Dear Authors,

After reading the comments of the reviewer, we concur with their feedback on the current draft.

The current version seems to be structured more as a report rather than as a manuscript suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

We would suggest that the aim of the manuscript could be phrased to highlight the current approaches and limitations of typical visualisation methods for cancer maps, along with outlining possible alternative methods and challenges in implementing these?

If the authors were amenable to this suggestion, then the manuscript could be restructured to include something like the following headings:

Current approaches

Limitations of current approaches

Alternative visualisation methods

Challenges of alternative approaches

On a more minor note, the authors mention a focus on Atlases published between 2010 and 2015, but then include a bowel cancer atlas from 2016. Some clarification of the scope of the manuscript would be helpful.

Also, within the bowel cancer atlas data, the reporting of percent of males aged 50-54 with bowel cancer in 2016 is incorrect; it should be the % of the ERP in each area that are males aged 50-54 years.

The content of the manuscript represents an important body of work, and with some restructuring and clarification will make an important contribution to not only this special edition, but also the scientific knowledge in this field.

We look forward to receiving your revised version.

Kind regards

Peter Baade

Susanna Cramb