Reviewer's report
Title: Validation of a frailty index in older cancer patients with solid tumours

Version: 1 Date: 18 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:
PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS: To view the full report from the academic peer reviewer, please see the attached file.

REVIEWER COMMENTS FROM REPORT: My overall impression is that this study has been conducted correctly given the constraints of undertaking research in clinical practice. There are some limitations related to the sample size used, which means the results cannot be generalised. However, despite this, the results of this exploratory study are worthy of publication as they represent a step forwards in the creation of a tool to determine the suitability of potentially frail older people for chemotherapy.

Strengths
The study proposes a new method of customising cancer treatment for older people at risk of frailty. The potential combination with the recently-developed electronic frailty index is worthy of further investigation. Limitations of the study are clearly identified.

Weaknesses
The number of subjects is limited, making it impossible to generalise the results and to account for confounders.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:
Despite the limitations of the Fried frailty phenotype, which were discussed, this method offers the advantage of being extremely quick to perform (5 minutes). It would have been interesting to see a comparison between this tool and the FI-CGA proposed in the present study.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:
None needed

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.
Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Acceptable

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