Peer Review Report

Review Report on Trend Analysis of the Mortality Rates of the Top Three Causes of Death Among Chinese Residents From 2003 to 2019

EVALUATION

Q 1   Please summarize the main findings of the study.

1. The paper delineates mortality trends of malignant tumors, heart disease and cerebrovascular disease in China from 2003 to 2019 from the China Health Statistical Yearbook using joinpoint regression or segmented linear regression, a grid search method to analyze temporal trends in mortality rates and determines whether rate changes can be best described by a straight line (0 joinpoints) or by 1 or more linear segments (changes in slope), indicating a significant change rate.
2. Three joinpoints were identified from the modelling and the mortality rate of cerebrovascular disease was identified as consistently decreasing with older adults aged over 75 years having the highest mortality and the most drastic change. The three diseases had variable change trends.

Q 2   Please highlight the limitations and strengths.

3. The context is relevant; the topic is extremely important as the results of this study have potential to promotion of the equalization of basic public health services by the Chinese government by continuing the education of heart disease for behavioural change mostly among rural females. Nevertheless, the study's findings need some clarifications as outlined below.

Q 3   Please provide your detailed review report to the authors. The editors prefer to receive your review structured in major and minor comments. Please consider in your review the methods (statistical methods valid and correctly applied (e.g. sample size, choice of test), is the study replicable based on the method description?), results, data interpretation and references. If there are any objective errors, or if the conclusions are not supported, you should detail your concerns.

No answer given.

PLEASE COMMENT

Q 4   Is the title appropriate, concise, attractive?

The paper is appropriate and concise

Q 5   Are the keywords appropriate?

Yes

Q 6   Is the English language of sufficient quality?

Yes

Q 7   Is the quality of the figures and tables satisfactory?

Yes.

Q 8	Does the reference list cover the relevant literature adequately and in an unbiased manner?)

Yes

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Q 9	Originality	▮▮▮▮▯
Q 10	Rigor	▮▮▮▯▯
Q 11	Significance to the field	▮▮▮▯▯
Q 12	Interest to a general audience	▮▮▮▮▯
Q 13	Quality of the writing	▮▮▮▯▯
Q 14	Overall scientific quality of the study	▮▮▮▯▯

REVISION LEVEL

Q 15	Please make a recommendation based on your comments:

Major revisions.