

OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY



NOTICE: This document contains comments from the reviewers and editors generated during peer review of the initial manuscript submission and sent to the author via email.

Questions about these materials may be directed to the *Obstetrics & Gynecology* editorial office:
obgyn@greenjournal.org.

Date: Sep 07, 2021
To: "Rebecca L Siegel" [REDACTED]
From: "The Green Journal" em@greenjournal.org
Subject: Your Submission ONG-21-1578

RE: Manuscript Number ONG-21-1578

The Changing Landscape of Gynecologic Cancer Mortality in the United States

Dear Dr. Siegel:

Your manuscript has been reviewed by the Editorial Board and by special expert referees. Although it is judged not acceptable for publication in *Obstetrics & Gynecology* in its present form, we would be willing to give further consideration to a revised version.

If you wish to consider revising your manuscript, you will first need to study carefully the enclosed reports submitted by the referees and editors. Each point raised requires a response, by either revising your manuscript or making a clear and convincing argument as to why no revision is needed. To facilitate our review, we prefer that the cover letter include the comments made by the reviewers and the editor followed by your response. The revised manuscript should indicate the position of all changes made. We suggest that you use the "track changes" feature in your word processing software to do so (rather than strikethrough or underline formatting).

Please be sure to address the Editor comments (see "EDITOR COMMENTS" below) in your point-by-point response.

Your paper will be maintained in active status for 14 days from the date of this letter. If we have not heard from you by Sep 21, 2021, we will assume you wish to withdraw the manuscript from further consideration.

REVIEWER COMMENTS:

Reviewer #1: This is a Research Letter describing ovarian and uterine cancer mortality rates comparing different racial and ethnic groups. The study is well done and appropriate for a research letter.

1. Was there any reason cervical cancer wasn't included?
2. What about the influence on opportunistic bilateral salpingectomy on ovarian cancer?
3. Can you control for obesity in this analysis?

Reviewer #2:

Summary:

This research letter presents original research from publicly available data on uterine and ovarian cancer mortality rates from 1990-2019. The authors identified an increase in cancer mortality from uterine cancer, especially in black populations compared to mortality from ovarian cancer. This is interesting and novel research which sheds light on racial disparities in the United States.

Line 15

Consider rephrasing "exclusive of Hispanic ethnicity". Until looking at the figure & table, it seemed as if the study completely excluded Hispanic individuals.

Line 30

Please avoid using relative increase. Presenting these findings in absolute numbers would be more meaningful and helpful for physicians and other stakeholders.

Line 31-32

Why was the data categorized between 1990-1994 and 2015-2019? Please justify why these cut-offs were selected as outcome measurements

Line 35

Avoid presenting results for the first time in the discussion of a manuscript. This should be in the results section of the paper. Also, it would be more meaningful to present the data as with absolute numbers. A suggestion would be:
 Difference in ovarian cancer vs uterine cancer related mortality in 1990 = 5 / 100,000
 Whereas in 2019 the difference is only 0.9 / 100,000 more deaths attributed to ovarian cancer compared to uterine cancer

Line 43-47

Re-consider this argument or provide references to back-up the statement. The reference provided is not sufficient to make such a bold statement regarding uterine cancer research funding. It would be more plausible that changes in health care systems, socio-demographic factors, etc. would play larger roles in uterine cancer mortality than decrease/insufficient funding on it's own

Lines 50-52

Please explain further and provide references for this statement. Why would mortality rates uncorrected for hysterectomy underestimate disease burden in black women? If you are referring to the statistic that black women have a higher prevalence of fibroids and therefore undergo more hysterectomies, please provide a reference and consider clarifying the sentence in the manuscript.

Line 52

What do you mean by ecologic nature? This is not a common term used in OBGYN or gynecologic oncology. Different wording is needed

STATISTICAL EDITOR COMMENTS:

The Statistical Editor makes the following points that need to be addressed:

lines 15-17: Need to explain how the interval 2000-2019 comprises a 10-year period.

lines 22-24: Need to explain how the 10-yr AAPC (-2.7%) relates to a decrease from 9.3 to 6.0 per 100,000 during 1990 to 2019, i.e., 29 years..

lines 24-25: Need to explain how the 10-yr AAPC (+1.7%) relates to the changes from 4.3 to 4.0 then to 5.1 during 1990-1997 and 1997 to 2019, respectively.

lines 50-52: Without correction for hysterectomies and salpingectomies, the limitation seems major. Can one estimate the overall difference (fig 1a), with estimates for hysterectomy and salpingectomy rates for the entire population?

lines 78-79: Do you mean two-sided $P < 0.05$?

General: What proportion of the data were missing for race or ethnicity and did it vary by year? If either the proportion missing were large or varied significantly by year, then the analysis by race may be statistically biased.

Fig 1: An inflection seems to occur ~ 2005. What is the basis for summarizing each figure as AAPC 2000-2019?

EDITOR COMMENTS:

1. Please include a concluding statement to wrap up your manuscript. You currently end with limitations and it doesn't leave the reader with a summary of your main finding.
2. The Editors of Obstetrics & Gynecology have increased transparency around its peer-review process, in line with efforts to do so in international biomedical peer review publishing. If your article is accepted, we will be posting this revision letter as supplemental digital content to the published article online. Additionally, unless you choose to opt out, we will also be including your point-by-point response to the revision letter. If you opt out of including your response, only the revision letter will be posted. Please reply to this letter with one of two responses:
 - A. OPT-IN: Yes, please publish my point-by-point response letter.
 - B. OPT-OUT: No, please do not publish my point-by-point response letter.
3. When you submit your revised manuscript, please make the following edits to ensure your submission contains the required information that was previously omitted for the initial double-blind peer review:
 - * Include your title page information in the main manuscript file. The title page should appear as the first page of the

document. Add any previously omitted Acknowledgements (ie, meeting presentations, preprint DOIs, assistance from non-byline authors).

- * Funding information (ie, grant numbers or industry support statements) should be disclosed on the title page and in the body text. For industry-sponsored studies, the Role of the Funding Source section should be included in the body text of the manuscript.
- * Include clinical trial registration numbers, PROSPERO registration numbers, or URLs at the end of the abstract (if applicable).
- * Name the IRB or Ethics Committee institution in the Methods section (if applicable).
- * Add any information about the specific location of the study (ie, city, state, or country), if necessary for context.

4. Obstetrics & Gynecology uses an "electronic Copyright Transfer Agreement" (eCTA), which must be completed by all authors. When you uploaded your manuscript, each co-author received an email with the subject, "Please verify your authorship for a submission to Obstetrics & Gynecology." Please check with your coauthors to confirm that they received and completed this form, and that the disclosures listed in their eCTA are included on the manuscript's title page.

5. For studies that report on the topic of race or include it as a variable, authors must provide an explanation in the manuscript of who classified individuals' race, ethnicity, or both, the classifications used, and whether the options were defined by the investigator or the participant. In addition, the reasons that race/ethnicity were assessed in the study also should be described (eg, in the Methods section and/or in table footnotes). Race/ethnicity must have been collected in a formal or validated way. If it was not, it should be omitted. Authors must enumerate all missing data regarding race and ethnicity as in some cases, missing data may comprise a high enough proportion that it compromises statistical precision and bias of analyses by race.

Use "Black" and "White" (capitalized) when used to refer to racial categories. The nonspecific category of "Other" is a convenience grouping/label that should be avoided, unless it was a prespecified formal category in a database or research instrument. If you use "Other" in your study, please add detail to the manuscript to describe which patients were included in that category.

6. Please submit a completed STROBE checklist.

Responsible reporting of research studies, which includes a complete, transparent, accurate and timely account of what was done and what was found during a research study, is an integral part of good research and publication practice and not an optional extra. Obstetrics & Gynecology supports initiatives aimed at improving the reporting of health research, and we ask authors to follow specific guidelines for reporting randomized controlled trials (ie, CONSORT), observational studies (ie, STROBE), observational studies using ICD-10 data (ie, RECORD), meta-analyses and systematic reviews of randomized controlled trials (ie, PRISMA), harms in systematic reviews (ie, PRISMA for harms), studies of diagnostic accuracy (ie, STARD), meta-analyses and systematic reviews of observational studies (ie, MOOSE), economic evaluations of health interventions (ie, CHEERS), quality improvement in health care studies (ie, SQUIRE 2.0), and studies reporting results of Internet e-surveys (CHERRIES). Include the appropriate checklist for your manuscript type upon submission. Please write or insert the page numbers where each item appears in the margin of the checklist. Further information and links to the checklists are available at <http://ong.editorialmanager.com>. In your cover letter, be sure to indicate that you have followed the CONSORT, MOOSE, PRISMA, PRISMA for harms, STARD, STROBE, RECORD, CHEERS, SQUIRE 2.0, or CHERRIES guidelines, as appropriate.

7. Standard obstetric and gynecology data definitions have been developed through the reVITALize initiative, which was convened by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the members of the Women's Health Registry Alliance. Obstetrics & Gynecology has adopted the use of the reVITALize definitions. Please access the obstetric data definitions at <https://www.acog.org/practice-management/health-it-and-clinical-informatics/revitalize-obstetrics-data-definitions> and the gynecology data definitions at <https://www.acog.org/practice-management/health-it-and-clinical-informatics/revitalize-gynecology-data-definitions>. If use of the reVITALize definitions is problematic, please discuss this in your point-by-point response to this letter.

8. Because of space limitations, it is important that your revised manuscript adhere to the following length restrictions by manuscript type: Research Letters should not exceed 600 words and may include no more than two figures and/or tables (2 items total). Stated word limits include the title page, précis, abstract, text, tables, boxes, and figure legends, but exclude references.

9. Specific rules govern the use of acknowledgments in the journal. Please note the following guidelines:

- * All financial support of the study must be acknowledged.
- * Any and all manuscript preparation assistance, including but not limited to topic development, data collection, analysis, writing, or editorial assistance, must be disclosed in the acknowledgments. Such acknowledgments must identify the entities that provided and paid for this assistance, whether directly or indirectly.
- * All persons who contributed to the work reported in the manuscript, but not sufficiently to be authors, must be acknowledged. Written permission must be obtained from all individuals named in the acknowledgments, as readers may infer their endorsement of the data and conclusions. Please note that your response in the journal's electronic author form verifies that permission has been obtained from all named persons.
- * If all or part of the paper was presented at the Annual Clinical and Scientific Meeting of the American College of

Obstetricians and Gynecologists or at any other organizational meeting, that presentation should be noted (include the exact dates and location of the meeting).

* If your manuscript was uploaded to a preprint server prior to submitting your manuscript to Obstetrics & Gynecology, add the following statement to your title page: "Before submission to Obstetrics & Gynecology, this article was posted to a preprint server at: [URL]."

10. Only standard abbreviations and acronyms are allowed. A selected list is available online at <http://edmgr.ovid.com/ong/accounts/abbreviations.pdf>. Abbreviations and acronyms cannot be used in the title or *précis*. Abbreviations and acronyms must be spelled out the first time they are used in the abstract and again in the body of the manuscript.

11. The journal does not use the virgule symbol (/) in sentences with words. Please rephrase your text to avoid using "and/or," or similar constructions throughout the text. You may retain this symbol if you are using it to express data or a measurement.

12. In your submission, the preferred citation should be in terms of an effect size, such as odds ratio or relative risk or the mean difference of a variable between two groups, expressed with appropriate confidence intervals. When such syntax is used, the P value has only secondary importance and often can be omitted or noted as footnotes in a Table format. Putting the results in the form of an effect size makes the result of the statistical test more clinically relevant and gives better context than citing P values alone.

If appropriate, please include number needed to treat for benefits (NNTb) or harm (NNT_h). When comparing two procedures, please express the outcome of the comparison in U.S. dollar amounts.

Please standardize the presentation of your data throughout the manuscript submission. For P values, do not exceed three decimal places (for example, "P = .001"). For percentages, do not exceed one decimal place (for example, 11.1%).

13. Please review examples of our current reference style at <http://ong.editorialmanager.com> (click on the Home button in the Menu bar and then "Reference Formatting Instructions" document under "Files and Resources"). Include the digital object identifier (DOI) with any journal article references and an accessed date with website references. Unpublished data, in-press items, personal communications, letters to the editor, theses, package inserts, submissions, meeting presentations, and abstracts may be included in the text but not in the reference list.

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14. Figures 1-2: Please upload high res figure files to Editorial Manager.

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If you choose to revise your manuscript, please submit your revision through Editorial Manager at <http://ong.editorialmanager.com>. Your manuscript should be uploaded as a Microsoft Word document. Your revision's cover letter should include the following:

* A confirmation that you have read the Instructions for Authors (<http://edmgr.ovid.com/ong/accounts/authors.pdf>), and

* A point-by-point response to each of the received comments in this letter. Do not omit your responses to the Editorial

Office or Editors' comments.

If you submit a revision, we will assume that it has been developed in consultation with your co-authors and that each author has given approval to the final form of the revision.

Again, your paper will be maintained in active status for 14 days from the date of this letter. If we have not heard from you by Sep 21, 2021, we will assume you wish to withdraw the manuscript from further consideration.

Sincerely,

John Schorge, MD
Associate Editor for Gynecology

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2020 IMPACT FACTOR RANKING: 3rd out of 83 ob/gyn journals

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