Reviewer’s report

Title: Trauma- and stressor-related disorders among hematological cancer patients with and without stem cell transplantation: protocol of an interview-based study according to updated diagnostic criteria

Version: 0 Date: 25 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Gunjan Shah

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well written summary of a proposed cross-sectional study to assess trauma- and stressor-related disorders in patients undergoing auto or allo transplant for hematologic malignancies. It will answer important questions and set benchmarks for interventions. The sample size is commendable.

Comments

1. This is a trial proposal not the conducted trial. Is there a reason to publish now prior to conducting the study?

2. 300/600 patients will be patients with hematologic malignancies who are not undergoing transplant. How will they be chosen? Are they to be matched to the transplant patients? Sequentially approached? Or some other method?

3. Including gender and age matched controls without malignancy seems reasonable, but then there are really three comparisons. No malig to transplant, No malig to malig without transplant, malignancy with or without transplant. How will all these comparisons be handled statistically?

4. 600 patients over two years is a large number. Does the center see this many patients (including an portion who will decline participating)?

5. "we have original data for cancer-specific quality of life measured with the EORTC QLQ-C30" - Does this mean the randomly selected German population without cancer answered the cancer-specific survey? Is this survey validated in a cancer-free population?

6. These are a lot of questionnaires to be filled out at one time. How long do you feel this will take? What if patients do not want to complete all of them? Will they be on paper or electronic? Will they always be done in the same order?

7. Likely should add in the disease risk index (DRI) as a variable in analysis beyond just disease status.

8. Typo in line 321: Patient recr13uiment
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?  
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