Author's response to reviews

Title: Cancer burden in China: a Bayesian approach

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Authors’ responses to Editors’ comments

(Authors’ responses appear in italics.)

1. Ethical Approval
In the Methods section, please confirm whether ethical approval was obtained for this retrospective study. Please include the full name of the ethical committee that granted approval, listing a reference number if obtained.

The national death survey was conducted by Ministry of Health, China, and registration data were collected from local registries. The National Central Cancer Registry (NCCR) is responsible for data management, quality control, analysis and reporting. No personal information (such as, name, ID number, home address and personal contact details) are included when extracting data from the database. We have strict rules in place to prevent from identify individual person. Therefore, there is no need to obtain ethics approval for this study. I have added statement in the last paragraph of methods section, page 8.

2. Data
Please clarify in the Methods section if you obtained official permission to use the National Central Cancer Registry database or if the access to the data is public.

The first author, Wanqing Chen is the chief of NCCR, managing the national database. One of the duties of NCCR is to analyze the data and report the results of the data analyses. When the registries submitted data to NCCR, it got the authorization to use the data for analysis. Statement has been added in the last paragraph of methods section, page 8.