Reviewer's report

Title: Patient-centered factors associated with hepatitis C treatment: a qualitative study

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Reviewer: Jay Kostman

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This manuscript addresses an important question regarding the factors associated with treatment decisions for chronic hepatitis C from a patient perspective. The authors used "semi-structured qualitative" interviews at four VA Hospitals among three groups of patients to determine recurring themes of participants descriptions of key decision making factors.

Major Compulsory revisions:

1. It is unclear to me from the methods and results what information is being asked in the interviews. After the initial question that is posed that is listed on page 4, what information was sought. The text notes that an array of topics pertaining to perceptions of CHC and its treatment were addressed, but it would be helpful to know specifics. For instance, was the patient's knowledge about HCV infection, disease progression, and available treatments assessed directly? A patient's understanding of the disease process could clearly influence their perceptions of the need for treatment.

2. The groups are small and were essentially selected based on their decisions about treatment. It would be helpful to know if there were other clinical characteristics that were different between the groups. For instance, Did the authors exclude people who had previously been treated for HCV? What about co-infection with HIV or HBV? Active or past substance use, alcohol use? Were patients in one of the groups more likely to have more advanced liver disease (not just the perception of that)?

3. The authors correctly point out in the discussion that many of the factors endorsed by patients may no longer be relevant in an Interferon-free era. They point out that they are developing a tool to help patients that will still be useful. Another way to address this in their interviews is to ask specifically if attitudes or perceptions would be different if the regimen for treatment did not include Interferon. Much of the negative feeling in the community about HCV treatment in the past was related to Interferon.

Minor Essential revisions

1. Although I think that Figure 1 is a useful way to present the interactions between the various factors reported by patients, the figure as it stands is difficult to read and interpret.
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.