Reviewer’s report

Title: Health-care services utilization and costs associated with radical cystectomy for bladder cancer: a descriptive population-based study in the province of Quebec, Canada

Version: 2 Date: 16 April 2015

Reviewer: Murray Krahn

Reviewer’s report:

Very nice study overall. Well written, and tables and figures are clearly presented. Includes a population based sample which is quite large, and estimates costs over time.

Has some methodological limitations

1) really, only physician service/procedure data and vital stats data were available. A lot of things had to be estimated (e.g. cost of hospitalization, cost of complications) rather than directly measured. This means the possibility of undercounting (no primary care visits, e.g.) and overcounting (not clear whether specialist visits were actually for bladder cancer). A more comprehensive approach would also count drugs, radiation, chemotherapy etc. and net out costs from a control cohort. This approach is not bad, but makes quite a few assumptions about which costs were "attributable" to bladder cancer.

2) no perspective stated

3) no list of which costs were in and which were out

4) no control group, so it was not possible to estimate attributable or net costs

5) not sure whether results are inflation adjusted....presented in 2014 dollars so inflation adjustment would be assumed, but it's not stated...

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests