Reviewer's report

Title: Physical Activity and Diet Behaviour in Colorectal Cancer Patients Receiving Chemotherapy: Associations with Quality of Life

Version: 1 Date: 8 July 2009

Reviewer: anna hawkes

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions include:
1. The question is well defined by the authors.
2. The methods are appropriate and well described, however the study is limited by the small convenience sample and is underpowered to detect significant associations between lifestyle behaviours and quality of life. This is a major limitation of this study.
3. The study included an impressive 96% consent rate, which one would assume was due to on-site recruitment and the medical oncologist endorsing participation in the study. However, the response rate did then drop to 62%.
   • The outcome measures chosen are valid and reliable in this population.
   • The statistical analyses appear appropriate, although one might expect the lifestyle behavioural data to be skewed? There is no mention of testing for this?
   • There is no mention of investigating socio-demographics or other available data for non-participants.
4. The authors refer to a wide range of literature, however they do not refer to two Australian studies that are relevant to this manuscript.
   • http://www.biomedcentral.com/1477-2525/7/154
5. In general the writing is acceptable, although there are a number of recommended corrections:
   • Abstract
     o 58% is only approximately half, not ‘over half’.
     o Suggest refer to dietary guidelines rather than ‘diet guidelines’
     o Author refers to ‘were physically active at some level’ but it is unclear what this means. Suggest author refers to sedentary or not.
     o Author refers to exercise and physical activity throughout the manuscript. Suggest they refer to physical activity alone if that is what was measured.
   • Page 5
Refer to Hawkes et al. 2008 in paragraph 2.

Discussion

Refer to Spence et al for future interventional research.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests