Reviewer's report

Title: Obstacles and alternative options for cardiac rehabilitation in Nanjing, China: an exploratory study

Version: 3  Date: 19 January 2014

Reviewer: Isao Nishi

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Results, sixth paragraph and Table 6
The improvements of items of SF-36 are expressed as the medians (interquartile range) and analyze by ANOVA? among three groups. I think comparisons of the median values among three groups are performed using non-parametric test, e.g. Kruskal-Wallis test. So, I am concerned about the results of table 6.

Discussion, seventh paragraph
The authors defined attendance as having at least one cardiac rehabilitation or self-choice educational program session. I understand the one of goals of this study are to examine the obstacles to CR and patient’s wishes to attend alternative secondary preventive measures. In this study, only few patients dropped out of CR (2.1%) or of self-choice educational programs (3.8%). For our clear understanding, I suggest that your response to comment 4 add in the limitation paragraph.

- Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

I’m sorry to my 1st reviewer comments, because my first reviewer comments include corrupted text; in addition, underlines and double crossed lines are diminished. So I want to correct some my comments and to exchange.

Introduction, fourth paragraph
Therefore, the aims of this study were: 1) to identify factors and reasons for non-participating in the standard CR program; 2) to investigate whether patients preferred an alternative self-choice educational CR model for getting information; 3) to further evaluate predictors for attending the alternative self-choice educational program. Finally, 4) the desire for specific information regarding heart disease and preventive therapies were also examined.

Discussion, third paragraph
During a patient’s stay in the acute care, it is unlikely that physicians and nurses provide effective education about lifestyle modifications due to the short duration of the hospital stay as well as the high physical and emotional stress experienced
by the patient during this phase of hospitalization. Additionally, because information may have been delivered at a time, patients were unable to completely understand some information by medical staffs and the need for information increases when patients are left on their own to handle their problems [30].

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.