**Reviewer’s report**

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

**Version: 0** **Date:** 17 Apr 2019

**Reviewer:** Whitney Espinel

**Reviewer's report:**

Interesting paper looking at general anxiety/depression prior to a genetic counseling visit.

1. Needs to be edited much more closely for spelling errors and sentence structure. Some sentence structure problems make it difficult to understand meaning.
2. The participant numbers seem to differ between those reported in the participants section and in the results. Please explain more clearly why the N varies in the text.
3. Table 2 - It is somewhat unclear to which comparison groups the P values are referring. Check this table for spelling and sentence structure.
4. Results - please include more statistical information in text as opposed to just p values
5. Discussion makes a lot of broad assumptions. P 4 Line 7-16 the HAD does not specifically ask why patients have distress. This section seems to make a huge leap between a higher HAD score and assumptions as to why it may be higher in certain populations. I would recommend removing most of these statements. For example, results show that cancer patients have a higher level of distress than non cancer patients. However results do NOT show that they have a higher level of distress "about" cancer since the HAD didn't specifically ask this. P4 line 22 unsure what results warranted this conclusion. Clarify page 4 line 27-28.
6. In general, please review and revise the discussion for better flow and remove conclusions that do not specifically come from your data.
7. P2 line 29-30- most studies show that patients pursue testing after providers recommend it and not necessarily from their own initiative.

**Level of interest**

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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