Reviewer's report

Title: A cost-effectiveness analysis of a preventive exercise program for patients with advanced head and neck cancer treated with concomitant chemo-radiotherapy

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Reviewer: Kai Johannes K.J. Lorenz

Reviewer's report:

The authors conducted a cost effectiveness analyses in patients who underwent a cocomitant chemo-radiotherapy because of advanced head-and-neck cancer. A group of 53 patients with no further treatment was used as a control group, whereas 37 patients in the second group received a rehabilitation training with swallowing and mouse opening exercises. A cost effectiveness analyses was performed. I could be shown, that the rehabilitation training resulted in fewer hospital admissions and less tube dependency.

The total coasts for both study arms were nearly equal. The rehabilitation training showed the highest probability of being cost-effective when compared to usual care.

The paper is well written and understandable, The topic is of a high interest to everybody dealing with cancer patients under rehabilitatory aspects.

The statistical methods are explained clearly.

In the discussion the limits of the study like various different effects of the rehabilitation program, the not compleatly comparable study groups are explained.

The conclusion is clearly defined, all important literature is cited.

The figures are clear.

At all a very interesting manuscript, worthwhile to be published in the BMC

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

Kai Lorenz