Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 16 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Carlene Wilson

Reviewer's report:
This is an interesting report of a useful data set. Before it can be published the authors should:
1. Correct the English - particularly the tenses in the Introduction.
2. Correct a reference.
3. Correct the identification of a variable as Dependent when it is Independent.
4. Provide a more nuanced discussion of the likely confusion created by a reliance on cross-sectional data. It would be useful to also consider the extent to which the two reported forms of Social Support might be comparable for non-illness related assessments. Additionally, validation from third parties of social support sought and received would be useful. Broadly speaking, a paragraph that highlights the potential circularity between predictors and outcomes would be useful.

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.
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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