Main document changes and comments

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Cancer Applications of Choropleth Maps, and the

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Mapping Cancer: the

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They

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A choropleth map

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s

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Add a sentence here (or wherever you prefer) about the study aims.

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This study aims to explore the use of choropleth maps in cancer atlases and discusses alternative spatial displays.

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statistical areas,

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Given the ethical and privacy considerations for small area data, it is not a straightforward process to obtain and report area-specific counts.

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I would suggest deleting this sentence and the previous one.

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Suggest moving paragraph to proposed choropleth maps section

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Can you include mention of how this is different to a thematic map?

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map (?)

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Could we structure paper as:

Introduction (also introduces cancer atlases)

Measures mapped (info around Table 2)

Visualisation approaches

-Choropleth (mention advant and disadvant, along with figures from cancer atlases)

-Cartograms

-Tile maps

-Geofacets

-Multivariate maps

Comparison & critique of alternative methods

Additional considerations

-Associated graphs

-Displaying uncertainty measures

-Interactivity

Recommendations for mapping cancer

Conclusion

Page 2: Deleted   **Author**

map

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maps

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displays

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commonly

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and

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or

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patterns

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for

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across

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with more modern atlases directly evolving from

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and

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Suggest also noting development of statistical methods and software

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Give the actual reference

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S. D.

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Could move to the introduction

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Suggest including Australian Cancer Atlas

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This table might benefit from an additional column, which gives an example of a cancer map using this measure.

Also, some of these measures can be calculated or can be modelled estimates – e.g. SIR. Is there any way of mentioning this – maybe even in the text?

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Suggest including references for where these measures have been used in practice.

Also note somewhere that all the incidence based measures can be used for mortality (eg the SIR is analogous to the SMR)

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Un-italicize everything except the 'i' subscript. Same for RER below.

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divided by

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over

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Are these crude rates, or age-standardized rates

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standardized

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Adjusted

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It is not typical for age-standardized rates to be standardized by region.

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standardized

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I'm not sure what this measure refers to, and how it is different to the SIR.

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Any of the incidence measures are directly applicable to mortality measures also

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in each region i

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The SIR is the observed number of cases in a region divided by the expected number of cases if that region had the same age-specific rates as a reference population.

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at risk

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age-structure

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in each region i

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The SIR is the observed number of cases in a region divided by the expected number of cases if that region had the same age-specific rates as a reference population.

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Not sure what this means – it can also refer to the EHR .

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Maybe this row could be removed?

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Would suggest not having an equation – it oversimplifies what is a modelled measure.

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in 5 years

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in 5 years

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An estimate of cancer survival, which

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estimates

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data

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based on available country

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sourced from

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of each country

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average

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Suggest using 'sex' rather than "gender" throughout the manuscript.

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(n=xx)

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 (n=xxx)

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Area at Level 2

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Local Area

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This is the wrong reference.

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 (n=4xx)

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As data becomes more sparse, either by increasing geographic resolution or stratifying by age/sex, obtaining reliable estimates becomes more difficult. Many atlases analyzing smaller areas use statistical modelling to produce estimates, although some continue to use simple calculations and suppress regions where estimates are unstable (e.g. (mention some)).

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 (give refs)

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Are you referring to area-based characteristics?

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population subgroups

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members of society

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Are there any? If so, give refs somewhere here.

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Ensure all these refs are included in the list.

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The information in Figure 2 and Table 3 are complementary, and would be better to be combined.

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Needs to be defined.

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This text could be moved to the main text / methods.

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Please incorporate into section 4.1 (and delete here).

Page 11: Commented [A38]   **Author**

Please correct grammar.

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Please clarify and/or correct grammar.

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Is it possible to include an example image?

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a -

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b-

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Could you show an example?

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This is a subjective comment – maybe "a very large amount of white space"?

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Include in this manuscript?

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How is this relevant to Table 3?

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Can you summarise these here?

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Not clear what "sometimes" means.

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says that

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recommends using

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can be used

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interpretation

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story

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Suggest either a separate recommendations section or very clearly laying out the recommendations here. Do you recommend always (and only) using alternative visualisations, regardless of the audience, or are you suggesting supplying multiple forms of visualisations? Does your recommendation differ depending on the country/data? Ensure your final recommendations are clearly reflected in your abstract wording also.

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Crude or age standardized?

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Isn't the most 'basic' the number of cancers?

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I would suggest replacing this section with a discussion of relative versus absolute measures.

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easy

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becoming increasingly straightforward

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[of what?]

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Professor

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Dr.

Header and footer changes

Text Box changes

Header and footer text box changes

Footnote changes

Endnote changes