Reviewer’s report

Title: Cost of illness of the Stomach Cancer in Japan - a time trend and future projections -

Version: 2 Date: 2 November 2012

Reviewer: Pascal Zurn

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This is an interesting article addressing a key public health issue in Japan. The article produce interesting results but some it would be worth to address some important issues:

. major compulsory revisions:

In the methodology, it would be worth to present the COI in terms of equations:

\[ \text{COI} = \text{Mortality cost} + \text{Morbidity Cost} + \text{Direct Cost} \]

then, define each components:

Mortality cost = \ldots + \ldots + \ldots

Morbidity cost = \ldots + \ldots + \ldots

Direct cost = \ldots + \ldots + \ldots

Then, it would be important to know which standard values were used for each element entering in the COI. For instance, which discount rate, average rate, number of ambulatory visits, etc.

It would also be important to know the cost per death and to see how this cost has evolved over time

In terms of methodology, it would also be important to do some sensitivity analysis on some of the factors instead of having 4 models. Having 4 models that predict quite different results may confuse the reader.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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