Reviewer’s report

Title: Systematic review: conservative treatments for secondary lymphedema

Version: 2 Date: 23 September 2011

Reviewer: Buelent Polat

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. On page 9 and 10 you describe two additional methods that are not mentioned on page 3: a special diet with low fat and an interesting approach using bone marrow stromal cell transplantation. Please add these in to the according section on page 3.

2. On page 26 at the legends for table 1 you wrote the explanation for RT twice. At table 2 misspelling for “Bone Marrow Stromal Cell Transplantation”.

3. Please give in the background section some facts on the incidence or prevalence for secondary lymphedema

4. It would be interesting if the results could be analysed according to initial treatment causing SE. Would there be a different outcome for patients who were irradiated or treated by lymphadenectomy for the effectiveness of the different treatment approaches? Could you comment on this aspect in the discussion section?

Discretionary Revisions:

1. Please consider to add page numbers and to use short captions for table 1 and 2.

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.