Author's response to reviews

Title: Access to care issues adversely affect breast cancer patients in Mexico: Oncologists' perspective

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Author's response to reviews: see over
July 3rd, 2014

Dr. Digant Gupta
Associate Editor
BioMed Central

RE: Access to care issues adversely affect breast cancer patients in Mexico: Oncologists' perspective
(MS: 5752026611079395)

Dear Dr. Gupta,

We would like to thank you and the reviewers for your comments on our manuscript. We have responded to the remaining comment from Dr. Halpern. Please let us know if you have any further questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

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Reviewer's report

Title: Access to care issues adversely affect breast cancer patients in Mexico: Oncologists' perspective

Version: 3
Date: 19 June 2014
Reviewer: Michael T. Halpern

Reviewer's report:

The authors have provided good responses to all of my comments EXCEPT my first (and most important) question - how was the sample of 851 oncologists invited to complete the survey selected? The authors responded that, "The study population represents a subset of oncologists who are members of the Mexican Board of Oncology." However, this tell me very little. Was this a random sample? A sample of individuals who had opted-in to be included in surveys? A group of individuals of the same age? Without information on how whether the sample is generalizable of all Mexican oncologists, the results are essentially meaningless.

Answer: We received a list from the Mexican Board of Oncology of 983 physicians names and email addresses all of whom are registered as oncologists from all geographic areas of Mexico including urban, rural academic and community centers. In Mexico, it is mandatory for all oncologists to be certified by this board every five years in order to practice. The initial list included medical oncologists, oncologic surgeons, gynecologic oncologists, radiation therapists and pediatric oncologists. We excluded 132 pediatrician oncologists and invited all other 851 physicians oncologists to complete the survey. We believe the list of respondents to our invitation were representative of all oncologists in Mexico. We cross-checked with the list of oncologists provided by the Mexican Board and the respondents to our survey were representative of the pool of invitees in terms of geographic distribution and academic versus community oncology.

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
Reviewer's report

Title: Access to care issues adversely affect breast cancer patients in Mexico: Oncologists' perspective

Version: 3\nDate: 17 June 2014

Reviewer: Brenten Popiel

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript. This is a well-written manuscript. The authors have responded adequately to the reviewers comments and concerns. I recommend this manuscript be accepted for publication.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.