Reviewer's report

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

Version: 4 Date: 16 December 2009

Reviewer: Rejane Figueiredo

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary Revisions

Table 4 – Why the comparisons are about smoker’s male and female?

Minor Essencial Revisions

1) The authors must indicate which statistical tests are used in all manuscript;
2) In the table 1, the authors must use the percents for all results and they must explain that the sum in this table is about smokers;
3) In Figure C, the author must include the percents;
4) In page 3, the author said that “The proportion of smokers in late stage (III and IV) was evidently higher than that at stages I and II”, but the author couldn’t do this affirmation without a statistical test;
5) The authors must include the tests results with absolute frequency (n) and percents in the same table. This can enable and make easier the understanding;
6) Why the authors used only median? Why mean and standard deviation are not used?
7) In page 3 (Conclusion), the author mentioned “risk factor”, but any analysis was realized to allow this conclusion. The authors must use any multivariate analysis, for example, multiple regression.

Major Essencial Revisions

In manuscript the authors didn’t cite the statistical tests they used. The authors must include the test and what suppositions are done.

The tables was not clear. There are many numbers with few explanations. The tables are not self-explanatory, then the interpretation and understanding are so difficult.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.