

To whom this may concern,

I, dr. S.M.E. Geurts, am a senior epidemiologist and trained in data management and analyses, equal to a biomedical statistician. I hereby declare that the analyses of the article entitled 'Trends in treatment and overall survival among patients with proximal esophageal cancer: a population-based study' were performed in line with current standards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S.M.E. Geurts', with a stylized, cursive script.

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