Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of a web-based treatment decision aid for early-stage prostate cancer on treatment choice and satisfaction: Study protocol for a pragmatic, cluster randomised controlled trial

Version: Date: 9 March 2015

Reviewer: Christopher Saigal

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well-designed study with appropriate outcomes and a sound statistical design.

Major revisions: The authors note that decision aids have struggled to find a place in clinical practice due to problems with integration into clinical workflow. At the same time, details of how they propose to integrate this DA into clinical practice are scant in the methods, and apparently they plan to leave integration up to each clinic. A clear template of at least one way to identify patients prior to their cancer consultation, details on who is expected to identify these patients and send them a card with relevant clinical data, and ways to overcome implementation barriers might be helpful.

Discretionary Revisions:

Very little is said about the development of the DA. I assume it was done with the input of patients, but the values clarification exercise is vaguely described.

How is a patient supposed to understand the choice between:

"I find it important that all cancer cells are removed from my body versus I find it important that the cancer cells die and not grow further"

it sounds like 'cure' is the patient centered outcome being evaluated here; were these 'paths to cure' identified as important to understand in Dutch patients?

Are they indicating agreement via Likert scale or some other method?

Are there ways to compare across different domains of treatment in these exercises (say, risk of urinary control vs risk of cure)?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I am a cofounder of a company called WiserCare, which produces shared decision making software and has a decision aid for prostate cancer.