Reviewer’s report

Title: Selecting a comparison group for 5-year oral and pharyngeal cancer survivors: Two Methods

Version: 2 Date: 8 March 2012

Reviewer: Stewart M Bond

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the revised manuscript. As stated in the initial review, I believe that the manuscript is interesting, and that it addresses an important methodological issue.

Overall, the authors adequately addressed the concerns raised in the initial reviews.

Minor Essential Revisions:

The authors note that they made suggested changes in the revised abstract but the abstract was not included with the revised manuscript.

The statistical analysis and presentation of the data, particularly in Table 2, remain confusing to me. It seems a though it would be clearer to incorporate the descriptive statistics (mean, SD) into Table 1 or put them in a separate table by themselves. The quality of the matching could then be presented in a separate table with the marginal and absolute differences and the p values for all of the matching variables.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.