Reviewer’s report

Title: Oncology Nurses' Perceptions of Obstacles and Role at the End-of-Life Care: Cross Sectional Survey

Version: 1 Date: 26 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Massimo Costantini

Reviewer’s report:

Revision of the article PCAR-D-17-00015_R1 submitted to BMC Palliative Care

This is a survey performed on a sample of oncological nurses aimed at exploring - according to what reported by the authors at the end of the Introduction section - "…obstacles faced by oncology nurses in providing EOL care" and "…roles of nurses in providing EOL care". The study is interesting and provides some original information about a very important topic. There are some points that should be considered for improving the quality of the article.

Major

This is a classical survey where important information about the methodology used and the results are missing. For example, it would be important to have some more information about the "population" of oncological nurses from which the sample of interviewed nurses derives, or, at least, the compliance at the proposal of interview. There is no consensus about the best way of reporting the results of survey research. I would suggest the authors to check the quality of their article by using some existing checklist. A possible one is that included in the article from Bennett C et al :Reporting Guidelines for Survey Research: An Analysis of Published Guidance and Reporting Practices. (Plos one)

About the results. In table 1, for each item, mean, SD and 95%CI are important, but also reporting the proportion of high scores (may be score 4 and 5) could be useful. The same for table 2. In table 1 why the authors do not report the data about the other 29 items?

Table 3 is rather complicated to understand. First of all, I expect one test (and one P-value) for each item. The null hypothesis that should be tested is that there are no differences in the distribution of the item scores by nurses' roles.

Minor

Was the study submitted to the Ethical Committee? If not I would specify why.

There are different meanings in different countries about end-of-life care (days ? weeks ? a few months ? one year?). I would clarify what do the authors mean with end-of-life care
Introduction and discussion are rather long and not always easy to follow. I would clarify well in the introduction what we know about the topic - obstacles at the end-of-life care - and what this study could add to the literature.

**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

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal