Author's response to reviews

Title: Dealing with suicidal patients - a challenging task: A qualitative study of young physicians experiences

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor
BMC Medical Education

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Dealing with suicidal patients - a challenging task:
A qualitative study of young physicians experiences
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We hereby send a revised manuscript entitled: “Dealing with suicidal patients - a challenging task: A qualitative study of young physicians experiences” for consideration for publication in BMC Medical Education.

Comments from reviewer Martin P. Anderson:
• Some comments on epidemiology of suicide in Norway have been included in the section “Background”. Also the National plan for suicide prevention in Norway has been briefly commented on.
• In the last part of the section “Comprehensive understanding” the findings are linked to suicide prevention work.

Comments from reviewer Venke Sorlie
1. The aim of the study has been included in the abstract section of “Background”.

2. The results in the abstract considering main themes and themes have been corrected. The content in the abstract section “Results” has been revised.

3 and 4: The perspective of education of physicians as part of a suicide prevention strategy has been elaborated. It is included in the abstract, but more elaborated in the main section of “Background” and also in the discussion and conclusion.

5. The aim has been clarified by elaborating the background of the study, where focus on physicians treating suicidal patients is made clearer, and that patients directly have not been focused. However, hopefully the findings of the study will have implications for patient treatment. The aim of illuminating lived experiences of physicians in treating suicidal patients has been detailed.

6. The physicians narrate stories from treating patients, not only meeting them. This has been made more precise and consistent throughout the paper.

7. The context is clarified on page 7 in the section of “The interviews”.

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8. The presentation of the author in the section of “Data analyses” has been omitted.

9. The section of “The first reading” has been revised. The comment of moving the first paragraph to the section of method was difficult to understand. The naïve understanding is: “The first phase, the naïve understanding, includes several readings of the text in an open-minded manner trying to gain an initial overall grasp of the meaning of the text as a whole.” The first paragraph is a part of this naïve understanding. The second sentence has been omitted, since that point is not further elaborated in the results. The second paragraph of this section has been rephrased to some extent.

10. The main themes are developed and not disclosed; this has been corrected. The quantitative number of the meaning units and the table has been deleted as suggested.

11. The headings have been changed as suggested according to PH-method from “The first Reading” to “Naïve understanding” and from “Discussion” to “Comprehensive understanding”.

We thank the reviewers for constructive response.

Yours sincerely

Tordis Sørensen Høifødt