Reviewer’s report

Title: Palliative care for patients with motor neurone disease and their bereaved carers: a qualitative study

Version: 0 Date: 10 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Moira O'Connor

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written manuscript, which addresses a very important topic: Palliative care for people with Motor Neurone Disease and their bereaved carers.

Introduction

The background introduces the topic well and leads to a clear research aim. A research question would add to the clarity.

Methods

It would be useful to know what qualitative research approach was adopted (social constructionism, phenomenology etc.), and why.

Does the Northern Ireland MND Register include diagnosis?

Please insert in the table whether the participant's family member had received palliative care. It would also be useful to know what type of palliative care (e.g. home/community care, hospice care etc.) and for how long.

Time since diagnosis to death would also useful information to include in the table.

How long did the interviews last (mean and SD)? Where did they take place? Some examples of questions and prompts are needed. One interviewer? Was the interviewer experienced in conducting sensitive interviews and/or trained?

A section is needed on how quality/rigor was maintained.

Discussion

It is not usual to have quotes in the discussion - I would suggest placing these in the findings section.
Overall

This study is very similar in design to that of Bentley et al. (2016):


The findings are also very similar.

The authors need to present a rationale about why their study was needed. They also need to highlight any novel findings from this study and if/how the findings build upon the previous work.

Typographical errors

The manuscript has quite a few basic grammatical errors and typos. For example:

p. 3 line 68 carer's should be carers

p. 4 line 86 provision of is missed out

p. 4 line 94 died not dies

p 4 line 98 patients' with an apostrophe

p 13 line 288 comma after that

I did not edit carefully so there may be more of these errors so I would advise checking the whole document.
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.

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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