Reviewer's report

Title: Bereavement help-seeking following an 'expected' death: a cross-sectional randomised population survey.

Version: 1 Date: 9 June 2008

Reviewer: Stein Kaasa

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In today’s society one may agree that there is less attention given to death and dying. Further more the family structure has changed during the last decade with a more heterogeneous structure.

These changes give us some new challenges to the society related to death and dying in generally as specifically to bereavement.

In this article a representative sample of the south Australian population is surveyed. Given this methodology new important information is achieved from a highly skilled research team which gives us new insight into the area of bereavement after the death of a close relative.

The data is presented clearly and the methodology applied is indeed appropriate.

I have some minor comments which are as follows:

In the result part where the regression analysis is presented, the estimate (OR) could be helpful to see.

In the discussion part I have a couple of challenges to the contributors as follows:

What is the optimal bereavement help given?

Do we know anything about the effect of such bereavement help?

Do we need controlled studies in order to evaluate different types of interventions based upon professional help for example help from relatives and others?

In other words I would like to see a more detailed discussion about possible clinical interpretation of bereavement in general and specifically from this survey.

Level of interest: An article of importance 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:
I declare that I have no competing interests