Reviewer's report

Title: The effects of add-on self-care education on quality of life and fatigue in gastrointestinal cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy

Version: 1 Date: 15 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Johanna Hok Nordberg

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for your revised manuscript!

I think you have addressed many of the comments in a sufficient and good manner, especially in the background and method section. Regarding the title I welcome your revision although I think the specification a "self-care program" or your initial suggestion "self-care education" was better than the current term "self-care education". Whatever you choose in your final version, make sure to be consequent throughout the paper; right now you use both terms self-care education and self-care therapy (only in the title).

I think most of the material in the paper is now of sufficient quality while I still have some major concerns regarding some parts in the background, discussion and conclusion (primarily I think this has to do with language), please see more details below.

Page 4, row 22-31. I can still not understand what you mean with "in the absence of medical institute":

"the self-care theory proposed by Dorothea Orem highlights the availability and accessibility of health care to reduce side effects of chemotherapy in the absence of medical institute (11)"

Page 10, row 54-49.

"The patients practiced distraction stayed calm, positive and improved physical function especially immunity system response."

I think there should be a "who" inserted after "the patients"? Did you check immunity system response? Maybe I missed this information but if not, please clarify or revise.

Page 12, row 1-7

Please check language, it is difficult to understand what you want to say here.

Page 12, row 12-29. This is a good consideration of the limitations of the study. I think this section would be better suited in the discussion instead of in the conclusion.

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

**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 that 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