Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prospective cohort study of patients with advanced cancer and their relatives on the experienced quality of care and life (eQuiPe study): a study protocol

Authors:

Janneke van Roij (J.vanroij@iknl.nl)
Myrte Zijlstra (m.zijlstra@iknl.nl)
Laurien Ham (l.ham@iknl.nl)
Linda Brom (l.brom@iknl.nl)
Heidi Fransen (h.fransen@iknl.nl)
Art Vreugdenhil (G.Vreugdenhil@mmc.nl)
Natasja Raijmakers (n.raijmakers@iknl.nl)
Lonneke van de Poll-Franse (L.vandePoll@iknl.nl)
eQuiPe study group (equipe@iknl.nl)

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Prospective cohort study of patients with advanced cancer and their informal caregivers on the experienced quality of care and life (eQuiPe study): a study protocol Janneke van Roij; Myrte Zijlstra; Laurien Ham; Linda Brom; Heidi Fransen; Art Vreugdenhil; Natasja Raijmakers; Lonneke van de Poll-Franse; eQuiPe study group BMC Palliative Care

Arunangshu Ghoshal (Reviewer 1):

please make necessary corrections for english language; like tense, grammar, etc. ith a native english speaker if possible

Response: Thank you for this suggestion. An English native speaker provided feedback which improved the manuscript.

there are too many questionnaires in the Table 2. Overview measurement instruments and times, which i'm not sure can be done in the time mentioned in manuscript
Response: Thank you for pointing this out. We often use a selection of items or a short version of original questionnaires. We did an extensive pilot study to evaluate the experiences of patients and also asked them how much time they had spent on filling out the questionnaire. The baseline questionnaire of our study is longer compared to the follow-up questionnaires, the amount of items also depends on whether the participant has a partner.

Sang-Yeon Suh (Reviewer 2):

This protocol shows well-prepared design. One thing to mention is that there are caregivers whose patients are not registered in this study. How do you plan to compare those caregivers to caregivers with their patients registered? I think quality of life of caregivers depends upon the patient's disease trajectory. So you should think about how to handle those discrepancy between caregivers in terms of availability of patients' information. Please provide brief explanation about it in advance in your protocol.

Response: Thank you for pointing this out. The relatives that participate whose patients are not registered only receive the baseline questionnaire because we have no information on the disease trajectory of the patient. This means we can include these caregivers in a cross-sectional study because they are a caregiver of a patient with advanced cancer and will compare them to other caregivers in the study. We will not include caregivers whose patients are not registered in a longitudinal analysis.