Reviewer’s report

Title: Euthanasia for people with psychiatric disorders or dementia in Belgium: analysis of officially reported cases

Version: 0 Date: 29 Jan 2017

Reviewer: Lucas Giner

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Study of conducting euthanasia in Psychiatric patients in Belgium from 2002 to 2013. There were an increase in applying euthanasia in this period, not only in psychiatric patients but in total number. Moreover, the percentage of patients with a psychiatric disorder also arise from 0% in 2002 to 3% in 2013 in a constant line. The study highlight this trend and comment the weakness or the ethical problems that this practice may implies.

There is only one thing that is included in the introduction and I have not seen any data about it. They stated that: "Further, the person must be in a medically futile condition of constant and unbearable physical or psychological suffering resulting from a serious disorder with no reasonable treatment alternatives or therapeutic perspective."

In the data, I do not know if it is available or not, does not specifies if the patients have seen a psychiatry or have been on psychiatric treatment before. Moreover, if this has been done, How many treatments have received or if the treatment/s have/has followed the international guidelines (combination, dosage and time required).

However, if this data was not available, it should be explained the lack of this important topic both in method and in discussion. There may be an important number of patients that if they have not received the proper treatment should not be included in the euthanasia procedure, since there is hope for improvement.

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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