Reviewer's report

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

Version: 3 Date: 23 August 2010

Reviewer: Willy van Berlo

Reviewer's report:

The authors made an effort to improve their article. However, I still have a few comments:

p. 2: Results section in abstract: 'The main theme that emerged in the material was that sexual health in relation to physiotherapy was experienced as a process affecting the body and the total life situation': ‘in relation to physiotherapy’ can be left out here, I assume sexual health in general is affected. That the issue in this article is related to physiotherapy is addressed in question 3.

p. 2: ‘The main theme that emerged in the material was that sexual health in relation to physiotherapy was experienced as a process affecting the body and the total life situation.’ Sexual health is not a 'process', and 'sexual health in relation to physiotherapy' describing as a process affecting the body etc. does not make any sense.

p. 7: Does the physical dimension of sexual health not include sexual intercourse, masturbation etc?

p. 10: The relational impacts of RA were not only experienced within the field of sexuality. Mentioned problems were different sexual needs … I should say that different sexual needs have a lot to do with sexuality …..

p. 14: Discussion-section’... to be as physically active as the informants wanted to be was mentioned as a reason for reduced sexual health, which has not been mentioned in other studies.' The last part of the sentence should be left out, in my opinion. Decrease in physical activity is often mentioned as a cause of reduced sexual health.

P. 15: what does '....the impact of sexual health is common' mean?

Conclusions overlap, esp the first two, and these are not very remarkable. The second can be left out, and the first should be more elaborate (in what way is sexual health affected?)

My final note concerns the English: I am not a native speaker myself, but I still think that the English needs improvement. I highly recommend that the authors submit the article to a native speaker, preferably somebody with editing skills.
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.