Reviewer's report

Title: Oncology patients' and professional nurses' perceptions of important nurse caring behaviors in Iran

Version: 2 Date: 3 March 2010

Reviewer: ande charalambous

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting article on a topic that has received extensive research in the field of nursing.

However, I have some concerns related to the article:

Major compulsory revisions

- I am concerned about the inclusion criteria set for the patients (why choose patients over 15 years old and not over 18? - these are minors and need a consensus by their parents, something that the authors do not comment on their ethical section)
- The authors have decided to change the Care-Q questionnaire but not offer a rationale for this (at least not one that is methodologically evident)
- Using forced-choice format is not evident by the authors. The fact that it has been used in another study is not an evident. You need to discuss how is related to your study.
- The fact that the samples were retrieved severely limits the strength of the article as to the generalizability of the findings. I am not sure that the findings can even be generalized to the Iranian population, as the other centers might also be different than the one where the study was undertaken. The authors do not provide a rationale why they have limited their research just to that one specific site.
- What is the international relevance of the paper?
- In the discussion you refer to unique findings in relation to other studies, however it is important for the audience to know what these studies are

Minor essential revisions

- the terminology used by the authors is not consistent throughout the article (i.e. cancer patients, patients with cancer, oncology patients)
- Use of terminology (i.e. manual skills --- do you mean clinical skills?)
- In conclusion section, you make a connection between individualized care and caring behaviors, however this does not appear to be a result or a conclusion rationally based on this study's findings.
Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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