Author’s response to reviews

Title: Malignant Tumours in Urban Ghana: Evidence from the City of Kumasi

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Author’s response to reviews:

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Directorate of Medicine
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The Editor
BMC Cancer Journal

Dear Sir,

Re: Submission of revised manuscript: ‘Malignant Tumours in Urban Ghana: Evidence from the City of Kumasi’ BCAN-D-18-00224R2


My co-authors and I wish to thank you and the reviewers for the consideration given to our submission. We have taken note of the review comments and have made the necessary revisions as detailed below:

Reviewer reports:

Frances Drummond, Ph.D (Reviewer 1): The authors have addressed most of the comments. I would like them to include the actual number of private facilities in Kumasi. They mention 'a few' in the discussion in line 28, pg 17. I suggest it would be of sufficient interest and quality after addressing most of the issues for publishing.

Response: We were unable to include data from only one private facility that provides care for breast cancer patients. We have now revised the section to read as follows:

‘Our inability to include data from one private health facility within the city of Kumasi in the registry may account for the observed differences in the rates and may in addition be responsible for the low ASRs recorded in the present study. This should not impact the overall ranking of cancers in Kumasi as this private facility only provides care for patients with breast cancer.’

Research Square (Reviewer 3): "STATISTICAL REVIEWER ASSESSMENT:

Could an appropriately REVISED version of this work represent a statistically sound contribution?

Probably - with minor revisions

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

The authors mention, ""Aggregated data for the years 2013 and 2014 were also analysed for trends in cancer incidence and ASR."" in the methods section. However, the authors have not presented this data.

Figure 1 is not particularly useful unless the data is reported along with cancer incidence. What is estimated population of Kumasi for 2015?

Response: We have now presented the incidence for the years 2013 and 2014 by inserting in the results section the sentence:

‘The overall incidence of cancer in Kumasi for 2013 was 16.9 per 100,000 with an incidence of 23.2 per 100,000 among females and 10.9 per 100,000 in males. In 2014, the incidence was 35.4 and 30.4 per 100,000 among females and males respectively with the overall incidence estimated as 33.0 per 100,000 population.’
We have also indicated the population of Kumasi in 2015. We have revised the results section as follows:

‘Based on the estimated population of 2,311,480 for the year 2015 for the city of Kumasi, the incidence among female residents was estimated at 54.1 per 100,000 compared with 37.1 per 100,000 in males.’

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

Sentence formation could be improved in a few places to improve the overall quality of the manuscript.”

Response: The reviewer did not indicate the specific areas of concern. Thus, we are unable to make any changes as we are unaware which specific sentences the reviewer is making reference to.

We again are grateful for the comments which we believe has further improved the quality of our submission and look forward to the publication of same.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Yaw Ampem Amoako

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