Reviewer's report

Title: Pre-dialysis patients' labor participation, perceived autonomy and self-esteem: Associations with illness perceptions and treatment perceptions. A cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 25 June 2010

Reviewer: Lori Harwood

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this interesting article pertaining to labor participation, perceived autonomy, self-esteem and associations with illness and treatment perceptions for pre-dialysis patients. This cross-sectional study provides further evidence for educative and supportive interventions for this population as well as contributing to our understanding of the psychosocial well-being of individuals in the pre-dialysis stage.

Minor Essential Revisions

The authors do not comment on the reliability and validity for all measures in this study specifically perceived autonomy.

There is no mention of sample size justification for the number of variables in the regression analysis.

Given the sample size of 109 it is important to know that the data met the assumptions for the use of multiple linear regression. A statement to this would be important to include.

The following sentence in the results section is unclear "Differences between the responders and the non-responders with respect to age, gender and number of comorbid diseases were examined and no significant differences were found".

There is no mention of ethical approval for this analysis.

Discretionary Revisions

I agree with the authors regarding the limitations of this study in regards to the replacement of the missing data (n=13/109) in 12.8% of the cases for the comorbidity variable and the very small sample size of the individuals who participate in the labor force. It is not mentioned if any individuals were in the labor force who were beyond the age of 64 years of age.

Two-thirds of the sample was male-is this representative of ESRD in The Netherlands?

I look forward to reading the final version of this publication.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.