Reviewer's report

Title: Cancer incidence in patients with type 2 diabetic mellitus: a population-based cohort study in Shanghai

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Reviewer: Jianguang Ji

Reviewer's report:

The authors tried to explore the associations of T2DM with cancer in Chinese population, though many studies have done in western countries. They did find some interesting associations, but they can not distinguish them as causal because of a median of around 3 years of follow up.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. In the abstract, they reported a SIR of 1.98 and 1.94 for men and women respectively. however, I can not find them in the Tables.

2. In many other studies, the association between T2DM with prostate cancer was negative, in contract with this study. it should be discussed in detail.

3. How can the authors make sure that these T2DM are newly diagnosed?

4. In table 1, the number of T2DM was relatively fewer in 2004-2005, but increased greatly between 2006-2009. But the number in 2010 was the lowest, how can this happen?

5. In table 2, the ASR was relatively smaller than CIR for most of the cancer with an exception of ‘other in men’. Why?

6. in Table 3, there were three thyroid cancer in men, but in table 2, it is blank.

7. how did the authors calculate the expected number of caners? It should be described in detail. What confounding factors were included in the analyses?

8. the incidence of cancer was decreased when T2DM patients were older than 70. It should be interpreted.

Minor Essential Revisions

The language should checked in detail before publication.

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

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.
Declaration of competing interests:

none