Reviewer’s report

Title: “What would you like to achieve?” Goal-Setting in Patients with Dementia in Geriatric Rehabilitation. Results of a Cohort Study

Version: 0 Date: 25 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Wilco Achterberg

Reviewer's report:

This is a very good manuscript on a novel but extremely important issue: goal setting in geriatric rehabilitation patients with dementia.

The authors do a good job in pointing out the difficulties in doing goal setting in this group, they have succeeded also in pointing out the importance of the subject. I am very enthusiastic about this paper, and do not have any major concerns, only minor concerns or questions.

Minor points:
- In the background session, the authors discuss successful GR, and my concern is that in their definition there is no real difference with rehabilitation (without the geriatric component)- also the reference is not specific for GR
- I was wondering- the data are from 2011, why now this article? And how can part of the project-goal setting- be based on a study in stroke patients from 2016 then? Just curious, try to be clear about things so readers don't fill in answers for themselves
- Were all patients hospitalised before admission?
- Page 6: were the interviews held in the presence of family/informal care givers? If so, or if sometimes so, please show numbers, and discuss in discussion. Role of family is very crucial, when they are present, but also when they are absent....
- Page 10: the MMSE is probably not normally distributed. Then I would prefer median and IQR.
- Table 2: clinical frailty, GDS, Barthel: they are probably also not normally distributed- I would prefer again median and IQR (rather than min-max)
- Length of stay: same story: normally distributed?

Discussion: I think the discussion could do with a little less words regarding new research details and hypotheses.

In the limitation section, I would suggest discussing the relatively low number of patients.

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

Yes
**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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