Reviewer’s report

Title: Trends in incidence, mortality, and causes of death associated with systemic sclerosis in Denmark between 1995 and 2015: A nationwide cohort study

Version: 0 Date: 27 May 2018

Reviewer: Chang-Fu Kuo

Reviewer's report:

This study provide contemporary epidemiology in Denmark. In general, the paper is well-written. I have some minor comments.

1. The source data seem to contain hospitalization data. I'm not familiar with Danish medical system. Will you hospitalize all patients with systemic sclerosis and make diagnosis during hospitalization? Is it possible for a patient being diagnosed at GP? Are there any discrepancies in time between initial suspicion (or diagnosis) to first record of hospitalization?

2. About mortality, how do you define the starting and end date for 1-year mortality? For patients with SSc, I assume they started their follow-up when they had first record of diagnosis and were censored at death or one year plus diagnosis date. For background mortality, I assume they were estimated per calendar year. This may cause a slight differences in follow-up definition for cases and background population but I think the effect is trivial.

3. I'm not sure whether it is suitable to use Cox regression to assess trends. Please explain the reason or use other methods such as joint point regression.

4. Some information in the tables and figures overlaps. At least part of them should be moved to supplement.

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.

No
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 am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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