Reviewer's report

Title: Quality of life and health beliefs in haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis patients: Investigating differences in early and later years of treatment.

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Reviewer: Anita Molzahn

Reviewer's report:

The objectives for this study were to compare quality of life and health locus of control by treatment modality (hemodialysis versus PD) and by time on dialysis. The study makes a valuable contribution to the literature related to psychosocial aspects of nephrology care.

Discretionary Revisions

It might be a useful addition to describe the psychometric properties of the instruments used (i.e., reliability and validity) in addition to providing references regarding these characteristics for the various instruments.

The paper is generally well written and well organized. However, in a few areas, minor editing would facilitate flow and readability.

Minor Essential Revisions

It is not entirely clear how the participants were selected. It appears that the groups were matched, but it is not clear on what variables. It seems that there are differences between the groups in terms of education and length of dialysis treatment (as shown in Table 1). I would suggest demonstrating equivalence of the groups by testing for statistically significant differences between the groups on each of the demographic variables. This can easily be shown in Table 1.

The instruments that were selected for the study are well tested measures. However, because readers of the journal may not be familiar with the tools, additional information regarding the instruments and the scale of measurement would be very helpful. For example, the WHOQOL-BREF can be transformed to either a 20 point or 100 point scale. I assume that the scores reflect the former, but this is not stated in the paper. This makes interpretation difficult.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.