Reviewer’s report

Title: Expectations of Geriatric Patients from Physicians: Results of a Cross-sectional Survey at a Tertiary Care Teaching Hospital in Pakistan

Version: 1 Date: 24 June 2009

Reviewer: Igor Svab

Reviewer’s report:

It is very important that the article comes from an area which is poorly represented in medical literature. It is even more important that the issues of patient satisfaction and patient expectations are addressed.

My comments are as follows:

1. major compulsory revision: What is the aim of the study? The design of the study could not fulfill the aim as it is written, because the sample of 380 people drawn from a tertiary hospital is not representative of the population of Pakistan. Moreover, I find it very difficult to believe that studies of patient expectation in elderly population have not been conducted.

2. major revision: the authors describe that they have calculated the sample size to be 385. I would welcome more details how this was done. There is an additional problem if they have been aiming at a national sample and making a convenience sample.

3. Minor essential: how many people did need help in filling in a questionnaire? Having someone to help in filling in a questionnaire may be an important source of bias.

4. Major compulsory: in the discussion, the authors make a series of assumptions that lead the reader to believe that they are generalising their findings to the entire population. They are not in a position to do that because of the specificity of sampling.

5. Major compulsory: I would welcome more information about the instrument used and its validation.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I have no competing interests.