases, data provided by regional Registries seems to be more reliable of real incidence and survival, when an accurate check of the cases is possible. This seems to be the case of this paper.

Some concern is related to the presentation os data on survival: statistical analysis in page 8 reports "Significantly better survival rates were found for osteosarcoma compared to chondrosarcoma" !!!!! and the first paragraph on survival at page 7 reports "57,6% for osteosarcoma and 71,2% for chondrosarcoma"; also table 3 and figure 1 show better survival for chondrosarcoma.

Again at page 8, no improvement in survival is reported for osteosarcoma, but in table 3 there is an increase from 49.28 in the years 1981-1987 compared to 62.32 in the years 1995-2000. There is the necessity of other statistical tests?

Finally, regarding discussion, and again particularly the differences in survival during the years, very recent (2009) papers are not considered (i.e. the one from SEER: Cancer 115: 1531-1543,2009, and from other major centres).

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.