Reviewer's report

Title: Classification tree analysis of second neoplasms after childhood cancer

Version: 2 Date: 6 November 2006

Reviewer: Phyllis Gimotty

Reviewer's report:

General
Statistical Comments:

1. In the revised manuscript in the methods section on page 7 (last sentence), it is stated that seven misclassification costs were evaluated. Table 2 presents the results for three misclassification costs. The authors should state clearly which values (misclassification cost, as well as, as mentioned on page 6, the smallest number of cases to be included in a single group and degree of post-pruning performed) produced the final tree described in Figure 1. This will facilitate future validation of the results presented in this paper.

2. On page 10 the authors should compute the chi-squared test referred to and present the corresponding p-value rather than just alluding to it.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)