Racial/ethnic disparities in survival of metastatic prostate cancer patients treated with external beam radiotherapy

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Dear Editor

We read the study by Würnschimmel et al. [1] with great interest and would like to congratulate the authors for their superb study. The authors assessed the effect of race/ethnicity in cancer-specific mortality adjusted for other-cause mortality in metastatic prostate cancer patients (mPCa) treated with external beam radiotherapy to the prostate.

1. The factors extracted by the researchers from the SEER database (2004–2016) include clinical T stage and clinical N stage. However, according to the SEER Program [2], the “clinical stage” variable was not provided in the dataset until 2016. Therefore, for patients diagnosed before 2016, it was impossible for authors to identify the clinical stage. How to obtain the clinical stage of patients diagnosed between 2004 and 2016 needs to be explained in detail.
2. Some of the patients included in the analysis received chemotherapy. This type of treatment should be taken into consideration since prior literature showed that chemotherapy holds great potential in the management of mPCa patients [3, 4].
3. Patients diagnosed with primary mPCa were included in this study, but multiple primary cancers were not excluded. However, another SEER-based study showed mPCa patients were at a significantly higher risk of developing a second malignancy, which may affect patients’ survival [5].

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Code availability Not applicable.

Declarations

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Research involving human participants and/or animals Not applicable.

Informed consent Not applicable.

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