Reviewer’s report

Title: Differences in the symptom experience of older versus younger oncology outpatients: a cross-sectional study

Version: 3 Date: 8 November 2012

Reviewer: Gary Rodin

Reviewer's report:

The authors have made appropriate modifications based on the previous reviews. They have postulated a variety of mechanisms that may account for age-related differences symptoms in cancer patients undergoing active treatment, not all of which are specific to the treatment. A summation of the findings regarding previous research on age-related differences in cancer should included in order to understand the unique contribution of this paper. Examples of previous studies of age-related differences in symptoms in cancer patients - which the authors have requested - include Mohile SG et al, 2011; Cheung WY et al, 2011; Kroenke CH et al JCO 2004.

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