

Review of: "Quality of Life and Its Predictor Factors Among Iranian Gastrointestinal Cancer Survivors"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Concerning the article:

Quality of Life and Its Predictor Factors Among Iranian Gastrointestinal Cancer Survivors

This reviewer has the following comments and recommendations:

1. Introduction: It is complete and concise, without comments
2. Material and Methods: a) The authors did not describe the linear transformation method to get a score of 0-100 from a 1-4 Likert-like scale. b) The authors declare in Table 2 the function total, total symptoms, and global QoL score; however, the EORTC scoring manual only describes how to get the scale Global health status/QoL, but not a function total or total symptoms. The authors must describe how they calculate the described score in Table 2 for the two undescribed scores according to instructions of the EORTC.
3. Results: a) During treatment and after it, colorectal cancer has a better quality of life than gastric cancer. In this paper, 72% of the subjects studied are colorectal cancer survivors; this condition can potentially bias the results. In this reviewer's opinion, the authors must show a separate statistical analysis for each type of cancer. b) The first analysis in Table 1 reveals that factors such as educational level, diabetes, hypertension, anemia, smoking habits, and the lack of physical activity are relevant conditions that potentially can affect the quality of life. c) Other biological factors with potential impact are age, gender (be women), marital status, and renal function. d) In the quality of life analysis, describing the meaning of the function total and symptoms total scores and clarifying if global QoL is obtained through the items used to calculate global health status/QoL is important. e) Clarify how the authors calculate the linear regression to Global or symptoms (Tables 4 and 5) because they did not describe how they got the score previously.
4. Discussion: a) The authors must emphasize the differences between colorectal and gastric cancer and show a separate statistical analysis for each in the results section. b) The authors compare colorectal articles related to survivors' quality of life. c) The situation is the same when discussing fatigue and colorectal cancer, but not with gastric cancer. d) They discuss gender differences but do not present an analysis of the differences between genders.

In conclusion, in the opinion of this reviewer, the article must be enhanced in the Material and Methods, Results, and Discussion sections before it can be accepted.

Accepted with major modifications

