Reviewer's report

Title: Sense of coherence over time for parents with a child diagnosed with cancer

Version: 1 Date: 3 November 2011

Reviewer: Maria Vannesa Muñoz Jove

Reviewer's report:

I think the question posed by the authors is well defined; it is clear and does not try to enclose a lot of themes. They try to focus on the theme and the principal objects of the study within these kind of studies is not easy.

The method is also clear and simple what makes easier for reading but it would be better to add the SOC scale.

The way the author inform the results and the data is clear and conventional.

They state the most obvious limitation that is the few patients they collect, but I think there’s another important limitation in this kind of studies that are the different life stress variables that they don´t even mention them. They only evaluate the results of the SOC scale but they focus only in the child disease, I think it will be important to mention if there were another life stresses in the families. I know they only want to measure the way the child’s disease affects them but just mention if there can be another life stress that can interfere on the results. (Discretionary Revision)

They don’t mention any other work group, but they mention the others studies that used de SOC scale. This is not strange because it is not a common theme, I think it is very original and this is good.

The title and the abstract are clear are simply and they are coherent with the body of the study.

I think the writing is acceptable, the theme is original, the groups are small but we can made us an idea of what this parents are feeling and living with a son or daughter with cancer. If we know what is happening to them is easy for us to help them cope with the cancer and in this way we also help the child.

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.