Reviewer’s report

Title: Talking about Treatment Benefits, Harms, and What Matters to Patients in Radiation Oncology: An Observational Study

Version: 0 Date: 01 Jun 2018

Reviewer: Timothy Showalter

Reviewer’s report:

This is a mixed methods study that investigates shared decision-making practices in a radiation oncology clinic. The sample included 11 radiation oncologists, 4 residents, 14 nurses and 40 patients, with a mix of tumor types and nearly balanced gender. The methods are described well. The findings are novel and provide insights into presentation and absorption of material related to potential harms of radiation therapy. The authors found that patients retain information when nurses meet with the patient after the physician consultation. They also found that discussions about values and preferences for care are usually initiated by patients and their families. This is new and potentially valuable material for practicing radiation oncologists and also has broad implications.

The analyses are appropriate and the methods are fully described.

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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