Reviewer's report

Title: Time trends in breast cancer incidence and mortality in a middle-sized northeastern Brazilian city

Version: 1 Date: 20 March 2012

Reviewer: Jari Haukka

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) Authors should discuss more thoroughly reasons why there was increasing trend in mortality only in middle age-group. Could it be due to registration changes or other changes in health care? Are there special reasons for fluctuation present in Figure 1? Has there been changes in how cause of death has been determined. Is there any quality control reports (published or unpublished) about causes of death and/or cancer diagnosis?

2) If this data are meant to present in general similar areas in Brazil and/or the whole world, confidence intervals at least for Figure 1 are needed.

3) My opinion is that observing "linear trend" using joinpoint does not mean that change is linear. It means that there is linear component in change.

Minor Essential Revisions

1) Figure 1 caption start with "Prostate cancer...". Correct caption and/or figure should be submitted

2) Figure 1. Replace decimal commas "," with "." points. Use line types that works also in black and white prints.

Discretionary Revisions


Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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