Reviewer's report

Title: The use of the Godin-Shephard Leisure-Time Physical Activity Questionnaire in oncology research: A systematic review

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Reviewer: Lila J Rutten

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The use of the Godin-Shephard Leisure-Time Physical Activity Questionnaire in oncology research: A systematic review.

The authors describe a comprehensive review of the literature spanning 1985-2013 examining use and validity of the Godin-Shephard Leisure-Time Physical Activity Questionnaire (GSLTPAQ) in cancer-related research. While in need of some revision and tightening up, overall, the manuscript describes an appropriately conducted review of the literature and offers a nice summary of supported uses for the GSLTPAQ.

Please consider the following observations and suggestions as means for improving the quality of this manuscript:

• The results summarized in the abstract do not flow with the conclusions given the abstract. The abstract summarizes the lack of evidence gleaned from the review around the validity of the GSLTPAQ while concluding that the tool is appropriate for use in cancer patients. This needs to be rectified.

• The introduction does a fine job reviewing the relevant literature and building the case for the need for review. Attention should be paid to the writing in this section as several typos, some grammatical issues, and inconsistencies in use of language were observed.

• The methods section is far too lengthy. Where possible (i.e., the GSLTPAQ’s Item Content and Scoring Methods section) rely on reference to prior studies for fine details.

• The literature search section belongs in the Methods, not the results.

• No need to restate objects throughout the results section.

• Tighten up/reduce the length of the results section by relying more on reference to your tables than in text descriptions.

• Be careful throughout the discussion to summarize (but not repeat) the findings.

• The real gem in this review is Table 3! Highlight the utility of this review in terms of informing future research.

The manuscript, with some revision, will make a nice contribution to the literature. Thank you for this opportunity to review your work.