Author's response to reviews

Title: Cancer mortality patterns in Ghana: a 10-year review of autopsies and hospital mortality

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Sir/Madam,

COVERING LETTER FOR SUBMISSION OF SECOND REVISION OF PAPER WITH POINT-BY-POINT RESPONSE TO THE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS BY THE TWO (2) REVIEWERS

Thank you for the additional comments of the two (2) reviewers you sent to us.

All the additional minor corrections suggested by the two (2) reviewers have been thoroughly and carefully addressed. The revisions are marked in **bold type** in the revised manuscript being submitted. Our point-by-point responses to the comments of the two (2) reviewers are below:

**Report of Reviewer 1**

**Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct).**

**Reviewer’s Comments:** Abstract - Provide median age instead of modal age.

**Our Response:** We have provided the median ages instead of the modal age as suggested on Page 2 of the revised manuscript.

**Reviewer’s Comments:** Background - The sentence “to the neglect of cancer mortality data” is not clear.

**Our Response:** As suggested above, the sentence in question has been re-phrased on Page 3 of the revised manuscript.

**Reviewer’s Comments:** Background - Modify the sentence “with lymphomas being the commonest tumour (67%) [Burkitt’s subtype]” into “with lymphomas (mainly Burkitt’s lymphomas) being the commonest tumour (67%)”.

**Our Response:** We have modified the sentence in question as suggested on Page 3 of the revised manuscript.
Reviewer’s Comments: Methods - Modify the sentence “The relative frequency of different cancer types” into “The relative frequency (RF) of different cancer types”.

Our Response: We have modified the sentence in question as suggested on Page 5 of the revised manuscript.

Reviewer’s Comments: Results - I would delete the confidence intervals for the proportions.

Our Response: As suggested, the confidence intervals have been deleted for the proportions on Page 6 & 7 of the revised manuscript.

Reviewer’s Comments: Results - Provide median age instead of modal age.

Our Response: We have provided the median age instead of the modal age as suggested on Page 6 of the revised manuscript.

Reviewer’s Comments: Results - Modify “the summary relative frequency (RF)” into “the summary RF”.

Our Response: We have modified the sentence in question as suggested on Page 6 of the revised manuscript.

Reviewer’s Comments: Results - Modify “In both sexes, the malignancy exacting the highest mortality” into “In both sexes, the malignancy with the highest mortality”.

Our Response: We have modified the sentence in question as suggested on Pages 7 & 11 of the revised manuscript.

Reviewer’s Comments: Discussion - I will delete the two sentences “According to the most recent Global Cancer Statistics ..... oesophagus and pancreas” and “In the case of males, the most recent Global Cancer Statistics ..... for the 9th and 10th position ..... Reporting the more frequent data worldwide”.

Our Response: As suggested the two sentences in question have been deleted on Pages 10 & 11 of the revised manuscript.

Report of Reviewer 2

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct).

Reviewer’s Comments: 1) the title should reflect limited representativeness. E.g. Cancer as a cause of death in Ghana in 10 year autopsies and hospital mortality.

Our Response: As suggested, the title has been modified to reflect the limited representativeness on Page 1 of the revised manuscript.
**Reviewer’s Comments:** 2) the reference case standard distribution used to calculate ASCARs must be given (methods, bottom of page 5).

**Our Response:** As suggested above, the reference case standard distribution used to calculate our ASCARs has been stated at the bottom of Page 5 of the revised manuscript.

We hope to read favourably from you soon.

Yours faithfully,

Prof. Edwin K. Wiredu