Reviewer’s report

Title: Changes in period and cohort effects on haematological cancer mortality in Spain, 1952-2006

Version: 1 Date: 15 February 2014

Reviewer: Yung-Po Liaw

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1) The authors adopted the approach proposed by Holford to overcome the problem of non-identifiability of model parameters arising from the exact linear dependence among age, period, and cohort. Can the authors explain what advantages Holford’s approach has over other APC models? For example, the author should at least compare the model used in the manuscript to that described by Yang Yang et al.

2) The change-points for Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma as provided by joint point models (Figure 4) differ in men and women. Please Explain.

Discretionary Revisions
3) According to the authors, the consistent male excess mortality across all calendar periods and age groups points to the importance of possible sex-related genetic markers of susceptibility in haematological cancers. Can the authors comment if there is a possible association between ethnicity and haematological cancer mortality?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'