Reviewer's report

Title: Different regression equations relate age to the incidence of stomach cancer in the SEER database for Lauren type 1 and Lauren Type 2 stomach cancers and for Asians and non-Asians; these age relationships are the same for men and women.

Version: 2 Date: 25 January 2006

Reviewer: P W James

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions
  
  I have none. I think the statistical methodology is much better now and I suggest just a few minor revisions.

- Minor Essential Revisions
  
  In 'Model selection' section the list of five covariates should be referenced as a), b), c), d), e).
  
  I notice that under Final Model you have included 'age squared' in the group of variables which could interact with Lauren Type but you have not mentioned 'age squared' in the Summary of model building. Please make clear in this section if you considered non-linear functions of age such as 'age squared' in the model.
  
  The Lauren type 2 equation should start as 'log(ca)= ' for consistency with Lauren Type 1 equation.
  
  Figures 1, 2 and 3 need a legend to say that red means type 1 and blue means type 2.
  
  The authors may need to consult the editor about the preferred format for tables. I suggest that the Tables need a few more horizontal lines; for example Table 4 needs a line at the top and the bottom.

- Discretionary Revisions
  
  None.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.