Author's response to reviews

Title: Design of the study: Early rehabilitation of cancer patients - a randomized controlled intervention study

Authors:

Cecilia Arving (cecilia.arving@pubcare.uu.se)
Inger Thormodsen (inger.thormodsen@helse-bergen.no)
Guri Brekke (guri.brekke@helse-bergen.no)
Olav Mella (olav.mella@helse-bergen.no)
Sveinung Berntsen (sveinung.bernten@uia.no)
Karin Nordin (Karin.Nordin@isf.uib.no)

Version: 2 Date: 13 November 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Executive Editor,

Please consider for publication in BMC Cancer this new manuscript presenting the protocol of an on-going controlled randomized, prospective clinical trial. The manuscript is entitled Design of the study: Early rehabilitation of cancer patients – a randomized controlled intervention study and written by Cecilia Arving, Inger Thormodsen, Guri Brekke, Olav Mella, Sveinung Berntsen, Karin Nordin. Faced with a life-threatening illness, such as cancer, many patients develop stress symptoms, i.e. avoidance behaviour, intrusive thoughts and worry. Stress management interventions have proven to be effective; however, they are mostly performed in group settings and it is commonly breast cancer patients who are studied.

We hereby present the design of a randomized controlled trial (RCT) evaluating the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of an individual stress-management intervention with a stepped-care approach in several cancer diagnoses. Our trial has been registered in the ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT 01588262

The study is ethically approved and founded by charity awards from the Grieg foundation (301370 € totally) as well as the Norwegian Cancer Society (10274 € totally). The documents are in Norwegian and uploaded in the submission system, hopefully they will do. The awards has been converted to Euro (1 Euro 2012-11-12 = NRK 7.30).

Our study has not received any funding/assistance from a commercial organization. We do not have any other manuscripts that are under submission with other journals based on this study protocol. The English translation was reviewed by an authorized Swedish speaking English translator.
With hope of a favourable review,

Yours sincerely

Cecilia Arving