Reviewer’s report

Title: Does packed red cell transfusion provide symptomatic benefits to cancer palliative patients?: a longitudinal study from a single private oncology center in Nepal

Version: 2 Date: 14 May 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer’s report:

"PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses one or several testable research questions? (Brief or other article types: is there a clear objective?)

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

Yes - the approach is appropriate

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with sufficient technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

No - there are minor issues

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

No - there are minor issues

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Has the author addressed your concerns sufficiently for you to now recommend the work as a technically sound contribution? If not, can further revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Yes - current version is technically sound

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: Overall impression of the revision is good. Authors have responded the revision well. The title require correction: instead of packed cell, packed red cell is the scientifically and legally correct term.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

Minor issues.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

One gram/dl elevation of Hemoglobin does not occur in all the patients, with transfusion of one unit of blood. It happens if the patient weight is about 70 Kgs and if the patient is 35 kgs expected elevation is double and if more than 70 kgs hemoglobin increment is less than 1gm/dl. And also authors has not mentioned whether the packed red cell is derived from 350 or 450 ml blood collection as it is important in estimating hemoglobin increment. The benefit of blood transfusion can not be presumed if transfusion associated adverse reactions is not considered. Authors have agreed that they failed to report adverse reactions but they have observed reactions like thrombophlebitis and non-hemolytic febrile reacted but failed to give the number.

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.

No

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:

Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests**

Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

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