Confidential comments to editor

**Title:** Preliminary estimation of the prevalence of taste alteration induced by recently approved chemotherapy in Japanese cancer survivors

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 26 August 2013

**Reviewer:** Sriram Yennu

Confidential comments to editors:

Hi Maria,

I did review the abstract and the manuscript. Overall, I think there are still several issues that convince me to feel that despite an interesting and important topic the manuscript needs considerable revisions and rewritten for clarity. Hence I would recommend to reject the manuscript.

Here are the comments:

1. Several grammatically errors makes reading of this manuscript difficult.

Abstract: The authors should consider to include the first sentence of the methods (which seems to be the main objective of the study) in the background session.

In the methods section, the author need to explain the design of the study, e.g., a cohort study design was used to obtain pilot data to determine the prevalence of taste disturbance...

The result section should state the n, % rather than the relative risk.

The conclusions needs to be rewritten as the paper test strip was not discussed in methods. The use of word "association' rather than use of "considerable" or "due to chemotherapy"'s

Manuscript: Background: a brief discussion of paper test strips, its prior use may be helpful to justify the study(rationale).

Results : the patient characteristics (page 8) is already well summarized in Table 1. The author should to only include the key points in the text such as the " the actual frequency of taste disturbance and treatment types..."

Discussion should focus primarily on the discussion of the key findings: prevalence, utility of the Sal salve kit and future studies. The subgroup analysis based on treatments may not be conclusive due to small sample size.

Thanks

Sriram Yennu MD

**What next?:** Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions