Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Patient Self-Appraisal of Change and Minimal Clinically Important Difference on the EORTC QLQ-C30 Before and During Cancer Therapy

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 21 October 2012

**Reviewer:** Fu-Min Fang

**Reviewer’s report:**

This is a longitudinal study to investigate health related quality of life (HRQOL) scores change and identify minimal clinically important differences (MCID) on the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer Quality of Life Questionnaire-Core 30 (QLQ-C30) before and during cancer treatment.

The paper is well written about the relationship between QLQ-C30 score changes and SSQ rating. The findings of MCID in SCT and MED/RAD patients can provide clinical workers a useful tool to determine patients’ HRQOL.

Specific comment

1. A brief statement for the components of “Study Group” in Table 1 is suggested.

2. In page 11. The result of QLQ-C30 score change among MED/RAD and SCT patients in the PF domain are inconsistent with those in Table 4 (SCT: 5.7, MED/RAD: 7.2).

3. This study shows inconsistency between QLQ-C30 score and SSQ rating in HRQOL improvement. The authors might try to use the item response theory (IRT) to explain this phenomenon in the discussion or in the future investigation.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.