Reviewer’s report

Title: Nutrition education and cooking workshops for families of children with cancer: a feasibility study

Version: 0 Date: 29 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Joya Chandra

Reviewer's report:

This feasibility study describes the barriers and difficulties associated with a hospital based intervention for diet modification in pediatric cancer patients. Very few studies have documented these types of programs in the literature, therefore this manuscript will represent an important contribution to the field. Several aspects of the study, however, require additional explanation or clarification. Importantly, the conclusions must be tempered because of the limited scope and size of the study population.

Specific suggestions are:

Abstract - Conclusions must be adjusted to reflect the current study rather than making recommendations for all of pediatric oncology. The conclusions should expand some of the results, and currently the results and conclusions portions of the abstract are disconnected and conclusions are prematurely asserted.

Background Line 56 - Statement that "Children are disposed to like fat and savory foods..." does not capture whether this is exacerbated by treatment, or whether these are the types of foods that are offered, or whether these foods are consistent with diet in all children regardless of whether they are undergoing treatment.

Methods section requires additional information. Were any recordings of interviews made? How was primary data cleaned or collated? What were the actual interview questions? Other data that should be included are numbers of patients approached in order to recruit the 17 participants.

Results section should clarify the diagnoses for the patient population studied. Were the patients outpatients or inpatients? The age of the patients must also be more carefully described. Is it correct that the same intervention was used in infants up to 18 yo patients? Socioeconomic status by some measure would also be important to include. The time frame of the workshops (i.e. Fall of 2105- Sprint of 2017) should also be mentioned.

Line 232 - "Difficulties related to the physical location" are cited - please clarify where the classes were delivered relative to where the patients were being treated in terms that are understandable by the readership.
Line 413 - additional limitations of the study must be cited related to population, format, facilities

Line 430 - here as well as in the abstract, the authors allude to video capsules but there is no data presented on what components will be featured in the videos based on the workshops delivered.

Figure 1 is not particularly informative. A figure representing patients approached versus recruited would be helpful.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.