Reviewer's report

Title: Medical expenses of urban Chinese patients with stomach cancer during 2002-2011: a hospital-based multicenter retrospective study

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Reviewer: Frank G. A. Jansman

Reviewer's report:
The manuscript gives an overview of cost development in the period 2002-2011 for treatment of gastric cancer in China. An impressive amount of data were collected and described. The main limitation of the study is the that it contains data from 2002-2011. As from 2011 until now new expensive drugs have been introduced in guidelines and clinical practise that increase the costs significantly.

More specific:
-The abstract should be shortened, it contains some double information.
-The average yearly increase of costs, i.e. 7.5%, is not important, because increases are largely dependent on introduction of new agents and changing guidelines. As a consequence, sudden increases of costs may appear after which costs may stay the same for some years. This limitation should be added.
-line 14: why is the prevalence of gastric cancer lower in the US than in China?
-the background section can be shortened by half at least
-in the discussion session the limitation of data from 2002-2011 should be commented in relation to new treatment developments in recent years; content of actual guidelines for treatment of gastric cancer should be described
-a further limitation is the widespread differences in costs between regions because of accessibility differences to treatment
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 recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Needs some language corrections before being published

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