Reviewer's report

Title: How to Come to Terms with Facing Death: A Qualitative Study Examining the Experiences of Patients with Terminal Cancer

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Reviewer: Gianluca Catania

Reviewer's report:

Manuscript number
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Article title
How to Come to Terms with Facing Death: A Qualitative Study Examining the Experiences of Patients with Terminal Cancer

Comments

Thank you for asking me to review this paper aimed at clarifying how cancer patients reach mental stability when facing death.

I thought this was an exciting paper. Facing death at the end of life research is a highly relevant topic. There are however some issues to be addressed, some of which major. Furthermore, the manuscript needs to be revised for the English language.

Background section:

Page 1, first paragraph, line 16: "[...] healthcare professionals providing palliative care [...]" The authors should consider to use the term "end of life care" instead of "palliative care."

Page 1, first paragraph, line 18: "[...] facing death feel, think, desire." It seems the authors have missed the reference here.

Page 1, second paragraph, line 43-48: "[...] models of death acceptance have been proposed [...]" It seems the authors have missed the reference here.

Page 4, first paragraph, line 3-4: I am not sure patients require mental health care, it is more common patients refer to mental health care.

Page 4, second paragraph, line 28-43: I would suggest the authors revise this paragraph, it seems that they miss references here.
Page 5, first paragraph, line 1: this sentence should be moved to the methods section.

Page 5, second paragraph, line 18: one sentence paragraph is not appropriate in a manuscript.

Method section:

Insufficient information is provided on study methods and procedures section. Mainly, rigor and truth have not been addressed.

Evidence of saturation is not provided to justify sample size.

The authors do not provide evidence of bracketing of personal preconceptions and biases to mitigate their effects.

The manuscript does not report enough information that supports credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability.

Page 6, first and second paragraph, line 1-38: in most of the sentences in these paragraphs the authors report results (i.e., sex, age, #days receiving care, time frame interview…)

References section:

I would like to have references as current as possible. Please review your reference list and revise to delete old references (more than 5 years old) unless they are essential or are classics. You have 14 out of 32 references that are older than 10 years.

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.

Yes

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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