Reviewer's report

Title: Strategies to improve the efficiency and utility of Multidisciplinary Team meetings in cancer care: a survey study

Version: 2 Date: 25 March 2014

Reviewer: Frances Wright

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Major Compulsory Revisions
Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
1. I believe the introduction (and discussion) should have more references to the literature. In particular, references for “In the UK all cases of new and suspected cancer must be discussed at MDT”, “consensus over what constitutes effective MDT working is high and MDT members remain positive in their attitude to MDT working and that they save time”.

In the second paragraph, to expand the discussion outside of the UK – you could describe what other cancer conferences around the world do – ie which patients should be discussed. (also for discussion)
“there is evidence that MDT working in cancer can improve the process of care as well as patient outcomes” – needs a reference (either a review or quote multiple papers)

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
I think to give the reader an understanding of the survey methodology – we should understand what % of the overall groups were surveyed i.e how many urological surgeons in the UK are there and how many were surveyed? And why this methodology was picked. Why these particular surgeons (etc) were contacted and not others.

From a qualitative point of view – how many questions were open ended? How much did people write? On Fig 3 – I would put themes rather than count on vertical axis

Discretionary Revisions
1. In the abstract, ‘CNSs’ should be defined (outside of the UK this is not a known term). Describing what ‘splitting the MDT’ will make this sentence more understandable.
2. Time spend in meeting the range does not come up clearly in the text
3.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests