

Reviewer's report

Title: "Placebo effect is probably what we refer to as patient healing power." A qualitative pilot study examining how Norwegian complementary therapists reflects on their practice

Version: 0 Date: 18 Oct 2016

Reviewer: Pamela Van Der Riet

Reviewer's report:

I enjoyed reading this interesting paper. However in its current form it requires a major rewrite. The manuscript would be strengthened with a rewrite of the themes and making it more focused. Some of the themes seem to be irrelevant to the aims of the research. The themes at this stage do not reflect what is being said in the data.

I offer the following comments and amendments to the authors:

Abstract:

Background

Line 16 -Replace the word much with considerable

Line 19-Word missing insert As ie What complementary therapist regard as essential

Introduction

Page three

Lines 48-comma required after modality

Line 55-Replace the word much with considerable

Page four

Line 59-delete eg And replace with in terms of such issues as. E.g. is not good practice as part of the sentence

Line 69 and 70-Awkward sentence please re-phrase for clarity

Line 72-Replace the word last with furthermore

Line 78-awkward sentence- suggest rewriting this sentence to include: Thus the patient's positive attitudes and confidence benefiting from..

Page five-Too many fruitful's

In the theoretical approach section I was very pleased to see the philosophy of complementary therapies addressed well here.

Design

Please explain more about the social qualitative fieldwork approach.

Page seven-Participants

In this section of the paper it's normal to:

1. to state how the the participants were selected for the study
2. How the observations were set up.Did the participants have any say in being observed? What was the logistics of where the observations were located in the consultation?
- 3.How was data gathered during the observation?What was it? In qualitative research the researchers usually provide some reflections on how they felt about the process. This is called reflexivity and is an important part of trustworthiness/rigour of qualitative research.

Page eight Line 148-. Please explain more to support your assertion. "that the focus is on present natural processes in limited parts of social life"

Individual semistructured interview section

Lines 155 158 Please move the sentence : the interviews were semistructured and based on... to the beginning paragraph as this will help strengthen your justification for using semistructured interviews and keep this section or focused.

Line 164-Change the word mediated to led.

Page nine-What were the Interviewquestions?

Line 183Include something here about the trustworthiness of the research.

Results Page 10

Some of these themes seem irrelevant to your aims

The word trust comes a lot up a lot in this section. Please consider it as a as a theme.

Humour is Raised. This mentioned for example on page 13 and should be explored.

Discussion

Page 15Line 340 . Initials not needed please check the journals citation style

Page 16-Line 367. Please consider replacing the word must. It is too controlling for qualitative research

Implications for practice and further research

Page 17-You recommend similar studies. However what type more detail is required?

Strengths and limitations of the study

Line 385- replace was with were

Line 390-delete the word herself

Page 17-Line 391 replace that with who and delete the word her

Some of this section relates to the trustworthiness of the research so may I suggest that you state this

Line 398- replace the words that with who.

I wish the authors of this manuscript all the best with their endeavours to publish this paper, however in its current form is still really needs a major rewrite

Are the methods appropriate and well described?

If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?

If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?

If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?

If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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 that I have no competing interests below.

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