Reviewer's report

Title: Sexual function and chemotherapy in postmenopausal women with breast cancer

Version: 2 Date: 5 July 2012

Reviewer: Jennifer Jabson

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MS ID : 1769501271590961
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This paper is a revised version of “Sexual function and chemotherapy in postmenopausal women with breast cancer”, and it reports the findings generated by a study of sexual function among breast cancer patient’s as compared to the sexual function reported by no-cancer controls. The study’s findings indicate that sexual function declines among breast cancer patients at two points, after diagnosis of breast cancer and after administration of systemic chemotherapy. This finding could be valuable for identifying the best possible points at which to provide cancer patients with resources that address concerns regarding sexual function during breast cancer treatment.

Thank you to the author’s for their responsive revisions.

Major Compulsory Concerns

The major concerns identified in this paper are detailed below. Addressing these issues could improve the paper.

Introduction

1. Page 3, Paragraph 3: The purpose and message of this paragraph is not clear. Discussion of measurement tools should be reserved for the methods section.

Discussion

2. Page 9, Paragraph 1: The fourth sentence, “This paper shows that ….” Suggests a causal relationship. However, the findings presented in this paper are correlational and a causal relationship cannot be determined from the methods and analyses used in this study. Please revise.

3. Page 9, Paragraph 4: The first sentence, “…and the prior diagnosis variable…” is unclear. In the methods section authors stated that individuals with prior malignancies were excluded. Please clarify.

Minor Essential Concerns

The minor concerns identified in this paper are detailed below.

Introduction
1. Page 3, Paragraph 2: Authors should provide a citation that links hot flashes, vaginal dryness, and dyspareunia to decline in sexual activity.


3. Page 3, Paragraph 2: Citation needed for second sentence.

4. Page 3, paragraph 2: Fourth (last) sentence is unclear. Please clarify.

5. Page 4, Paragraph 2: The last sentence is grammatically incorrect. Please correct.

Discussion

6. Page 9, Paragraph 1: The fourth sentence, “….produces a significant loss to determine reduced…” is unclear. Please rewrite for clarity.

7. Page 9, Paragraph 3: The second sentence needs a citation and rewording for clarity.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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