Reviewer’s report

Title: Advance directives from haematology departments: the patient's freedom of choice and communication with families. A qualitative analysis of 35 written documents.

Version: 1 Date: 19 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Sabine Salloch

Reviewer's report:

The authors significantly revised their manuscript in light of the reviewers' comments. Particularly the methods section has become much clearer by this. Whereas the manuscript has made good progress there are still some unclear passages and inconsistencies from my perspective:

"This was a multicentre, qualitative and descriptive study." (Abstract) does not fit well with "Statistical analysis was performed " by JMP® 10 from SAS." (Abstract) Typically, there is no statistical analysis in qualitative studies.

"Since 2005 [1], any major person may write advance directives (ADs). It is important to point out that in French law ADs were strictly informative and the final decision belonged to the physician." (p. 6) This passage is not very clear. Persons (adults as well as minors) always could write advance directives. The question is about the legal status of these documents. Do you mean "before 2005" in the second sentence? Then this should be indicated.

What is meant by „restrictive nature“ (p. 6) ? This could be further explained.

"First of all, 200 medical records of patients […]" (p. 7): This point is still not fully clear to me in the text. Did you collect 200 medical records or 200 advance directives? Because in the second, prospective part of the study you then collected advance directives, if I understand correctly.

"Among the 14 patients/35 deceased (40%), nearly all of them died either in hospital or in another institution while only 2 died (5.7%) at home." (p. 11) The sentence is not very clear. What does „40%" mean here?

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