Reviewer's report

Title: PATIENT LED PROMs MUST TAKE CENTRE STAGE IN CANCER RESEARCH

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Reviewer: Galina Velikova

Reviewer's report:
I read with interest this article which reflects a personal view of a leading advocate of patient involvement in cancer research. The article raises an important question about the role of patient reported outcomes measures in cancer. It provides a thoughtful overview of the new developments in cancer treatments and how these have been evaluated and eventually delivered to cancer patients. The article invites all cancer clinicians and researchers to take a step back and review the progress over the past few decades, how we can learn from this and take things forward with a big focus on the patients and their experiences. I found the article very interesting to read and really thought provoking.

My main comment is about clarifying a bit more the proposed concept of the pathway that involves quality of life and patient reported outcome measures. Perhaps a worked example that might help in that respect or a figure? The way I understood the concept is to merge together clinical data at diagnosis, trajectory of disease, available treatments at each time point of this trajectory and combine with patient experiences. In some sense this concept is similar to the 'Big Data' notion, where data collected routinely from various sources are pulled together to be analysed and used to inform research and treatment.

In the section Research - it may be useful to make a point that many of the new targeted cancer treatments are oral treatments and therefore patients are not that closely monitored by the hospital to detect side-effects. Therefore using PROMs to monitor side effects and to advise patients on their management seems to be particularly a useful way forward.

Minor comment. Sector 'Treatment' maybe entitled better as 'Treatment delivery' or 'Decisions about treatments'. 
Under section 'The role of PROMs'.
SISAQOL project is focusing on international consensus and standards in analysing quality of life data but does not cover PROMs questionnaires or data collection. It will be worth clarifying this.

QORU - please spell out.
Where the author refers to NHS England cancer dashboard, please add a link to the website.

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:
Acceptable

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I know personally the author of this manuscript. I have worked in this field for over 20 years, and had leadership positions in some of the organisations mentioned - EORTC, SISAL initiative, ISOQOL. I was the academic lead of the NHS England QoL review for the Cancer dashboard.

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