Reviewer’s report

Title: The Brustkrebs-Studien.de website for breast cancer patients: User acceptance of a German internet portal offering information on the disease and treatment options, and a clinical trials matching service

Version: 1 Date: 3 October 2010

Reviewer: Wolfgang Janni

Reviewer’s report:

This report by Wallwiener et al. is a well report on a German internet study. The internet portal www.brustkrebs-studien.de (BKS) was launched in 2000 by the German Society of Senology (DGS) and the Baden-Württemberg Institute for Women’s Health to encourage and facilitate the participation of breast cancer patients in clinical trials. During 10/2005–12/2008, the portal attracted 570,147 visitors and 12,234,747 page views. By 12/2008, the website’s active scientific community consisted of 158 investigators and physicians, and the registry covered 133 clinical trial protocols. In 2008, 97 patients requested trial enrolment and 86 sought second opinions or individual treatment advice from the expert panel. During the two-week survey, 5,702 BKS visitors submitted 507 evaluable questionnaires. Portal acceptance was high.

Respondents trusted information correctness (80%), welcomed self-matching to clinical trials (79%) and planned to use the portal in the future (76%) and recommend it to others (81%).

In my view, the report is valuable and should be published, given the following revisions:

• The English language should be improved, the manuscript might be read by a native speaker
• How were the studies selected? Please describe. Is there a bias in the selection?
• Parts of the results, describing the website, should be part of the method section
• Do you have figures on the nature of the website visits? How long? What was searched?
• Discussion: do you have any figures on the issues of elderly pts access? Please compare literature
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'