Reviewer's report

Title: Characteristics of Exercise Recommendations of Oncologists in South Korea: a cross sectional survey study

Version: 4 Date: 30 October 2014

Reviewer: Asmita Patel

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Manuscript: BMC Cancer: Characteristics of exercise recommendations of oncologists in South Korea: a cross sectional survey study

Comments to the Authors

This study examined characteristics and attitudes of oncologists toward exercise and toward recommending exercise to their patients. Also examined were the associations among oncologists’ own physical activity levels and their exercise recommendations and attitudes to recommending exercise.

Originality

This is an original piece of work that can add to the literature in this field.

Title

The title is appropriate, however I think the word ‘attitudes’ should be added. Please see the major compulsory revisions section.

Abstract

The abstract conveys what the paper is about.

Introduction

Relevant background information and a clear rationale for the study are provided. The aims of the study are clearly outlined.

Methods

In general the methods are appropriate and well described. Please see the discretionary revisions section.

Results

The results are presented a logical sequence. Please see Major and Minor essential revisions section.

Discussion

The main findings are discussed and are adequately supported by the data, and links are made to previous related research in this area.

Limitations of the study are clearly stated. Future research directions are mentioned.
Figures and Tables
The figures are informative and support the article, however please see the discretionary revisions section. The tables are informative and support the article.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Please add the word ‘attitudes’ to the title.
2. Under statistical analyses, please mention the names of the three physical activity classification groups.
3. Under the Results section, sentence 3, please state who other was (e.g., what other healthcare practitioners)?
4. Discussion section, page 15, last paragraph, please add references after the wording, ‘various cancers’ on the last sentence.
5. In regard to the Herbert reference, page 16 and 17, please state which population of patients you are referring to (e.g., those who went to see their general practitioner/primary care physician)?
6. Discussion section, page 17, first paragraph, sentence 13, please reference the studies that you are referring to.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Sentence 4, under Participants and Procedure, the word ‘e-mail’ should be changed to ‘e-mails.’
2. In the results section, sentence 3, the word ‘surgeon’ needs to be changed to ‘surgeons’ and the word ‘radiation oncology’ needs to be changed to ‘radiation oncologists.’
3. Results section, page 12, first paragraph, last sentence, please change the word ‘guideline’ to ‘guidelines.’
4. Results section, page 12, second paragraph, please change the word ‘guideline’ to ‘guidelines.’
5. Discussion section, page 14, first paragraph, sentence 8, please change ‘percent’ to ‘percentage.’

Discretionary Revisions
1. Under the Participants and Procedure section, how were the other oncologists chosen?
2. In regard to both figures 1 and 2, the title of the Y axis needs to be clearer. Also, please define what ‘no’ and ‘yes’ means.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
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.