Reviewer's report

Title: Can cancer patients assess the influence of pain on functions? A randomised, controlled study of the pain interference items in the Brief Pain Inventory.

Version: 2 Date: 4 December 2006

Reviewer: Karen Anderson

Reviewer's report:

General The authors have answered my questions and concerns.

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

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Typo in the first sentence of the Introduction: the first “a” should be deleted.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

It would be helpful to know about the patients' comorbidities that might influence their function. If the patients have few comorbidities, then the lack of differences between the two versions of the BPI is more understandable.

It is not clear whether the patients had difficulty reporting the influence of pain on function or whether they had difficulty reporting their overall functional level, in the context of the BPI pain items.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.