Dear Editor,

I am writing to submit the manuscript titled “Implementing the time-to-event continual reassessment method in the presence of partial orders in a phase I head and neck cancer trial” by Amit Patel, Kristian Brock, Daniel Slade, Claire Gaunt, Anthony Kong, Hisham Mehanna, Lucinda Billingham and Piers Gaunt for consideration and potential publication in BMC Medical Research Methodology.

Combination therapies are becoming more common and this leads to problems when trying to design and implement dose-finding trials. This manuscript presents our experiences implementing a novel methodology into a phase I trial for head and neck cancer. We detail our insights and experiences in implementing this novel methodology.

We believe our manuscript aligns with the aims and scope of BMC Medical Research Methodology on the use of new statistical methods in medical research. As such would be of interest to its readers and would be beneficial for any researchers facing similar issues or attempting to use similar methodology.

This work has been conducted by a multidisciplinary team comprising of biostatisticians, clinical oncologists, and trial management. The trial detailed in the manuscript is funded by AstraZeneca and is sponsored by the University of Birmingham.

We declare this manuscript is original and has not been published before or is being considered for publication elsewhere. As the corresponding author, I confirm the manuscript has been read and approved for submission by all named authors.

Thank you for considering our submission. We appreciate the time and effort of the editorial team in reviewing our manuscript. We look forward to hearing from you regarding the outcome of the evaluation process.

Sincerely,

Amit Patel

University of Birmingham, Cancer Research Clinical Trials Unit