Reviewer's report

Title: The prognostic significance of age in operated and non-operated colorectal cancer

Version: 3
Date: 10 November 2014

Reviewer: Rebecca Birch

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
None identified.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Methods chosen are appropriate but more detail could be included about the difference between cause-specific and crude survival and the source of information about cause of death in this cohort.

2. The Kaplan-Meier curves are difficult to interpret and may benefit from some editing.

3. The text contains a few grammatical errors;
   Line 39 – could this be changed to “worsening in cause-specific survival and overall survival with increasing age” rather than “worsening in cause-specific survival and overall survival with age increased”
   Line 43 – should read “statistically significant” not “statistical”
   Line 45 – change “apparently” to “apparent”
   Line 97 – change per to by
   Line 112 – did you mean 226,430 patients?
   Line 145 – should read “statistically significant” not “statistical”
   Line 147 – should read the “risk of death” not the “risk of died”
   Line 164 – age grouping reads (61-7-, 71-80, 80+) should this be (61-70, 71-80, 80+)?
   Line 164 - should read “statistically significant” not “statistical”
   Line 165 – should read “significant” not “significance”
   Lines 181-186 - this paragraph is not very clear
   Line 193 – should read “survival” not “survivals”

4. The results section is not always easy to follow, the section titled “Impact of age on survival outcomes in young patients with CRC” would benefit from restructuring and editing in order to make the important findings clearer.
5. More should be made in the discussion of the potential confounding effect of co-morbidity on the results of the study and the fact that it was not possible to measure this in this case. Also impact of the lack of chemotherapy information should also be discussed further.

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

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

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests