Reviewer's report

Title: Quality of Life measurements as an indicator for timing of support after oesophagectomy for cancer - A prospective study

Version: 1 Date: 30 May 2014

Reviewer: Marco Scarpa

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revision

Introduction:

1. the sentence "Today there is a lack of knowledge about how the patients QOL fluctuate during the first postoperative year." does not take in account of a recent paper (J Gastrointest Surg. 2013 Mar;17(3):421-33.)

2. the sentence "There is no consensus regarding what impact factors that affect the patients QOL after surgery." is rather obscure. Please, reformulate it.

Methods

1. the sentence "This prospective study was a separate part of a randomized controlled trial carried out at Skåne University hospital" suggest a bias of the study because the population included in the study was selected and randomized in two arms. Please, address this issue in the discussion

2. table 3 showed that less than half of patients answered at 12 months and this is expected in a esophageal cancer patients group. However, this data arise some doubt on power of the tests. please, address this issue

3. the sentence "When evaluating the original data we failed to prove a perfect normal distribution" suggest tha Friedman ANOVA should have been used. Please, address this point.

Results

1. figure 1 and figure 3. I am not so sure that you can create a cumulative score of QLQ C30 and OES18. Please, verify and justify.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

None to declare