Reviewer's report

Title: Patients' views of cancer research and their opinions of clinical trial information: results of a prospective patient survey

Version: 3 Date: 1 September 2015

Reviewer: Cathy Hutchison

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?
There is previous literature asking similar questions about patients' views of cancer research and opinions of clinical trial information but this study has a reasonable number of patients and also has a focus on patients' attitudes to biopsies, which is an area where there is less research.

The primary endpoint is the proportion of patients who agreed to participate in a trial, with a number of secondary endpoints, whereas the title and abstract do not have a recruitment focus and are more about patients' views. Would be helpful throughout the paper to be consistent with the specifics of the study objectives, including being clear whether it is views/opinions or attitudes, or both that are being looked at. Also, the focus on recruitment and decision making within this paper needs to be clearer and consistent throughout.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?
Yes, apart from points raised above. Questionnaires included.

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?
Yes

4. Do the figures appear to be genuine, i.e. without evidence of manipulation?
Yes

5. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
Yes. Consort type diagram included.

6. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
Yes

7. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
No, see comments above in point 1. Would be helpful if abstract contained study aims.
8. Is the writing acceptable?
Yes

This is an interesting and well written paper which would benefit from minor essential revision as suggested above.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests