Reviewer's report

Title: Optimal cut-point definition in biomarkers: the case of censored failure time outcome

Version: 1 Date: 29 September 2014

Reviewer: C Nakas

Reviewer's report:

I only have some minor though essential revisions to propose. Specifically,
- p.2, line 17: It is stated that the point closest to (0,1) has the best performance. It would be better to add “in terms of RMSE and relative bias”.
- p.3, lines 16-19 (but applies to the whole article): The p-value of the chi-square test was not really addressed in this work and should be eliminated throughout.
- p.9, Simulation protocol: Distributional scenarios considered are rather limited. Any conclusions should take this fact into account.
- p.9, Simulation protocol; Tables 1-4: Rather large sample sizes (100, 200, 400) were chosen for the simulation. These are relatively hard to find in everyday practice. Smaller sample size scenarios could be considered.
- p.11, Bootstrap procedure: 200 bootstrap samples is a rather small number of replications.
- p.13, middle; p.14 line 7; Figures 2, 3: 95% elliptical CIs are given. It must be stated according to which method these were calculated.
- p.16, lines 11-12: Statement does not really make sense, please eliminate.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests