Reviewer’s report

Title: Health Related Quality of Life of Gynaecologic Cancer Patients attending at Tikur Anbesa Specialized Hospital (TASH), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Version: 0 Date: 23 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Jeremy Jonathan Owen Herod

Reviewer's report:

Firstly I enjoyed reading the manuscript and am supportive of the study. There is very little published about QOL in GYnae Cancer patients, particularly in countries like Ethiopia. However, I do think that the manuscript would benefit from some significant revision prior to publication. I have tried to summarise my thoughts below.

1) Decide if you are writing in English or American English. English uses the term 'Gynaecological' whereas American uses 'Gynecologic'. These are frequently confused or misspelt throughout the manuscript. Importantly you need to choose which you wish to use for your keywords. Examples at Line 26,46, 68, etc etc etc

2) Line 26. Should use 'sequelae' instead of 'sequel'. Also need to amend in abstract

3) Line 49. replace 'got' with 'has received greater'

4) Please note that although I am trying to help with lots of suggestions to improve the written English of the paper I have not fully proof-read the paper for you and that does need to be done

5) Line 51> Replace 'about' and use 'with'

6) Line 88: I would use: However patients who had previously received oncological treatment were excluded from the study

7) 103-110: You need to include a much more extensive description of the patient characteristics. There is no description of stage etc which as you acknowledge later is an important determinant of symptoms and QOL.

8) Your results section fails to include data that you then go onto discuss in the discussion section of the manuscript. If you are going to talk about the relative effects on QOL of different tumour sites then you need to include the data in the results section. You have not done this. Basically the results section feels very incomplete and I would extensively revise it

9) Line 113-114: you need to adjust the placement of the results in these lines. There are two numbers together but each should follow the description that they refer to: It should read
'social function 42.26 (SD±32.08), was the most affected domain followed by role function 50.12 (SD±35.11)'

10) Line 122: "Patients coming out of Addis Ababa have" should read "Patients coming from outside Addis Ababa have"

11) Line 128: similar point to Line 122 above

12) Line 145-6: Age, ethnicity and religion were not found not to affect any of EORTC QLQ-C30 scores in a significant manner. This SENTENCE DOES NOT MAKE SENSE. NOT SURE WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO SAY BUT Needs RE-PHRASING

13) 13) Line 151-2: Where are the references linked the following statement? Studies done in Tanzania and Indonesia have also shown financial difficulty to be the highest score among the symptom scale with a mean value of 84.2, 83.34 respectively

14) Line 153: insert 'the' prior to 'second'

15) Line 153: referring to 'a couple of studies' is not good practice. You need to be more precise in your writing

16) Lines 154-8 Replace - 'This can be due to the inaccessibility of the oncology service and lack of health insurance in Ethiopian setup. The mean score for GHS in this study was 40.95 bit lower than the Tanzanian report (50.5) done among all types of cancer[10]. This difference could be attributed by the difference in socio-demographic, cancer type and health services access between the two communities.'

with

'This may be due to the inaccessibility of the oncology service and a lack of health insurance in the Ethiopian setup. The mean score for GHS in this study was 40.95 which is a little lower than the Tanzanian report (50.5) performed amongst all types of cancer[10]. This difference could be attributed to the difference in socio-demographic group, cancer type and access to health services between the two communities.'

17) Line 162-4 Replace - 'In one Iranian study[11] it was found not correlated in any of the scores where as a study done in Turkey[12, 13] showed married participants to have a low score in emotional function in contrary to ours; which shows a positive correlation with emotional function and a negative with appetite loss[3, 14].'

with
'In an Iranian study[11] there was no correlation found in any of the scores whereas a study done in Turkey[12, 13] showed married participants to have a low score in emotional function. This contrasts with our findings that show a positive correlation with emotional function and a negative correlation with appetite loss[3, 14].'

18) Line 165: replace 'has' with 'have'
19) Line 168: replace ' for free' with 'free of charge'
20) Line 172: Omit 'has'
20) Line 180-181: Why is the information you are referring to not in the results

I think a significant review is needed before this paper could be accepted. In brief you need to

1) Improve results section
2) Ensure discussion reflects information in results section
3) Proof read and improve English

Another point is that I did wonder if you have considered the use of a control group. It is difficult to know what the QOL indicators mean if they are not compared to those of the background population. That may be a piece of work for the future though

**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.

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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