Author's response to reviews

Title: Estimation of Progression of Multi-state Chronic Disease Using the Markov Model and Prevalence Pool Concept

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Re: Shih et al “Estimation of Progression of Multi-state Chronic Disease Using the Markov Model and Prevalence Pool Concept” (MS: 8018443429409976)

Dear Dr Parkin,

Thank you for your letter and referee comments from April 30, 2007. We thank the reviewers and the editor for the useful comments and suggestions. We have revised the paper as requested. The important issues raised by the reviewers have been clarified, corrected, and elaborated. We hope the correction of the revised manuscript is satisfactory and meets the requirements of highly-reputed journal. Please find the revised manuscript and a detailed reply to the referee. We are happy to make further changes if required.

Yours Sincerely

Tao-Hsin Tung (Corresponding author)
Reply to Referee 2

General

Look at the first two sentences of the paper!

“While the relationship between exposure and outcome is explored in traditional epidemiology, the status of disease in question are used to be expressed as a dichotomous state: disease and non-disease. Categorizing the disease of interest into two states, more often than not, may not only wide the gap between the epidemiologists who are interested in the occurrence of disease and the clinicians who are concerned with the prognosis of disease but also rather limit to elucidate the disease progression for the majority of chronic diseases”.

and it goes on, most of the corrections are like that.

**Ans.** Thanks for the reviewer’s useful comments. The manuscript has been revised and corrected by an English editor. The English problem should be improved.
Reply to Referee 3

General

I have no comments other then the paper is acceptable and that the authors addressed my initial concerns.

Ans. Thanks for the reviewer’s useful comments.