Reviewer's report

Title: Decision making around living and deceased donor kidney transplantation: a qualitative study exploring the importance of expected relationship changes

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Reviewer: Antonio R Ríos

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I read with interest the article “Decision making around living and deceased donor kidney transplantation: a qualitative study exploring the importance of expected relationship changes”

The topic is interesting and is a line of research to develop.

A major problem in these studies is the selection of the sample. Thus, it should be clearly explained as of the total population (n=1097) were invited only 114. Being retrospective the authors have the problem of excluding those cases that go have gone wrong, which has lost the graft (a criterion for exclusion).

Being excluded those who have had large problems, the results we find will have a positive bias.

Authors should explain very well the selection.

On the other hand some of the exclusion criteria are highly debatable. If you exclude those who have lost the graft, which are the Relationship Changes may have more adverse, you are affecting the results of the study. It should be a study to represent all living donors and recipients.

The results are presented very well. My only comment on this part is that the final results on a potential series of over a thousand people are given only in terms of three small groups (20 donor, 15 living donor recipient and 12 donor recipient postmortal).

This is important, because in small groups the opinion or attitude of two or three of them can influence the overall result of study and not be representative of it.

Thus, in the donor group the donor’s opinion implies a 5% component of the sample, in the recipient living donor the recipient’s opinion implies a 6.7%, and in the recipient postmortem donor a 8.3%. A single opinion implies a high percentage of their group.

The rest of the article is good, and the authors, in the discussion, indexing the limitations of the study

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'