Reviewer’s report

Title: Autonomic dysfunction in patients with advanced cancer; prevalence, clinical correlates and challenges in assessment.

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Reviewer: Rony Dev

Reviewer’s report:

No Major Compulsory Revisions.

The manuscript is clear and concise, and adds to current research on autonomic dysfunction in cancer patients including 1) the difficulty of performing Ewing’s battery in patients with advanced cancer 2) the poor prognostic significance of autonomic dysfunction and 3) the association with symptoms of fatigue and autonomic dysfunction.

Discretionary Revisions.

In the introduction, the authors mention risk of falls while the article does not present any data. One would assume that patients with orthostatic hypotension, they would have increased risk for falls (no data presented). The authors main finding is the difficulty of performing the Ewing’s battery of test in this patient population and do mention a simpler measure (heart rate variability). It would be instructive to have background/review on testing for autonomic dysfunction (if available). Also, the ewing’s criteria appears to capture cardiac autonomic dysfunction. Autonomic dysfunction (Dysautonomia) can affect other organ systems (airways, gi, and urogenital). Are there other tests which would be more appropriate for patients with advanced cancer.

Other highlight of the study is the association with poor prognosis, could add highlight to conclusion.

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'