Reviewer's report

Title: Surrogate endpoints for overall survival in digestive oncology trials: which candidates? A questionnaires survey among clinicians and methodologists

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Reviewer: Everardo Saad

Reviewer's report:

The authors are to be complimented for taking pains to conduct this survey, which nicely adds to their published contribution to the field.

Major Compulsory Revisions: None.

Minor Essential Revisions: Unfortunately, the response rate was relatively low in the first round, and even lower in the second, despite the fact that panellists were active participants in oncology trials. I believe such figures should be mentioned in the abstract. Language should be improved throughout the paper, and gallicisms such as "redaction" should be corrected.

Discretionary Revisions: The authors might wish to include some discussion of the fact that overall survival is no longer a reliable endpoint in some situations, eg, in advanced colorectal cancer treated in the first line. In a situation such as this, what is the worth of a surrogate if the "true" endpoint is questionable?

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.