Reviewer’s report

Title: Are two better than one? A systematic review of couple-based interventions for couples affected by cancer

Version: 1 Date: 11 March 2012

Reviewer: Lea Baider

Reviewer’s report:

Notwithstanding the fact that this is a very well-written review, I do not feel that this kind of review is suitable and relevant for this specific journal. Moreover, the 5 tables are excessively long; and the readers will get lost in the myriad details, which do not add any benefit to understanding the content and outcomes.

Two comments:
Page 6, line 8 from top - the authors should expand their definitive approach, adding not only the components but the population variables such as age, socio-economic status, religiosity, culture, perception of disease, gender, specifics of identifying patient-caregiver, etc.

Page 9, Inclusion criteria - "...any type and any stage..." I strongly suggest that any meta-analysis should be more restricted to illness trajectory (e.g., time of diagnosis, rehabilitation, terminal illness - similar to diagnoses classifications) that relates to gender and age, such as prostate vs. breast cancer in young women (the authors mentioned it only briefly in the study limitations).

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.