Reviewer's report

Title: Malignant transformation in 5071 southern Taiwanese patients with potentially malignant oral mucosal disorders

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Reviewer: Maria GH Biazevic

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper that “evaluated the rate and the time of malignant transformation in the various oral potentially malignant disorders (OPMDs)” in southern Taiwan.

Background.
Line 47 and 48: since there are world newer data on the prevalence, incidence and mortality rates, I suggest that the references be upgraded.

Line 48, 49. It would be interesting that the authors include data on the betel consumption among Taiwan population. Which proportion of the man is expected to chew betel-quid?

Methods.
Line 74. It’s necessary to highlight the population’s profile that look for attendance at this Hospital. How many cases are treated there, comparing this data with the total number of cases in Taiwan? Is it a public or private setting?

How did the patients were followed? In this Section, details of the protocols and frequencies of consultations should be mentioned.

This Section should include a description of the statistical tests, level of significance, and also ethical considerations with regard the Helsinki’s declaration.

Results.
The authors did not mention if some lost of follow ups occurred.

Information with regard the lesions dimensions should be included among the studied variables.

Discussion.
Line 157-158. Did the former mentioned study perform histopathological diagnosis? This should be clarified.

Line 199-200. It should be explained in details the pre-screening health promotion program and the periodic clinic follow ups.

The study’s limitations should be included.
References.
They must be updated, since 21 out of 28 were published before 2009.
In conclusion, the manuscript needs Major Compulsory Revision.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests