Reviewer’s report

Title: Fatigue, Barriers to Physical Activity and Predictors for Motivation to Exercise in Advanced Cancer Patients

Version: 0 Date: 20 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Karen La Cour

Reviewer's report:

Dear Authors

Thank you for an interesting, relevant and well-written manuscript. I have only minor suggestions to strengthen the line of logic and transparency of arguments.

Background: For early clarity I suggest you define ACP 'Advanced Cancer' early on in the background. Also if you can explain the reason for 'quantitative data' and 'high numbers of ACP' please be more explicit as per your argumentation (ie intentions for representativeness), (you even have some 'qualitative data, although collected as part of a quantitative large number study, which adds to the results)

Methods: There seems to be some inconsistency in how you define the population; they are referred to in background as 'ACP', in methods as 'sequential outpatients (expect this was method of enrollment), but adds confusion as presently written. The inclusion criteria do not mention ACP but moderate to severe 'tiredness' (fatigue) or weakness, these are all three relevant but different criterion and causes un-clarity and inconsistency. Recommend this is corrected consistently throughout. There is some redundancy in the methods section, try to clean up the intro section in methods to avoid repetitions and in following section on workflow and study design you refer to a paper-based quetionnaire is that the same you then provide in-depth information of afterwards ? this section could benefit from more stringent presentation.

Results: Interesting - how about differences as per gender?  (Possibly caused by the breast cancer group).

Discussion: Any (self)-critical reflections on the comparison to 'cancer survivors' - good with your conclusive considerations on early stage, pre-diagnosis and continuous support for PA would add to the ACP in progressed stages.
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.

Unable to assess

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

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

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

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?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.
I declare I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal