Reviewer’s report

Title: Patient advocate involvement in the design and conduct of breast cancer clinical trials requiring the collection of multiple biopsies

Version: 0 Date: 25 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Jonathan Boote

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting case study account of the contribution of patients/public to the design and conduct of cancer trials, which could be of interest to readers of this journal.

The authors have not, however, provided an overview of the literature on PPI in clinical trials in their introduction; nor have they considered how their work contributes to existing knowledge about PPI in clinical trials in their discussion/conclusion. I suggest that the authors consult the following works, in order to better contextualise their case study in the paper's introduction and discussion sections:

3. http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/4/7/e005234.short
My other comments are as follows:

1. In the plain English summary, I found the 3rd sentence to be difficult to follow.

2. in the abstract, 2nd paragraph, 2nd line, I wonder if 'cancer' should be inserted between 'breast' and 'trials'.

3. references - are references 10 and 12 the same?

4. page 9, 2nd paragraph, last line, I wonder if 'to the patients they discuss it with' should be reworded to read 'to the patients with whom it is discussed'.

**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:

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