

Editor's Comment:

This is a valuable work for the region, but it has some technical problems. I believe that it is acceptable to publish if the revisions that I suggested below are made.

The title of the study does not reflect the content. This is not a prevalence study. Prevalence is the proportion of individuals in a population having a disease or characteristic. Prevalence is a statistical concept referring to the number of cases of a disease that are present in a particular population at a given time. In this study, neither the total population nor the number of age groups were specified. When the findings section is evaluated, the aim of this study can be considered as "The pattern of cancer cases in the rest of Cross River State not covered by the Calabar cancer registry between 2004 and 2013".

So, the purpose of the study and methodology presented in the abstract are also not compatible with the results and the study content. After the article has been revised according to the following suggestions, the abstract should be re-written.

The Introduction should provide readers with the background information needed to understand your study, and the reasons why you conducted your study. The Introduction should answer the question: what question/problem was studied? The end of the introduction must include a clear and exact statement of the study aim.

Materials and Methods section provides the reader with all the details of how you conducted your study. Cancer prevalence is defined as the number of persons diagnosed with cancer within a fixed time in the past. What was the total population size in the rest of Cross River State not covered by the Calabar cancer registry? How was the distribution of the population according to gender and age groups? How many hospitals were in Cross River State? Did the authors check for duplicate registrations and validity of recorded information in the departments of Pathology and Hematology of the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital? Were the records of the hospital representative for all cancer cases in the rest of Cross River State not covered by the Calabar cancer registry? The authors must have community-based data and incidence rates to perform trend analysis. There was no trend analysis in the study.

The line above the table heading should be removed and left margin should be used for the table heading in all tables. The table number should be followed by a period, not a colon.

Table 3-9 should be reorganized, because this is not a prospective study and the population size is not known. So, the frequency distribution of age group and gender by organ/tissue site should be presented, as follows.

	Prostate	Breast	Cervix	Skin	Lymphohematopoetic	Head and Neck	Colorectal	Eye	Stomach	Urinary tract	Unknown primary site	Others
Gender	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Male	200 100	10 4.9										
Female	0 0	196 95.1										
Total	200 100	206 100										
Age groups												
0-4												
5-12												
13-17												
18-39												
40-64												
>65												

Editor's Details:

Dr. Cihad Dunder
Professor, Department of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, Ondokuz Mayıs University, Turkey