Reviewer’s report

Title: Exploring the characteristics of patients with mesothelioma who chose active symptom control over chemotherapy as first-line treatment: a prospective, observational, single centre study

Version: 0 Date: 29 May 2017

Reviewer: Martine Puts

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for allowing me to review this interesting paper addressing an important and understudied topic, why patients choose not to accept recommended therapy.

The paper is very well written and I only have 2 questions.

1) is the reference to the 2007 BTS the latest? It seems odd to have a professional society statement that does not reflect the current treatment standard, one would expect it would be updated.

2) Could you describe the data collection from the chart in more detail. Was a standardized form used? Who abstracted the data? Did you determine in advance what reasons would be abstracted?

It seems there is a lot of oncology data but no date on for example travel needs for treatment that lead older adults to refuse treatments, financial barriers, mood disorders etc. These reasons have been documented in the literature but there is nothing mentioned about any of these. Please clarify.

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:
Acceptable

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