Reviewer's report

Title: Perceptions and Knowledge of Cancer Patients towards Cancer and its treatment. A Qualitative study from Malaysian Cancer Patients

Version: 1 Date: 3 March 2011

Reviewer: Wendy Lipworth

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
   YES

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   YES
   IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO REFER TO KNOWLEDGE, PERCEIVED EFFECTIVENESS AND EXPERIENCE AS "THEMES". THEY ARE MORE LIKE RESEARCH QUESTIONS [MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISION]

3. Are the data sound?
   THEY APPEAR TO BE

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   YES

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   YES, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE A FEW POINTS IN THE DISCUSSION WHICH ARE:
   A) BEST RAISED IN THE RESULTS:
      - ON PAGE 18 THE AUTHORS DESCRIBE PARTICIPANTS' RELIGIOUS PRACTICES FOR THE FIRST TIME
   B) NOT FULLY SUPPORTED BY THE DATA
      - ON PAGE 17 THE AUTHORS STATE THAT BELIEFS VARY WITH TYPE AND LENGTH OF TREATMENT RECEIVED [MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS]

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
   NO- IT WOULD BE WORTH ADDING A SECTION ON LIMITATIONS [MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISION]

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
THERE IS SOME REFERENCE TO OTHER STUDIES, ALTHOUGH THE
AUTHORS COULD PERHAPS MAKE IT CLEARER THAT THERE IS AN
ENORMOUS LITERATURE ON PERCEPTIONS OF CANCER RISK
[DISCRETIONARY REVISION]

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
THE TITLE DOES NOT CURRENTLY DESCRIBE THE ACTUAL FINDINGS,
BUT IS FINE [DISCRETIONARY REVISION]

9. Is the writing acceptable?
IT IS CLEAR THAT AN EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO EDIT THE
MANUSCRIPT FOR AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING AUDIENCE, BUT THE ARTICLE
WOULD NEED FURTHER MINOR EDITING BEFORE PUBLICATION [MINOR
ESSENTIAL REVISION]

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being
published

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