Reviewer’s report


Version: 0 Date: 28 Oct 2016

Reviewer: Charnita Zeigler-Johnson

Reviewer's report:

Summary:

The goal of this study was to examine trends in prostate cancer risk classification and primary therapy from 2004-2012. A total of 7768 patients from Nara Medical Center in Japan were included in the dataset. While previous reports suggested that primary androgen deprivation therapy (PADT) was most commonly used to treat prostate cancer in Japan, the results of this study indicate that there was an increasing trend toward intermediate risk cancer (decrease in advanced cases) and an increasing trend in the use of active surveillance and radiation therapy (decrease in PADT).

This manuscript was interesting and provides clinically important surveillance data for the Japanese population. However, there are a few concerns/suggestions that I would like the authors to address.

Major Revisions

Background

* Please provide the study rationale (reason to expect that there would be changes in the trends related to risk classification and primary treatment) and/or study hypotheses.

Methods

* Correct the dates for the latter period of investigation. (Line 27)

* "Metric" should be "nonparametric " in Line 37.
Conclusion

* Several comparisons are made to the U.S. population. Please elaborate on why prostate cancer risk may still be higher in Japan compared to the U.S.

* Beyond simply describing the trends, please state the take home message. Please comment on how the trends may be comparable to trends in other countries or in other cancers. Reflect on how trends may/may not be similar to comparisons with CAPSURE. Also comment on whether current treatment trends reflect more appropriate treatment for cancer risk levels now compared to in the past.

Minor Suggestions

* Add IMRT to the list of abbreviations.

* Only changes in proportions were studied here. Please mention if there are changing trends also in the incidence and mortality rates for prostate cancer in Japan.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published
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