Reviewer's report

Title: Perceptions of treatment for tics among young people with Tourette syndrome and their parents: A mixed methods study

Version: 1 Date: 23 December 2014

Reviewer: Katrin Woitecki

Reviewer's report:

The main study aim was to explore how young people with TS and their parents perceive different treatment strategies for tics and to explore similarities and differences between the views of parents and young people.

I think this is an important question to ask and to see, what further implications this may give to patient centered care. I am not sure, how representative this survey is and it is primarily meaningful for the UK. I am missing thoughts on further implications the results of the survey could have.

I don’t understand why it was chosen to have an online survey for parents and a face to face interview for patients. Especially when one aspect is comparing the two views with each other wouldn’t it be more helpful to have similar surveys?

I also find it curious to have a flexible sample size. I am questioning, how to rate when saturation of themes is done.

It would also be nice to have an idea on how many questions were asked to the parents and what the survey looked like. I also think it is curious to not have asked them about current tics. It was only asked about the diagnosis, but not which tics are currently present. Maybe this has also an influence on answering the questions. A diagnose can comprise a wide range of tics.

Impact of tics was rated be the overall impairment scale of the YGTSS, this scale is very wide and not very significant. If impairment is an important issue one should have put different questions to it, than only one item.

The survey seemed to have asked only about outcomes for the patient, but therapy also could have an impact on parents as well. Was this considered in the survey?

Do you always have all the parent surveys of the patients’ interviews?

In the parents survey categories were defined. Were these categories analog to the interview analysis blindly matched by someone as well, so that one can make a statement to agreement as well?

It is said that little is known about young people perceptions of different treatment strategies. I am wondering if this isn’t also true for parents as well?

It would be nice to have the number of themes and subthemes listed in the description of the interview analysis. Are those only the themes listed in the following paragraphs? Those themes are not surprisingly and I am wondering, why it wasn’t explicitly asked about it right away.
I like the two way matching of the themes though.

I was surprised, that some patients have more than just one tic-disorder diagnosis. I am curious, how this should work, since they exclude each other. The description of the subthemes is well done and interesting. Also the statements being chosen.

Behavioral interventions have a median of 4, this is very surprisingly. The authors discuss this point accurate in the end.

I was wondering, if patients were asked, whether they got support in managing emotional responses associated with tics. This is often also a task of psychotherapy. Psychotherapy of tics includes often far more than only the HRT.

The authors state that there is no evidence to suggest that CBIT requires more effort than medication. I think this is a bit too positively. We often see more effort in CBIT than in taking medication.

I am wondering, that apparently worries, anxiety and stress have not been objected in psychotherapy of tic-symptoms.

Tables:
Is it possible to have a tic-onset with 1 year?
N sometimes small, sometimes capital letter…
Table 2 has two columns for median and range whereas table 1 has only one for both. The authors should be consistent.

Overall I think it is a very interesting and important study. The chosen qualitative interview style seems adequate since there has not been a lot research in this area. After revision the article can be published.

**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'.