Reviewer's report

Title: Measuring Perceived Effects of Drinking an Extract of Basidiomycetes Agaricus blazei Murill: A Survey of Japanese Consumers with Cancer

Version: 2 Date: 2 July 2007

Reviewer: Wim Verbeke

Reviewer's report:

General
The authors have adequately responded to most of the comments raised. The issue about the 3-point scale used for measuring perceived effects remains highly debatable. Again, this 3-point scale is strictly categorical, and at the very best ordinal. In their response, the authors refer to Likert type response scales that usually contain at least five- and up to seven- or nine-point response sets. Such scales are indeed commonly treated as interval data. However, the scale used in this paper (the three-point scale) does not possess of the same psychometric properties as the scales referred to by the authors in their response.

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

It is recommended that the authors clearly acknowledge their use of a 3-point response set as a limitation to their study, and recommend the use of response sets with a higher number of response categories in future studies that aim at performing similar multivariate analyses.

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

None

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

None

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.