Reviewer’s report

Title: Identifying the need for specialized palliative care in adult cancer patients – Development and validation of a screening procedure based on proxy assessment by physicians and filter questions

Version: 1 Date: 31 May 2019

Reviewer: Research Square

Reviewer's report:

"STATISTICAL REVIEWER ASSESSMENT:

Is the study design appropriate for the research question (considering whether the analyzed population accurately reflects the design and whether you see any problems with control/comparison groups, e.g., likely confounders)?

Yes - overall design, population, and control groups are appropriate

Are methodologies adequate and well implemented (considering whether assumptions are addressed and whether analyses are robust)?

Yes - methodologies are adequate and well implemented, assumptions are addressed, analysis is robust

Are the analyses adequately communicated (considering whether reporting details are adequate and whether figures and tables are well labeled and described)?

No - there are minor issues

Does the interpretation accurately reflect the analyses without overstatement (considering whether limitations/bias are acknowledged and whether accurate descriptors, e.g., 'significant', are used)?

No - there are minor issues

Could an appropriately REVISED version of this work represent a statistically sound contribution?
Yes - current version has sound statistics

STATISTICAL REVIEWER COMMENTS:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript. Most of my suggestions have been addressed. I still have reservations about the large proportion of the sample that was excluded due to missing values (27.4%). Since the authors have stated this in the paper, I am satisfied with the current state of the paper and recommend it be sent for peer-review.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

The revisions are appropriate and I recommend that the paper be sent for peer-review.”

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.

No

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Needs some language corrections before being published
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