Reviewer's report

Title: Quality of life of Lithuanian women with early stage breast cancer

Version: 2 Date: 23 October 2006

Reviewer: Santosh K Chaturvedi

Reviewer's report:

General

This is an interesting study on women undergoing mastectomy or breast conservative treatment with or without chemotherapy, and a follow up at nine months from first assessment.

The authors need to provide additional information given below.

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

How many persons returned the assessment forms sent by mail? What was the drop out or attrition rate?

What was the statistical significance of the differences in the scores for each subscale and total?

Were there adverse reactions or toxicity due to chemotherapy?

The possible reasons for changes in the quality of life, social and emotional well being in the pre and post scores need to be discussed. The authors could attempt multivariate statistics to identify predictors for poor QOL during follow up.

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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)

The authors should also discuss the limitations of the study.

The Results & discussion sections should be separate.

The Tables 1 & 2 can be deleted and the information provided in the Result section. Only figures with statistically significant differences could be retained, and other figures omitted.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests