Reviewer's report

Title: Physician requests by patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma in Japan

Version: 0 Date: 12 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Melvin Chin

Reviewer's report:

Thanks for the opportunity to review this manuscript entitled "Physician requests by patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma in Japan".

In this manuscript, the authors describe patients' information needs about treatment and diagnosis of mesothelioma based on two open-ended questions. They identify recurring themes based on responses from their study cohort.

Despite the relatively low response rates and the potential response bias from returned questionnaires, I feel the authors have identified important themes in the management of mesothelioma patients.

As a revision point, could I ask if some of the categories in Table 2 could be rephrased for the readership to better understand the paper? Alternatively, further elaboration within the main body of text would be helpful.

1.5 Gave patient advice about daily life (Is this about daily activities? The given example appears to be about engagement with palliative care services)

1.9 Do not miss the progress of MPM (Is this about careful clinical assessment to not miss clinical signs of progression?)
4.3 Reliable attitude (Is this about consistent delivery of information?)

As a discretionary point, I would like to ask the authors if it is possible to incorporate information from patient characteristics in Table 1 in more detail in the analysis. For example, from a clinical standpoint, it would be very useful to see how the categorisation of physician requests compares for patients on treatment versus off treatment, to better tailor their care needs. I acknowledge that some patient characteristics can already be inferred from the categories reported in this manuscript, but I wonder if any new categories could be defined from further stratification based on patient characteristics.

Overall, I think that this manuscript adds valuable local knowledge about the expectations of patients treated for mesothelioma.
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.

Unable to assess

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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