Reviewer's report

Title: Approaches to interim analysis of cancer randomised clinical trials: a survey from the Italian National Monitoring Centre for Clinical Trials.

Version: 3 Date: 4 March 2008

Reviewer: Alessandro Liberati

Reviewer's report:

This reviewer believes this is an interesting article of importance in its field. Though findings are not particularly surprising, still they are interesting and can act as a stimulus for improvement especially in non commercially funded trials where resources are more scant and people may be inclined to spend less attention to methodological infrastructure.

Minor Essential Revisions

This reviewer believes that the paper can be shortened without any substantial threat to its clarity.

The introduction section is far too long (almost three full pages).

It should be possible to make it shorter, for example, by having a short description on the Osservatorio nazionale sperimentazioni cliniche put into a table, and by shortening the section on Statistical monitoring approaches.

The last sentence on the second para in the first page of the Introduction (sorry to be so convolute but pages are not numbered!) is unclear. Please improve it.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions