Reviewer's report

Title: Epidemiology and Cost Analysis for Patients with Oral Cancer in a University Hospital in China

Version: 4 Date: 2 December 2009

Reviewer: Karl Kingsley

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions to authors:
Page 1, Abstract/Conclusion: change “Male” to “gender”
Page 1, Abstract/Conclusion: change “factor” to “factors” and change “clinic” to “clinical”
Page 1, Abstract/Conclusion: change “economical” to “economic” and replace “oral cancer” with “patient medical cost”
Page 2, first line: delete “elder”
Page 2, line 16: replace “up to date” with “To date” and replace “a paucity of study has” with “few studies have”
Page 2, Line 21: delete “not only”
Page 2, Line 22: change “but also can help” to “and also help”
Page 3, Line 1: delete “for us”
Page 3, Line 3: change “ SPSS 17.0 was employed”
Page 3, Line 3: change “we reported results” to “results were reported with”
Page 3, Results/Epidemiology, Paragraph 1: add “new” between “456” and “patients”
Page 3, Results/Epidemiology, Paragraph 1: replace “who were new to this hospital and” with “that”
Page 3, Results/Epidemiology, Paragraph 1: replace “historically” with “previously”
Page 3, Results/Epidemiology, Paragraph 1: change to “diagnosed with oral cancer”
Page 3, Results/Epidemiology, Paragraph 1, Sentence 3: replace “rare samples” with “rarity”
Page 3, Results/Epidemiology, Paragraph 3, Sentence 1: delete “is known that” and “we examined”
Page 3, Results/Epidemiology, Paragraph 3, Sentence 1: add “was examined” following “distribution”
Page 3, Results/Epidemiology, Paragraph 3, Sentence 2: replace “over” with “compared with”
Smoking habit is a crucial factor in the development and prognosis in oral cancer. Therefore, this study sought to ascertain whether or not smoking habit could affect the direct cost for this disease. Table 4 and Figure 4D demonstrate that the MHD and CPP of smokers were significantly higher than those of non-smokers (p<0.05). Considering the higher proportion of smokers in the male than female group, the MHD and CPP of patients in male non-smoker samples were compared with the female group.

The total cost for oral cancer treatment is comprised of three parts: diagnosis, treatment, and cure costs. The total cost for diagnosis includes the cost of diagnostic procedures and the cost of medication. The total cost for treatment includes the cost of medication and the cost of surgery. The total cost for cure includes the cost of medication and the cost of radiation therapy.

There are two periods following the first sentence. Delete one, please.

The results of this study support this evidence, but the high oral cancer risk at earlier ages among rural populations is probably related to the older patients and the higher incidence of SCC. However, the reasons for this remains to be explored in future studies.
“Lack of knowledge…”
Page 6, Paragraph 3, Sentence 8: delete “not only” and change the end of the sentence to read “and some doctors do not pay enough attention”
Page 6, Paragraph 3, last sentence: begin with “Based upon this information, it is necessary…”
Page 6, paragraph 3, last sentence: ends with two periods. Delete one, please.
Page 6, Economic characteristics and related factors, third sentence: change “their study” to “these studies” since you referenced two in the previous sentence.
Page 6, Economic characteristics and related factors, last sentence: change to “Findings from this study support and further enhance pervious findings on the cost of treating oral cancer”
Page 7, First paragraph, third sentence: delete “In our study, considering that” and being with “The cost differences…” and change “diagnose” to “diagnosis” and end the sentence there. Delete “We observed that” and begin with “There was no difference…”
Page 7, Second paragraph, first sentence: Delete “We also observed that” and begin with “The treatment….”
Page 7, Second paragraph, Second sentence: change to “ This may have two explanations”.
Page 7, Second paragraph, third sentence: change to “One explanation is that female patients were diagnosed more frequently in early clinical stages than male patients”. The findings of two…..supports this observation that the average cost….”
Page 7, Second paragraph, fourth sentence: change to “ In the current study”
Page 7, Second paragraph, last sentence: change “would” to may in both instances
Page 7, last paragraph: there are two periods following “urban”, please delete one of these.
Page 8, first sentence: delete “not probed into” and replace with “not explored”
Page 8, first sentence: delete “the authors could still draw” and change to “the following conclusions may be drawn”
Page 8, last sentence: change “besides” to “In addition” and change “lesion” to “lesions”

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a
Declaration of competing interests:
I declare I have no competing interests. KK