Reviewer’s report

Title: Experiences of end of life amongst family carers of people with advanced dementia: Longitudinal cohort study with mixed methods

Version: 0 Date: 30 Mar 2017

Reviewer: Suguru Okubo

Reviewer’s report:

The theme of this article is very important and it will contribute to understand experiences of family carers of people with advanced dementia. It, however, needs a few revisions.

Methods

Please explain the following things;

1) I recommend the authors exemplify questions in the interviews on page 7. They wrote "We used a topic guide derived from the literature and our wider programme of work in this field [19] to explore their overall experience of advanced dementia and EOL care including information about dementia progression and EOL received since diagnosis." I read the protocol paper [19], but I could not find examples of questions. Examples will help the readers to imagine interviews.

2) Mixed methods design

Was the design convergent or sequential mixed methods design? Please clarify each period of quantitative and qualitative data analysis.

3) Prevention confirmation bias

When bridging the quantitative and qualitative components of this type of research, accounting for confirmation bias is critical. One analytic process has a critical impact on the other. For example, researchers may conduct qualitative analysis so that it corresponds to findings from quantitative analysis. Please explain how the authors eliminated the biases.

Results

4) I recommend the following sentences be written in Methods section.

Data were collected between May 2012 and December 2014.
Thirteen carers (37%) were bereaved during the observation period and completed measures at 2 months (n=13) and 7 months (n=10) after the death. Eleven of these also completed a qualitative in-depth interview 2 months after the death. One carer who took part in a qualitative interview was not included as a bereaved carer in the quantitative data as their relative had died shortly after the nine month study observation period.

5) Is there any discrepancy between quantitative and qualitative findings?

The authors wrote "While carers often described how well they coped with their relative's dementia and dying, there were also many accounts that supported the quantitative findings of high levels of grief and distress." on page 18. They also wrote "Two carers who had not moved their relative from what they perceived as a poor quality care home, reported the lowest satisfaction on the SWC-EOLD and experienced complicated grief after death." on the same page. Is there any gap between quantitative and qualitative results? The gap might be especially important results which can be found by mixed methods approaches.

References

6) Some references were not followed with submission guidelines of BMC Geriatrics.

https://bmcgeriatr.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript

e.g.


Please check and correct all references.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**

If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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