Author's response to reviews

Title: Estimation of age- and stage-specific Catalan breast cancer survival functions using US and Catalan survival data.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor of BMC-series Journals,

On behalf of my co-authors, I am submitting the enclosed manuscript for possible transfer and publication in the BMC Cancer. We revised our previous manuscript accordingly to BMC Cancer format.

This manuscript belongs to a research project with the main aim of studying cost-effectiveness of early detection of breast cancer in Catalonia (Spain). This manuscript provides one of the inputs needed for the models that we are developing in the cost-effectiveness analysis, survival functions by age and by disease stage at diagnosis. These results were not available before and cannot be directly inferred from raw data. In addition, the work provides interesting information. The present manuscript has analyzed the breast cancer survival in women born in Catalonia (Spain), before and after the introduction of adjuvant treatments and mammography. The results show the survival increase of Catalan women with breast cancer and the comparison with US women. Another important contribution of this work is the methodology used to obtain detailed survival functions from scarce data by using information from other geographical areas as the USA. We think that these results should be known and your journal seems to us the best option.

This manuscript has not been submitted for publication nor has it been published in whole or in part elsewhere. I attest to the fact that all authors listed on the title page have read the manuscript, agreed with the validity of the data and its interpretation, and to its submission to BMC Cancer.

We do not have conflicts of interest.

Thanks a lot for your attention. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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