

## **Author's response to reviews**

**Title:** Spatial analysis of bladder, kidney, and pancreatic cancer on upper Cape Cod: An application of generalized additive models to case-control data

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Dear Editors,

We are submitting a revised manuscript "Spatial analysis of bladder, kidney, and pancreatic cancer on upper Cape Cod: An application of generalized additive models to case-control data". We appreciate the Reviewer's comment and have added text to the Discussion describing this limitation. The following are recommendations and changes per the suggestion of the editors:

1. *Please note that the pagination needs to be removed for the final version.*

We have removed pagination, but were admittedly confused by the instructions, which, under the Typography section, requests that all pages be numbered.

2. *In the Abstract, Conclusions should be in plural. On page 4, please rephrase the sentence in the second paragraph that states "It is important to note that controls were not matched on town." Residence may be a better word.*

We have corrected the Abstract and rewritten the sentence to read "It is important to note that controls were not matched on town of residence."

3. *I think there are one too many return carriages between the Discussion heading on page 12 and the section above. You use the word "however" frequently, especially in the discussion section. This section might flow better with some variation in vocabulary like whereas, on the other hand, etc. "We" is also overused in the discussion and conclusion sections, perhaps better to combine some of these sentences.*

We deleted the extra line before the Discussion heading and have revised the Discussion and Conclusions sections so that "However" and "we" are used less frequently.

4. *The first section after the main text should be called Abbreviations.*

We have made the change to Abbreviations, but under the instructions for Manuscript Sections for Research Articles, the section is identified as List of Abbreviations.

5. *Please note that Figure titles must be short. A detailed explanation can be included below the title. The tables must show all cells with the borders visible. The table titles are too brief and are difficult to appreciate for the casual reader. Please consider extending the title and perhaps adding a further description.*

Could the editors be more specific about which Figure title is too long? We have reread the instructions for figure legends (<http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/figures#legends>); all our titles are less than 15 words and detailed legends less than 300 words. Also, which tables need cell borders? They all appear to be there. Lastly, we have lengthened the table titles.

We hope that the current format is acceptable to the editors for publication.

Best regards,

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