Reviewer's report

Title: Health related quality of life in cancer patients at the end of life: Translation, validation and longitudinal analysis of specific tools

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Reviewer: lawrence friedman

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This manuscript describes a study protocol. The study consists of both a longitudinal cohort study and a randomized clinical trial. The description contains all key items important to a protocol (both observational study and clinical trial) and is generally well-written. I have just a few comments:

a) Pagination would be useful

b) I did not see any reference to registration of the clinical trial. The trial does not assess drugs or devices, but rather the approach to assessment of quality of life in patients with terminal cancer. Nevertheless, it is not clear that the journal has exceptions for its requirement of registration.

c) The Abstract should mention that there is a randomized clinical trial component in addition to a cohort study component. Similarly, the Study Design section (bottom of the fifth page) should also mention the clinical trial.

d) Table 1, particularly the top headings, is confusing. Perhaps it is the way my copy printed out, but I found it difficult to understand. Some of the abbreviations were not spelled out.

e) A minor item: on line 3 of the Abstract, the word "entourage" sounds strange (at least to American English) when used in this context. I assume what is meant is "close family and friends"