Reviewer’s report

Title: Determinants of illness-specific social support and its relation to distress in long-term melanoma survivors

Version: 0 Date: 10 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Judy Yuen-man Siu

Reviewer's report:
Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a text format.

Overall comment: I suggest further review by statistician for the statistical analysis method, as my expertise is on qualitative study, not on quantitative.

1. Why did the study have to exclude those who did not have adequate German language comprehension? Please justify.

2. There maybe a possible bias in the sampling, as the authors sampled the patients from the selected dermatologists. How did the authors select the dermatologists to participate in the study? What are the backgrounds of these dermatologists? I am not familiar with the German medical system, but public / private backgrounds of these dermatologists can mean the sampling bias for the patients as well, because the patients who attended these dermatologists may come from specific socio-economic background. I suggest the authors to explain at least a bit.

3. The results and discussion sections are too brief without any attempts to explain the data, especially the authors intended to see the social support and detrimental interaction issues. These should be complicated issues, and the authors seemed to oversimplify about the experiences of these cancer survivors.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No
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.
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 recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Needs some language corrections before being published

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