Reviewer’s report

Title: Time trends and age-period-cohort analyses on incidence rates of thyroid cancer in Shanghai and Hong Kong

Version: 2 Date: 24 November 2014

Reviewer: Giuseppe Alessio Messano

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Minor Essential Revisions:
This study investigated the time trends in thyroid cancer in Hong-Kong and Shanghai using sophisticated statistical techniques that accounted for both period and cohort effects, that are pervasive in time trend analyses. The results were that, instead of the mere Age-Adjusted Incidence/Mortality Rates, Average Annual Percent Changes have been reported which provided a continuous increase in rates among males and females in both towns. However, thanks to this analysis, the Authors also reported that the improved diagnostic tools may have artificially changed these rates, as well as the cohort effect, with a changed exposure to carcinogens at age-cohort level.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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' below.