Reviewer’s report

Title: Perceived causes and consequences of sexual changes after cancer for women and men: A mixed method study

Version: 3 Date: 16 December 2014

Reviewer: Sally Taylor

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript presents the results of a mixed methods study exploring the nature and subjective experience and consequences of changes to sexual wellbeing after cancer. The manuscript is well written and provides an interesting discussion of the topic. I do however have some concerns about the qualitative section of the manuscript in particular.

Major Compulsory Revisions

The authors provide little detail about their chosen method of analysis and how this analysis was conducted. More detail is needed about the demographics of the subsample of participants who were interviewed. The authors do not provide any details about the length of interviews nor do they provide an explanation as to why some interviews were conducted over the telephone and others face to face. Were participants given the option to choose between a face to face interview or one conducted over the telephone? Were there any specific reasons why seven participants were interviewed face to face. It would be helpful if the interviewees provided an explanation as to why two interviewers conducted the interviews as it is generally considered best practice for just one interviewer to be present to avoid intimidating the participant.

Minor Essential Revisions

The authors state that a strength of this research is that it includes participants with reproductive and non-reproductive cancers. The majority (85%) of the sample however is made up of participants with reproductive cancers. Could the authors say something about whether these figures are representative of the people approached to take part in the study or the general population. The figures for GI and respiratory cancers for example seem a little low compared to current statistics.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'