Reviewer’s report

Title: The return to work experiences of middle-aged Australian workers diagnosed with colorectal cancer: a matched cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 3 July 2014

Reviewer: Anja Mehnert

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Purpose of this study was to describe transitions in work participation over a 12-month period following a primary diagnosis of colorectal cancer compared to individuals without cancer and to identify the key factors influencing work participation as well as time to work re-entry after cancer. The authors investigate an important question in colorectal cancer patients, a cancer population that has been understudied so far in terms of employment and return to work aspects. The results are interesting and complement the current scientific knowledge.

Despite a low response rate the sample is sufficiently large to answer the questions on a methodologically high level. A possible sample bias and the limitations of the study are discussed.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests