Reviewer's report

Title: Patient experiences of recovery after heart valve replacement: suffering weakness, struggling to resume normality.

Version: 2 Date: 29 May 2013

Reviewer: Ann-Kristin K Karlsson

Reviewer's report:

I have read the paper with interest and pleasure. Below follow comments and suggestions.

Major Compulsory revisions

1 Background: Please add some lines explaining TAVI; how it in general effect patient well-being, lenght of hospital stay etc compared to open heart surgery.

2 Scientific framework: At the end of this paragraph there is a line starting "This means that in order to improve our practice as nurses..." This is unclear to me. The study describes patient experiences, not improvements in nursing. Is it not the patient who must through this important reflective process and need to be supported by nurses as well as other health care professionals? Please cheque this passage so that its meaning focus on the patients.

3 Methods
There should be a paragraph describing the authors’ pre understanding. Awareness of the pre understanding is crucial for the ability to be open minded and for how given information is interpreted.

4 Methods: Data collection
Who made till transcription of the data?

5 Results
It would be very interesting to know if there were patterns/variations in the experiences depending on the type of surgery.

6 Please name the themes in the result instead of just “Theme 1, 2 etc.

7 Theme 1 the last lines about relatives: Did the patients express this or is an interpretation from the authors? Please clarify in the text.

8 Theme 2 Body. To me this theme describes more than bodily experiences like "fear" "anxiety". Would it not be more appropriate to name it “Body and emotions”?

9 Trustworthiness
Please explain how patients could be influenced of knowing about the roles of the investigators. Please also reflect over now an interview in someone’s home can influence the patient and the result.

10 References
At least five cited articles are older than from year 2000. Are there special reasons? If not please try to update.

Minor revisions
11 Methods: analysis
Why do the authors write “inspired by”? If the method was followed tell us.

12 Table 1
The table is very informative but would it be wiser to present the data on group level in order to guarantee the anonymity of the informants?