Title: Rapidly increasing renal cell cancer among black Americans: an epidemiologic review

Reviewer: Börje Ljungberg

Reviewer’s report:

This is an excellent review of epidemiologic factor of RCC, with a focus on blacks.

Discretionary Revisions:

The title is somewhat misleading, since the incidence rate in black people in US seems to have been stabilized between 2001-2006. And furthermore, the increase was found also in whites. Data from a recent European study, (Levi F, Ferlay J, Galeone C et al. The changing pattern of kidney cancer incidence and mortality in Europe. BJU Int 2008;101:949–958.) which analyzed kidney cancer incidence 1980–2004, indicate a shift towards stabilization or a decrease in incidence in recent years in both sexes. Also overall mortality rates for kidney cancer, in Europe, increased until the late 1980s/early 1990s, thereafter rates have stabilized or declined.9,10 In the EU, mortality rates from kidney cancer declined from a peak of 4.8 per 100,000 in 1990–1994 to 4.1 per 100,000 in 2000–2004 (−13.1%) in men, and declined from 2.1 to 1.8 per 100,000 (−17%) in women.

This trend seems also visible in figure 2.

With a lack of known occupational factors, life-style factors seems to be the major factors for RCC development. Whether there in general is a difference in life style between races there are evidence that there are differences in life-style based on socioeconomic factors in Europe. Is there a similar economic situation between blacks and whites in US?

However, there is a need for detailed etiologic studies based on race in US having a mixture of races and differences (?) in life-style.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'