Reviewer’s report

Title: Opioid switch from low dose of oral oxycodone to transdermal fentanyl matrix patch for patients with stable thoracic malignancy-related pain.

Version: 3 Date: 19 August 2014

Reviewer: Wojciech Leppert

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Minor Essential Revisions

In the Abstract and in the Methods there is a statement of fentanyl dose increase by 25 - 50% whereas in Table 3 all except one patient increased the dose from 12.5 to 25 mcg/h (increase by 100%).

Methods - page 8, lines 13-14: Could the Authors clarify what other supplementary analgesics were administered?

Page 8, line 10: I suspect the last dose refers to controlled-release oxycodone and the rescue medication refers to immediate-release oxycodone - I would suggest clearly state that.

Discussion, page 12, line 3-4, I would suggest to add that the improvement in constipation did not reach statistical significance.

Conclusion in both Abstract and the manuscript - I would suggest that it refers to a stable pain in patients with thoracic malignancies

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