Reviewer's report

Title: Unique characteristics of Korean cancer patients: the perception of clinical trials

Version: 5 Date: 24 September 2012

Reviewer: Valerie Jenkins

Reviewer's report:

The authors have improved the manuscript greatly. It is much clearer especially with the questionnaire in the appendix.

However, there remain grammatical errors throughout the manuscript, which do need to be addressed prior to publication, whether that is something the publishers will do?

Minor essential revisions

For example:

The condensed abstract is not grammatical.

Although more patients were aware of a randomized trial than in western, lesser patients had a precise knowledge about the process of randomized trials. In contrast to western study, a higher level of awareness does not always result in a higher rate of participation.

Abstract, results, last sentence has the phrase “clinical trial” repeated 3 times.

Patients with previous experience in clinical trials had greater willingness to participate in clinical trials compared to patients without previous experience in clinical trials (p<0.001).

Conclusion of the abstract needs rewriting:

This is a large patient cohort study that used VAS scores to inquire about the awareness of, and willingness to participate in, clinical trials in Asian cancer patients. Our data would help researchers conduct clinical trials successfully in Asia.

The conclusion should sum up the results succinctly; e.g. The survey showed that South Korean patients with cancer are more aware of the need for clinical trials, but awareness did not translate into willingness to participate - or something punchy.

References are needed on page 13 in the discussion for the citation of Western studies.
Overall, the Korean cancer patients understood the need for two treatment arms to prove a drug efficacy (N=361, 53.5%), which is considerably higher than in the Western studies (33% of the public and 37% of cancer survivors).

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

**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