Reviewer's report

Title: Lack of risk information causes overestimation of effectiveness in colorectal cancer screening: Analysis using the Analytic Hierarchy Process

Version: 3 Date: 25 April 2008

Reviewer: James G Dolan

Reviewer's report:

The authors have been very responsive to previous suggestions. I have just a few more comments:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) Page 11, under baseline characteristics: the proportion of inconsistent respondents (19%) should be added to the text.

2) Similarly, the percents in each column should be added to Table 1 to make it easier to compare the different groups presented, as they all have different numbers of subjects.

3) Page 14, conclusion: Given the limitations, especially finding differences between the groups in their assessments of effectiveness, I do not think the authors can conclude that the results showed a direct association between the lack of risk information and the differences in priorities assigned to effectiveness and risks of the two procedures. I think a better conclusion is that these results suggest there is a relationship.

I also think the results apply primarily to the importance of being well informed regarding colorectal cancer screening options; there is no information presented to show that this is important for choosing "healthcare programs". Extrapolating the results of this study to the more general case is not supported by the data presented and should be avoided.

Minor Essential Revisions

None.

Discretionary Revisions

None.

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.