Reviewer's report

Title: Survival of cancer patients treated with mistletoe extract (Iscador): a systematic literature review

Version: 1 Date: 6 July 2009

Reviewer: Malinee Laopaiboon

Reviewer's report:

Unclear and confused information are presented in methods and results.
1) The authors present in the methods of abstract that outcome data were converted to standardized mean differences but all results are presented as hazard ratio and its confidence interval.
2) The study exclusion criteria related to study design is alternative inclusion criteria. It is usually subsets of the inclusion criteria.
3) The author addresses JADAD scores for study quality in the methods but the quality are not available in the results.
4) It is unclear how the 49 studies were selected. A flow of included studies since the beginning search till data analysis as addressed in the QUOROM guideline is suggested.
5) Unclear benefit information from meta-regression analysis.
6) Table 2 is not available.
7) Unclear forest plots of figure 1, if they are cumulative or individual.

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

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'