Reviewer's report

Title: Caregivers' active role in palliative home care - to encourage or to dissuade? A qualitative descriptive study

Version: 1 Date: 8 June 2008

Reviewer: Kei Hirai

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Major Compulsory Revisions
1) The sample size of this study was small. This greatly limits the conclusion of the paper. For example, the author insist that the study explore the impact of bereaved family caregivers’ active involvement in medical and physical care on their experience of the palliative course of disease. The author may be able to list the opinion concerned with the impact but cannot conclude what is the biggest impact or the most important impact. Therefore, The statement, "This study showed that family caregivers’ active involvement in palliative care has a positive effect on bereavement given that certain preconditions are fulfilled" was overly concluded. The author should modify the discussion and the conclusion.

2) Overall, the description of the analysis is insufficient. Especially, it is unclear how four main categories were identified. The author should clarify the detailed process of analysis.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.