



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

# Taiwanese Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology

journal homepage: [www.tjog-online.com](http://www.tjog-online.com)

## Correspondence

## Need for an up to date and comprehensive risk factor analysis to determine the lifetime risk of uterine corpus cancer in Taiwan women



Dear Editor,

In this issue of the Journal, Lai et al. [1] report on the incidence and lifetime risk of uterine corpus cancer from 1991 to 2010. Although the study meets its purpose, it would be more informative to include current data from 2011 to 2016, and also a retrospective analysis of risk factors authors described to be associated with the uterine corpus cancer. Especially, since studies evaluating multiple risk factors for uterine corpus cancer in Taiwan are scarce.

Authors discuss the possible reasons for the change in uterine corpus cancer incidence. However, the report does not provide any information regarding the odds of each risk factor in the population. It would be interesting to see how changes in lifestyle and practices have influenced the risk of uterine corpus cancer risk in the past 20 years. Such information could be critical for uterine corpus cancer prevention and policy development.

Although choosing an external population for age standardization could be arbitrary, the standard population should be appropriate and with a similar age structure to that of all populations compared in the study [2]. The age structure of Taiwan women in each year may be different from that of the world, unless otherwise specified (world standard 2000). Therefore age-adjustment must be conducted based on Taiwan standard population rather than that of the world, unless incidence rates or risk of the specific cancers are compared to that of the world. However many studies have used a similar approach to determine cancer incidence rates or mortality [3,4]. May be the authors, Lai et al. can be the first to use a standardized population that is closer to the population structure of Taiwan or provide information describing the suitability of using World Health Organization, 2000 standard population. Authors could potentially include a comparison group such as China

to determine specific disparities in Taiwan in the same study using a reference population from China [5].

## Conflicts of interest

Author declares no conflicts of interest.

## References

- [1] Lai JCY, Weng CS, Huang SM, Huang N, Chou YJ, Wang CC, et al. Incidence and lifetime risk of uterine corpus cancer in Taiwanese women from 1991 to 2010. *Taiwan J Obstet Gynecol Res* 2017;56(1):68–72.
- [2] Ahmad OB, Boschi-Pinto C, Lopez AD, Murray CJ, Lozano R, Inoue M. Age standardization of rates: a new WHO standard, vol. 31. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2001. p. 1–4. Available from: <http://www.who.int/healthinfo/paper31.pdf?ua=1>.
- [3] Huang CY, Chen CA, Chen YL, Chiang CJ, Hsu TH, Lin MC, et al. Nationwide surveillance in uterine cancer: survival analysis and the importance of birth cohort: 30-year population-based registry in Taiwan. 2017.
- [4] Chiang C-J, Chen Y-C, Chen C-J, You S-L, Lai M-S. Taiwan cancer registry task force; cancer trends in Taiwan. *Jpn J Clin Oncol* 2010;40(10):897–904.
- [5] Ortiz AP, Otero Y, Svensson K, García-Rodríguez O, Garced S, Santiago E, et al. Racial and ethnic disparities in lifetime risk of corpus uterine cancer: a comparative study of Puerto Rico and the United States SEER population. *Ethn Dis* 2012;22(1):90–5.

A.T. Wijayabahu

Emerging Pathogen Institute, University of Florida, Gainesville,  
FL, USA

Department of Epidemiology, University of Florida, Gainesville,  
FL, USA

E-mail address: [akemiwijayabahu@ufl.edu](mailto:akemiwijayabahu@ufl.edu).