REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-53587   Date: 28/08/2025

Title: "The evolving face of childhood cancer in Morocco: An epidemiological overview of a five-year cohort in Rabat"

Recommendation:

✓ Accept as it is ....
Accept after minor revision.................
Accept after major revision ....
Do not accept (*Reasons below*) ....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr. S. K. Nath   Date: 29/08/2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication:

The study underscores an increasing trend in pediatric cancer cases in Morocco, with CNS tumors being predominant. It highlights the urgent need for national epidemiological surveillance, improved healthcare infrastructure, and targeted public health initiatives to address childhood cancer effectively.

Reviewer's Comment / Report

Strengths:

1. **Novel Data in a Low-Income Context:** This study provides valuable epidemiological data for Morocco, a country where such data are scarce, especially on pediatric cancers.
2. **Detailed Demographic and Clinical Characterization:** The study offers insights into age, sex distribution, and type of tumors, which can inform healthcare planning.
3. **Trend Analysis:** Identification of an upward trend in cases over five years highlights potential improvements in diagnosis and referral systems.
4. **Policy Implications:** The study emphasizes the importance of establishing a national registry, which can influence future health policy and resource allocation.
5. **Clarity and Methodology:** Clear description of methods, including data collection and analysis, with a focus on descriptive statistics.

Weaknesses:

1. **Monocentric and Retrospective Nature:** The data originates from a single center, which limits generalizability to the entire country. This could lead to referral bias.
2. **Limited Clinical and Etiological Data:** The study focuses on epidemiological characteristics but lacks detailed clinical outcomes, treatment modalities, or survival data.
3. **Absence of Inferential Statistics:** No advanced statistical analyses (e.g., risk factors, survival analysis) were performed, limiting deeper causal insights.
4. **Potential Selection Bias:** As data come from a referral center, cases might not represent the true national picture, especially in rural or underserved areas.
5. **No Socioeconomic Data:** Factors like socioeconomic status, access to care, or delay in diagnosis are not addressed, which are critical in LMICs.