Reviewer's report

Title: Assessment of the effect of iris colour and having children on 5-year risk of death after diagnosis of uveal melanoma: a follow-up study.

Version: 2 Date: 1 February 2014

Reviewer: gianni virgili

Reviewer's report:

The authors report on predictors of survival in a cohort of patients affected by uveal melanoma, confirming conventional predictors and suggesting others that are less commonly acknowledged as clinically relevant.

Major compulsory revisions

I suggest the conclusion regarding the findings on iris colour and parity are less strong (e.g. may be… rather than …are), due to the borderline statistical significance, and the need of a confirmation in further studies or in a meta-analysis of risk factors. Particularly, there are only 62 cases with dark iris, who suffered from 4 or 5 deaths. There may be more variability than expected in these estimates, as they are based on only few events.

Minor compulsory revisions

In the last paragraph at page 10 and first at page 11, you report on 5–year predicted probabilities of survival for covariates subgroup. It would be useful to report their difference and 95%CI in brackets.

Discretionary revisions

Please report on ethnicity in relation to iris colour, if available.

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'