Reviewer’s report

Title: Perceived effects of music therapy with Body Tambura in end of life care - a qualitative pilot study

Version: 1 Date: 17 January 2014

Reviewer: kathy jo gutgsell

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions

1. There are many problems with English usage. I recommend that the authors invite someone to edit their article. A partial list of problems:

On pg. 2, omit the article "a" before music therapy

On pg. 3, use the word therapeutic instead of therapeutical in the sentence beginning, "The aim of...."

On pg. 4, Restate the sentence to read "Patients and their relatives were invited to participate....."

On pg. 5, Refer to the intervention rather than the music therapy. Instead of saying the "was performed by", say "was facilitated by" to avoid confusion that music therapy may be seen as a performance rather than therapy. Restate the sentence about music therapists’ experience to read, "Two music therapists who each had 10 years of professional experience." Instead of patient's demands, use the word "requirements".

2. As far as your future study design, consider the following:

On pg. 6, This is very important: The interview should not be conducted by the music therapists. This will introduce bias. The interview should be conducted by researchers other than the therapists.

3. Accuracy in citations:

On pg. 12, You refer to the Gutgsell article as (17). According to your references, the article is actually (18). Please recheck all of your citations to be sure you are correctly identifying them.

4. General comments: I like the concept of your research and I think it has merit in the field of music therapy. I would like to see you use validated instruments to assess the efficacy of your intervention in your next study.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
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.