Author’s response to reviews

Title: Non-functional pancreatic neuroendocrine tumours: Emerging trends in incidence and mortality

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editors and Reviewers:

Thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to revise our manuscript entitled “Non-functional pancreatic neuroendocrine tumours: Emerging trends in incidence and mortality (BCAN-D-18-02315). We also appreciate the reviewers for their careful reading and professional comments on our manuscript.

We have carefully revised the manuscript according to the suggestions from you and reviewers. Some necessary revisions have been made, and a clean version of my manuscript has been submitted.

We sincerely hope that our revised version will be satisfactory for publication in BMC Cancer. Great thanks to you and the reviewers for the time and effort you expend on this paper.
If you have any other questions or suggestions, please contact us without hesitate. Your prompt consideration of our manuscript will be greatly appreciated. The point to point responds to the reviewer’s comments are listed as following:

Responds to the reviewer’s comments:

Review 1:
Comment: Accept without revision
Response: We appreciate for your careful review, and thanks for your approval.

Reviewer 2:
Comment 1: Homo sapiens has only one race as genetic variation is continuous across the globe and is it not possible to define races as for several animals. Race is a rather colloquial word that should be avoided in a scientific setting. Please remove Race word and use ethnicity.
Response: We appreciate your suggestion totally agree with you. It is better for us to use the word “ethnicity” instead of “race” in the manuscript.

The revised parts of this suggestion can be viewed as follow:

Methods section, The last paragraph line 2, Discussion section, paragraph 1 line 5, variables’ name in table 1 and table 3.

Comment 2: All rates were age-adjusted according to the 2000 US standard population. If possible, include a table with the crude rates for each centre/registries analysed.
Response: Thank you for this constructive suggestion. Two tables including the crude rates for each centre/registries has been shown as additional tables (addition tab 1 and 2).

Comment 3: The covariates analysed included patient age, sex, and ethnicity, tumour grade, stage, size and site and treatment. The analyses should also be adjusted by centre. Adding the centre/registries as a correction variable, the results change?
Response: Thank you for your advice. We have added the centre/registries as a correction variable.

Compared with the original data, after adding the centre/registries as a correction variable, most variates were no significantly changed except the gender and ethnicity, and these two variates have been presented in the additional table 3.
As for changes in gender and ethnicity, we consider it as a result of differences in number of patients and demographics(1).

Comment 4: The Y-axis title is missing in the Kaplan-Meier’s graphs.

Response: Thank you for pointing it out and the title of the Y-axis have been added. Modified pictures are presented in figure 4.

Reference:


Response to editor:

Editorial Policies:

Thank you for your hard review of this manuscript. According to editorial policy, we have verified all the entries, including declarations section, table and figure format in our manuscript.

We have improved the “declarations section” according to the “author guideline” of BMC Cancer.

Also, we have reordered table number and cited in the text in sequence according to requirements of the “General formatting guidelines”.

Finally, we have reformatted and reordered figures numbers and cited in the text in sequence according to requirements of “General formatting guidelines”.

Thank you for your comments and approbation. We are full of confidence for our further study.