Reviewer's report

Title: The impact of long term caregiving for older adults with severe mental illness on the daily life of informal caregivers. A qualitative study.

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Reviewer: Jyrki Korkeila

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper on the impact of long term caregiving on the daily life of informal caregivers. In depth interviews were carried out among 19 caregivers. It provides an in depth picture of typology of caregivers that could be tested and further elaborated in future studies.

Major Compulsory Revisions
None

Minor Essential Revisions

Although I am not an expert in qualitative research, the "method" description is wanting (on top of page 5). The authors might understand my comment by replacing qualitative with quantitative. It does not explain much. As far as I understood the methodology has been based on grounded theory? There are numerous other methods also, what was the rationale for the choice?

Were the interviewers the same persons who analyzed the interviews for triangulation?

Table 2 describes the topic list used. How was this list generated? The social support of caregivers was not on the topic list, but could easily influence the burden. Was this aspect covered?

A bit of reflection (not actually a critical comment): The authors use frequently the term "acceptance", but do not couple this with freedom of choice. The caregivers (type 1) may have actually made a choice of accepting the inevitable, whereas the type 2 caregivers are stuck with the idea that "it should have been different". I would suggest trying to clarify the domain of freedom of choice.

On page 22, the authors suggest narrative coaching as a tool to cope with grief and in finding new meaning. In view of some development in psychotherapy, could acceptance and commitment therapy aimed at caregivers also be liable to help them?

I think the paper deserves to be published. It provides and interesting new clarification of problematic issues among caregivers of severely ill mental patients.
Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

No conflict of interest