Reviewer's report

Title: Understanding the Attitudes of the Elderly Towards Cancer, its Management and Enrolment into Cancer Clinical Trials

Version: 1 Date: 17 October 2005

Reviewer: Edward Trimble

Reviewer's report:

General
1. The question posed by the authors, although not new, is well defined.
2. The methods are appropriate and well-described. Sufficient details are provided to replicate the work.
3. The data appears to be sound.
4. The manuscript appears to adhere to the relevant standards for reporting. I did not see any mention of data deposition.
5. The discussion and conclusion are well balanced and adequately supported by the data.
6. The title and abstract accurately convey what has been found.
7. The writing is acceptable.

Major compulsory revisions
1. The discussion should include mention of 'system' factors which may affect the accrual of elderly to clinical trials. For example, older patients are more likely to be treated at community hospitals, which are less likely to have trials. Older patients are less likely to be referred to cancer centers, which are more likely to have trials.
2. The discussion should include some mention of the issues surrounding co-morbidity, which is more common among the elderly patients with cancer. Co-morbid conditions may make the patient ineligible for certain trials.

Once these revisions have been made, I would recommend publication.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests.