Author's response to reviews

Title: Ethnicity and incidence of Hodgkin lymphoma in Canadian population

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Date: April 5, 2009

Editor-in-Chief,

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**Re: Revised Manuscript submission – Manuscript # MS: 8097567452217480**

‘Ethnicity and incidence of Hodgkin lymphoma in Canadian population’.

Dear the *BMC Cancer* Editorial Team,

Thank you for accepting the manuscript entitled “Ethnicity and incidence of Hodgkin lymphoma in Canadian population” for publication (in principle) in your journal. We have considered and addressed the two additional comments by reviewer number two. Please find enclosed:

- A response to the reviewer’s comments
- Revised version of the manuscript

Sincerely,

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Reviewer’s report
Title: Ethnicity and incidence of Hodgkin lymphoma in Canadian population
Version: 4 Date: 19 March 2009
Reviewer: Marie-Claude Rousseau

Reviewer’s report:
General impression: The revised manuscript is much improved over the previous versions. There remain minor issues to be addressed.

Minor Essential Revisions
Explanation of matching strategy and use of conditional regression analysis
1- In response to our request for clarification of the matching strategy, the authors included some text in the results section. To have these explanations there is quite odd. I would suggest to move any explanation of the matching strategy to the Methods section and to specifically mention, as was done in the response to reviews, that frequency matching by five-year intervals and by geographical region was used, and that the conditional analysis uses strata defined on “cross-classifying 5-years age intervals and province of residence”. This is very important information which was not included in the manuscript but should be there.

Authors Response: We agree with the reviewer. We have moved the explanation related to matching from the ‘Results’ section to ‘Methods’ section (please see revised manuscript, page 6, lines 6-15 under “Methods’ section). We also included the information relevant to ‘Strata’ (see page 12, lines 1 and 3)

Discretionary Revisions
2- Third line, p.13, I would avoid saying that some association is “significant” then mention “borderline”. Why not just say that “Incidence of HL was higher in Western European...”?

Authors Response: We have made the suggested change in the revised manuscript (please see third line under “Discussion” section on page 13).

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable
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.