Reviewer’s report

Title: Music in palliative care: a qualitative study with patients suffering from cancer

Version: 0 Date: 15 Jun 2018

Reviewer: Karin Oechsle

Reviewer's report:

Overall, the study method remains unclear - or unserious? I’m not able to understand what they have really done and which qualitative methods they have used.

The introduction is very short and dose not correspond to the presented results and discussion. E.g. the authors focus on "memories" without presenting a rational or literature introduction in this aspect. It remains also unclear if this was the major approach of their intervention.

It’s methodologically critical that the person who did the interviews also acted in her role as a psychologist.

The authors write that they did not use "data sets"? But didn’t they transcribe their interviews?

In my opinion, the discussion is very interpretative but does not respect the comprehensive previous literature on this issue.

The authors do not present any detailed results on intervention, e.g. duration of patient contacts? Number of patient contacts? Patients alone or with family caregivers?

They authors also missed to define the qualitative analysis they used (content analysis? Interpretative approach?).

Depending to the approach they used, either the number of interviews or the duration of interviews is too small.

They do not describe sufficiently their data assessment and analysis. How did they perfom this „dual coding"?

Overall, this manuscript shows major methodologic limitation. In addition, there are several previous studies on this issue of higher quality. Therefore, this study does not present any new relevant aspects.

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.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

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:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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