Reviewer's report

Title: The epidemiology and survival of extrapulmonary small cell carcinoma in South East England, 1970-2004

Version: 1 Date: 13 January 2009

Reviewer: Eiliv Lund

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overall i find this as an interesting and well designed and written manuscript.

Major compulsory revisions.
1. I am not comfortable with figure 6 and 7 dealing with small groups of patients and historical data on treatment. The choice of treatment could easily be a consequence of site and stage and of not much interested for future discussions of optimal treament.

Minor essential revisions.
2. The numbering of the figures is not consistent between text and the pages with the figures.

Discretionary revisions.
3. I think that the strenght of the findings are on the epidemiological part more than on the treatement aspects. Why do the incidence rates of EPSCC not change over time, any suggestions for the etiology etc. How many of the breast cancer tumores were dicsovered by the mammographic screening program, and was there any trend for breast cancer over the decades?

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.