

**Biostatistics statement:**

According to the journal requirement, any manuscript describing about basic science and clinical research requires a biomedical statistician to review the statistical part. However, this is an epidemiological study and the statistical methods of the present study were reviewed by the authors Suminori Akiba and Chihaya Koriyama of Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Kagoshima University, Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences, Kagoshima, 8-35-1 Sakuragaoka, 890-8544, Japan. Tel.: +81 99 275 5298; fax: +81 99 275 5299. Dr Akiba received MD, PhD from Sapporo Medical University and Master of Science in Epidemiology from Harvard University, School of Public Health. Dr Koriyama got her MD, PhD from Kagoshima University, Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences, Kagoshima and Master of Public health from Harvard school of public health.

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