Reviewer's report

**Title:** Re-organisation of oesophago-gastric cancer care in England: progress and remaining challenges

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 3 June 2009

**Reviewer:** Jose Carrillo

**Reviewer's report:**

This is a paper on an ongoing reorganization of oesophagogastric cancer care services in England. It tries to be more specific and complement the National Cancer Peer Review Programme.

The paper is in general well written and objectives partially accomplished, however my impression is that this survey took place a little prematurely in light of the ongoing National Upper GI Cancer Audit.

1. The concepts included in each questionnaire are important, but for completeness and integrated evaluation of your paper the whole questionnaire should be included.

2. Were the questionnaires applied to both acute trusts as well as networks (they should be), and if so, why not to compare answers to obtain a more effective (internal?) validation of your results.

3. A table comparing the results of the National Cancer Peer Review Programme and results of your survey regarding core and comparable issues like centralization of surgery, availability of specialist nurses, palliation with laser and so on should be added, since your data do not seem to differ significantly from those of the NCPRP.

4. What does NHS mean, you should state the initials meaning.

5. Discussion on palliative care with measures like laser, argon beam and radiotherapy is lacking, please elaborate.

6. Page 8, line 15. Please rewrite the phrase according to your results on table 4 which state only an 8% of pts with formal screening.

2.-Minor:

It would be convenient for people who are not aware of the organization of Health services in England to draw a figure which shows what are Cancer networks, acute trusts and its subdivisions. Probably the frequencies reached in compliance and answers to questionnaires could be annotated in this figure and
some space saved!!

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests