Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 2 April 2012

Reviewer: Ettore Bidoli

Reviewer's report:


Major Revisions:
Follow exclusively your results in the discussion section.
Improve English.
In introduction section: Verify if breast cancer is really the first cause of death globally.
In materials and methods section: Explain why you chose the <50, 50-64, 65+ age groups.
In results section: Specify that 50-64 age group mortality trend is not statistically significant.
The figure is not clear: explain that rates are /100.000, and explain the meaning of ICR, IASR, MCR, and MASR as reported in results.

Minor Revisions:
In abstract section:
re-write sentences in background “As for mortality, rates are often higher in low income regions”, and in methods “are trends were obtained using the Joinpoint Regression Model”.
In conclusions specify that mortality trend in 50-64 age group is not statistically significant.
In introduction section:
“including in situ and non-melanoma skin cancer” can be omitted in the corresponding sentence.
In results section:
Verify the percentages: 36.2+33.9+29.6 <> 100.
Report APCs and corresponding 95%CI.
In Discussion section:
Give a citation related to the sentence “Age-standardized breast cancer
incidence rates of 66.4/100.000 are observed in middle income areas and 27.3/100.000 in low income areas.
Change 60/100.000 to 60.8/100.000
Specify that 49.6/100.000 and 60.8/100.000 are ASRs.
In table 1 verify mortality/1996: 8+6+6 <> 21
In table 2 report everywhere that CI are 95%CI
The figure is not clear: explain that rates are /100.000, and explain the meaning of ICR, IASR, MCR, and MASR as reported in results.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

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

**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'