Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 11 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Frances Drummond

Reviewer's report:

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This manuscript describes the 2015 cancer data from the only population-based cancer registry (PBCR) in Ghana, established in the city of Kumasi. The establishment and wide capturing of cancer in PBCRs in Africa is important for estimating cancer incidence, planning and implementing cancer control policies.

While the authors are to be commended on their efforts to capture all cancers in their city, in the first PBCR in their country, their work is not discussed well e.g. they refer to cancer incidence in Ghana - but how does the population of the one city from which they are attempting to capture cancer incidence and mortality data from compare to the national population? What coverage do they think they have achieved year on year? Furthermore the writing of the manuscript could be improved and also referenced better. There are a lot of personal statements from the authors which are not backed up.

Line 40 pg 11 - the authors are confusing discussion on cancer incidence and cancer mortality

Line 8-9 pg 12 - a very strange sentence with no references attached to back up their claims

Line 33-36 pg 12 - can the authors comment on the consistencies and inconsistencies e.g. difficulty/ease of picking up non-Hodgkin's lymphoma…

Line 55, pg 12 - What is the estimated coverage and consistency of this PBCR? The differences are indeed striking between Globocan data and this urban PBCR. There is no discussion on how this urban population may differ from the nation population for instance, some of which may contribute to the differences observed. Stating that 'we are confident' is not enough - it needs to be backed up by evidence.

Line 41 pg 13. It is incorrect to say that 'hepatitis B-related liver cancers may not be affected by the introduction of the national vaccination programme' - it has merely not been in place long enough to see an effect. Also is there any information on the success or not of other such vaccination programmes.
Line 22 pg 14, 'some studies' - needs references. Also cervical cancer is the leading cause of cancer in Women in all of Ghana, or Kumasi? Again local verses national data comparisons without discussions on how representative this population is of the national one!

Line 29 pg 14, is there a plan to collect HPV infection data?

Line 36 pg 6, should read 'record books'

Line 37 pg 6, should read 'record books'

Line 52 pg 10, should read 'to a scarcity'

Line 8 pg 11, should read 'due to improved'

Line 10-11 pg 11, should read 'the proportion of liver captures captured has increased'

Line 6 pg 14, should read 'and this is not a surprising'

Since all comparisons are made on number and ranking of cancers between 2012 and 2015 in the text, please include 2012 in Figure 1.

**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.

Unable to assess

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

No

**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
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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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