Reviewer’s report

Title: Expectations and psychological issues before genetic counseling: analysis of distress determinant factors

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Reviewer: Kelly Kohut

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting article that adds to our understanding of the importance of risk perception and support in determining the impact of distress related to genetic testing for a hereditary cancer predisposition. Whilst the manuscript is well written, there are several places where a spelling or grammatical error should be corrected through careful reading and editing. Some specific comments are below:

Abstract:
-the conclusion does not follow from the information presented in the results section

Background:
-it may be worth noting that HNPCC is also known as Lynch Syndrome
-check and make tense consistent

Methods:
-could you define what you classified as 'mental disease' as an exclusion criterion?
-questionnaire: you have listed reference 8 but I cannot see that the questionnaire used in that paper included questions regarding attitude towards and reasons for pursuing genetic testing.
-do you have a reference for the HADS being validated for use in Italy?

Results:
-you have said that 227 at least partially completed the questionnaire? How many were determined eligible, what was the drop out rate and was there a reason given?
-check for consistency of tense
-line 48 healthy is spelled wrong

Discussion:
-first paragraph, it reads as if you are discussing your own findings but I think you are referring to previous reports in the literature. May be helpful to make this clear. Are there any more recent references that could be included? Many are quite old.
I enjoyed reading this manuscript and thank you for your contribution to increasing our understanding of the pyschosocial issues to be aware of when counselling patients for a possible hereditary cancer predisposition.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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