Author's response to reviews

Title: Prevention and treatment of acute radiation-induced skin reactions: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials

Authors:

Raymond J Chan (email.rchan@gmail.com)
Joan Webster (Joan_webster@health.qld.gov.au)
Bryan Chung (Bryanc.dal@gmail.com)
Louise Marquart (louise.marquart@qimr.edu.au)
Muhtashimuddin Ahmed (Muhtashimuddin_ahmed@health.qld.gov.au)
Stuart Garantziotis (stuart.garantziotis@griffith.edu.au)

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Dear Prof/Dr/Mr/Ms Editor,

I am writing to submit a high quality systematic review of interventions for preventing and managing radiation induced skin reactions/ radiation dermatitis. It is a distressing symptom that affects the majority of cancer patients receiving radiation treatment.

We believe that this systematic review will be able to guide practice. Specifically, it recommends that non-metallic deodorants can indeed be used. Moreover, the results of meta-analysis provide information and implications for future research. In particular, we provide directions for promising interventions to be tested.

We have conducted an overview of systematic reviews (recently published in the International Journal of Radiation Oncology Biology and Physics). This overview concluded that the existing systematic reviews in the literature were very limited by poor quality of the reviews themselves and were out of date.

Therefore, this submitted review is needed to guide clinical practice in this area. We have previously submitted this journal to BMC Medicine, and the editors subsequently advised us to transfer this submission to BMC Cancer, because it will be more suited.

We look forward to hearing from you a favourable reply.

Thanks,
Kindest Regards,
Ray Chan