Reviewer’s report

Title: Incidence, Mortality Patterns and 5-year Relative Survival Ratio of Prostate Cancer among Residents in Singapore from 1968 to 2002

Version: 3 Date: 30 June 2008

Reviewer: Mette Nørgaard

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript “Incidence, Mortality Patterns and 5-year Relative Survival Ratio of Prostate Cancer among Residents in Singapore from 1968 to 2002” has improved by the revision. There are, however, still some comments which should be addressed before the paper is suitable for publication.

Moreover, I think the language should be improved. There are in this version some inconsistencies e.g. in use of past and present tense.

Minor essential revisions:
Abstract:
Actually, I do not feel that the abstract has improved by the review process.
The methods section is very short. It is not mentioned how information on death is obtained. In the results section I suggest the authors leave out the first sentence and give the ASR for this population instead. The 5-year RSR could also be mentioned in the abstract.
The conclusion of the abstract is rather long.

Background:
A reference for the second sentence is missing.
The authors need to explain why – in this context - it is interesting that a significant reduction in prostate cancer mortality has been reported and what the present study could add to the current knowledge on possible explanations.

Methods:
The restriction to Chinese men is not mentioned in the method section.

Discussion:
The authors should add to the text some of the information which they have given as response to the reviewers. For example the information regarding the use of DCO as an indication of quality and the response regarding secular trends over time in expected survival would be nice to have as part of the discussion.
The use of PSA testing is an important part of the discussion. In the present version, it is discussed in at least three different passages – it would be beneficial to gather this discussion in one paragraph.
What do the authors specifically mean by the “improving diagnostic accuracy” (page 7 third paragraph).

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests