Author's response to reviews

Title: Prognosis of screen-detected breast cancers: results of a population based study

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Version: 6 Date: 10 November 2005

Author's response to reviews: see over
Reply to Reviewer 2:

1. As requested, our methodology, used to adjust the lead-time and length-time biases, has been extensively explained in the Method session. At the aim, also Table 1 has been modified. Our conclusions confirm a better prognosis of screen-detected breast cancer, after this adjustment.

2. According to the reviewer, we have omitted the paragraph on treatment and Table 3.

3. The line 19, in Background session, has been modified

4. The co-variates selected for the Cox-analysis were: modality of diagnosis (screening or not), TNM staging (I vs. others) and modality of treatment (chemotherapy and hormonal therapy).

5. The Results session was changed as suggested by the reviewer.

6. The Discussion session was modified as requested.

Replay to Reviewer 4:

The table 3 has been modified in terms of percentage of breast cancer specific death. It has been calculated, as the death rate for other causes, on all cases and not on all deaths. So, the percentage of death for breast cancer in screen-detected group is 4% while in the non screen-detected women is 9% (p=0.02). We conclude that our mammography screening program is effective.