Reviewer’s report

Title: Characteristics of people living in Italy after a cancer diagnosis in 2010 and projections to 2020

Version: 0 Date: 21 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Samantha Mason

Reviewer’s report:

General: A really interesting piece of work which provides foresight that long term care of cancer patients is likely to need to change as a result of increasing numbers of people living with and beyond a diagnosis in 2020.

Mainly a few minor issues with sentence structure, and potentially some additions to tables to improve the clarity of what is being presented.

Background:

Line 119: "whereas and" could just say "whereas complete prevalence"

Methods:

Line 140: Not sure why the word contributing is included.

Line 145 to 148: I think there should be two separate sentences; one about what tumours, cancer types and combinations were included, and one that says which were excluded. Including the exclusion of non-malignant skin cancers in line 145 is a bit confusing as it initially reads like non-malignant tumours and 34 cancer types or their combinations were not included.

Results:

Reporting of figures should be consistent. Line 189 reports that the percentage of men with colorectal cancer is 15.5% (as in the table) but the percentage of women with thyroid cancer (line 194) is reported in the text as 6%, despite being reported as 6.5% in table 2.

Line 202: Sentence "Conversely, 59% of cervical cancer patients had their diagnosis ≥15 years before, they were 35% for stomach cancer, 31% for endometrial, but only 4% for prostate and 13% for lung cancer patients" could be rewritten as it is not straightforward to understand. Suggest "Conversely, the percentage of prevalent cases diagnosed ≥ 15 years before was 59% for cervical cancer, 35% for stomach cancer and 31% for endometrial cancer, but only 4% for prostate and 13% for lung cancer patients"?
Line 209: Should the sentence should read, "after a prostate cancer diagnosis"?

Line 211: The figure should be 212,863 rather than 212.863.

Line 216: I can't find anything in table 4 that references 22%. I assumed this was 22% of the Italian population in 2020? There is a brief implication in the method that population figures were forecast as well as prevalence figures. It may be worth including population figures for 2020 in a table so that they can be referred to. If the 22% refers to something else, the sentence should make this clear.

Discussion:

The discussion is very well presented and easy to follow.

Line 233: Should this say, "long-term survivors diagnosed ≥ 20 years before"?

Line 234: The figure should be 519,356 rather than 519.356.

Tables: You should recheck the figures. In tables 1, 2 and 4 I found at least one instance where the sum of all the prevalent cases for the age groups was not the same as the total for all ages for a cancer type.

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

Unable to assess

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 recommend additional statistical review

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

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