Reviewer's report

Title: Determinants of participation in colonoscopic screening by siblings of colorectal cancer patients in France

Version: 1 Date: 10 February 2010

Reviewer: Monika Keller

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The paper reports on a cross-sectional survey aiming to determine factors favouring participation in colonoscopic screening among siblings of index patients diagnosed with CRC under the age of 60 years. Siblings were contacted upon consent of cancer patients and were administered questionnaires, covering several concepts and models from health psychology as potential predictors of participation. They were complemented by additional psychosocial dimensions such as social network and social support.

What is lacking however, is any information on whether unaffected siblings had been informed on their increased risk and the need for targeted screening by their affected brother or sister (there is one item asking for discussing screening with all siblings). Awareness of an objectively increased risk is relevant with respect to interpretation of findings; without this information it cannot be concluded that participation rates nor predictors are specific to FDR of CRC patients.

The authors should comment on this issue.

The paper is well structured, easy to read, the methods used are sound and the results are clearly described.

In the Discussion section, limitations of the study are considered insufficiently: the long time interval between patients' surgery (1999 - 2000) and conduct of the survey (2006 - 2007), with a substantial increase in knowledge about FDR's risk of CRC during this period. Second, because of the relatively high proportion (ca. 30%) of index patients refusing to contact their siblings, results probably are biased towards open communication and supportive family relationships among consenting patients.

As mentioned above, a critical comment is recommended on whether the results found are, in fact, considered specific to FDR's of CRC patients or whether they do largely confirm others' results (such as the strong impact of physicians' advice found in most screening studies)

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

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'