Reviewer's report

Title: Attitudes to suicide following the suicide of a friend or relative: a qualitative study of the views of 429 young bereaved adults in the UK

Version: 0 Date: 24 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Roland Mergl

Reviewer's report:

In this article, the authors present the results of a study aiming to explore the views of young adults in the UK bereaved by suicide towards their own probability of dying by a completed suicide. For this purpose, thematic analyses of qualitative responses to a question regarding attitudes to own suicide had been conducted.

Overall, this study is clearly innovative since attitudes towards suicide after suicide bereavement had not been analysed in the context of British studies so far. The research question is clinically important because of its implications for suicide prevention. The presentation of the study is clear and the qualitative analyses had been carefully conducted, but there are some points which could be addressed within the context of a revision.

Major compulsory revisions

1. Whereas the authors have well justified whether analyses were focussed on young people it is not clear why the recruitment had been restricted to British higher education institutions. A corresponding sentence could be presented in the introduction.

2. Were there any differences between persons with a family member as suicide victim and persons with a non-relative having committed suicide regarding the frequency distribution of extracted themes (suicide as a more tangible option, awareness of shared vulnerabilities to suicide,…)? The discussion of these differences would be very interesting.
Minor essential revisions

1. It is not obvious whether the authors intended an explorative analysis or wanted to test a hypothesis. This could be clarified at the end of the introduction.

2. Page 9: Suicide of a family member: It would be of interest to know the frequency distribution for different family members having committed suicide (parents, siblings, distantly related people).

3. Reference 5: Volume and pages are missing.

Discretionary revisions

None.

Recommendation: Accept after minor essential revisions (which the authors can be trusted to make)

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.
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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