Reviewer's report

Title: Noncompliance in head and neck cancer treatment; associated factors for both patient and physician

Version: 2
Date: 16 March 2015
Reviewer: Stefano Petti

Reviewer's report:

This study is interesting, but requires to be revised, as statistical analysis is excessive and unimportant somewhere, while it is lacking elsewhere. In addition, Tables and Figures often provide overlapping information and are unnecessary.

Table 1 heading (i.e., “Frequencies”) is not enough explicative, while one must look at the Table without reading the text and be able to understand what is displayed. Apply chi-square test to the frequency distributions (excluding age, which requires the t-test).

Change Table 2 into another Table reporting unadjusted OR (2x2 table or simple logistic regression) and adjusted (multiple logistic regression) OR for MDT decision to propose nonstandard treatment (n=89). Change the Table as follows. Include only column 1 (characteristics) column 2 (cut-offs) add column 3 (unadjusted OR with 95CI) and column 4 (adjusted OR with 95CI). Consequently, remove Figure 1, with adjusted OR.

Do the same for Table 3 and Figure 2. Three columns with characteristics (1) –cut-offs are already presented in Table 2-, unadjusted OR (2) and adjusted OR (3). Remove Figure 2.

Provide an explicative heading for Figure 3, which will be Figure 1 in the revised version.

Remove Table 5 from the discussion section, as it does not provide any further information. Literature review can be performed narratively in the text, as the Authors actually did.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests: none to declare