Reviewer's report

Title: Handling informative dropout in longitudinal analysis of health-related quality of life: Application of three approaches to data from the esophageal cancer clinical trial PRODIGE 5/ACCORD 17

Version: 0 Date: 15 Jun 2020

Reviewer's report:

I congratulate the authors to the well-written and very clear manuscript.

I have only some minor remarks/questions:

1) What was the reason to choose 4 patterns (and not more) for the PMM, a scientific reasons or a reason concerning the analysis (robustness)?
2) Equation (1). It would be helpful to explain the coding of the arm-variable (0: control, 1: treatment). Then the slopes (beta 1 and beta1+beta2) follow easily.
3) Would there be alternatives to extrapolating the score trajectories beyond the drop-out in the PMM, e.g. using restricitons?
4) The authors seem to have a preference for the SPM. But it should be noted that the SPM may also be not very robust. E.g., the integration may highly depend on the normality assumption of the random effects.
5) Generally, the MNAR methods are mainly useful for sensitivity analysis (my opinion).

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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