Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 15 June 2006

Reviewer: Venke Sorlie

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Major Compulsory revisions that need to be addressed:
1) There is no Aim in the abstract.
2) The results in the abstract do not coincide with the results in the paper.
3) The patient perspective is not mentioned in the abstract.
4) The conclusion focuses only on how the article can help the physicians and says nothing about how this increased understanding can benefit the patients.
5) The aim needs to be clearer. See page 5, 6, 7.
6) Most importantly the author needs to clarify if the physicians are treating or only meeting the patients. Within the text the author needs to be consistent.
7) Also the setting or context is weak. What medical setting(s) are the experiences coming from? What is meant by the narrated stories are 'generally' in the context of...
8) In the data analysis page 7, the method used does not require a presentation of the authors and their pre-understanding.
9) The first paragraph of the section titled 'The first reading' should be in the method. The second paragraph focuses on other themes that can be found in the abstract and results.
10) In the 'Structural analysis' the main themes are usually developed not disclosed. According to the method used it is wrong to give a quantitative number which was done on page 9 and in Table1.
11) Ususally when using the P-H method, the headings that should be used are: Naive understanding, Structural analysis, and Comprehensive understanding instead of the more quantitative sorts used in this paper.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests

Professor Venke Sorlie