Reviewer’s report

Title: Sexual health for women with RA in relation to physiotherapy - a qualitative study

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Reviewer: Talli Rosenbaum

Reviewer’s report:

To the editors. Thank you for sending me the article to review. Sexual health for women with RA in relation to physiotherapy – a qualitative study.

This is an important study for the field of physiotherapy and was interesting to read. I do recommend publication, however, with major revisions to the manuscript.

My comments are as follows:

Style and language: The manuscript should be carefully reviewed for spelling and grammar errors

Methodology: The authors did a qualitative study. I would appreciate the review of an expert in qualitative methodology for an opinion as to the relevance of this method for this particular subject. Generally, explorative method is appropriate when studying a phenomena that has not yet been studied. However, regarding RA and sexuality, there exist some studies already and this is noted by the fact that there were several references in the literature review. Note additional references of value.


There are several problems with methodology:

The authors should operationalize concepts and measure them in some way. Were specific questions asked and were any sort of scales used to measure sexual function, mobility, pain with sex, frequency, desire, etc?

Even for a qualitative study, ten is a very small number from which to draw useful information. With such a small number, the method needs to be idiographic with more contextual information gleaned.
From an ethics point of view...were subjects offered counseling or treatment resource?
Could the authors have offered a table with the demographic information of the respondents and a list of specific questions asked?

The paper should be significantly shortened. Perhaps a “brief report” would be better suited for such a study.

Thank you for allowing me to review this paper. I continue to encourage sexuality research in the field of physiotherapy.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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