Reviewer's report

Title: Self-testing for cancer: a community survey

Version: 1 Date: 13 November 2007

Reviewer: Gerald Haidinger

Reviewer's report:

General

The authors adequately present important results of an interesting study deserving publication

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

none

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

- On (my) page 4, line 9 there seems to be a remnant "is".
- On page 5 the term "FOB" should described when used for the first time (the same is true for "PSA").
- On page 6, line 3: it is unclear if "older" or "younger" age is meant.
- Throughout the whole manuscript, the term "sex" is preferable to the term "gender".
- The legend of table 2 should give some more information to the reader what is displayed, also define "IMD" in a footnote.
- In table 3 please include sums of non-cancer-tests.
- Although the manuscript concentrates on the use of cancer-self-tests, in the discussion section it should be mentioned that pregnancy tests are the most frequently used self-tests (40.3% according to the numbers in table 3?).
- On page 7, line 4: the definition of "older" is missing.
- If at all the authors chose to include the possibility of self-tests of the genetic determinants of disease, they also should mention the possibility of misuse (e.g. condition precedent to employment).

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

The numbering of pages would have been useful
What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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.