Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 15 March 2012

Reviewer: JB Hopkinson

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There have been three recent publications reporting reviews of similar scope and a fourth focusing specifically on couple interventions for people approaching the end of life. These reviews should be discussed in the manuscript. Their findings are consistent with each other, but at odds with some of the claims made in the manuscript.


The Baik and Adams review examines distress and well-being outcomes from couple interventions where one partner has cancer. The manuscript claims to be about the impact of couple intervention on psychological distress or quality of life. This publication and the manuscript seem to be addressing a very similar review question.

The manuscript includes data from a single paper not included in the earlier published reviews and omits to include some papers captured by other reviews for reasons that are not apparent.