Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 25 Jun 2018

Reviewer: Ruth L. Lagman

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript was well written, clear and easy to read.

The purpose was to examined the relevance of music therapy particularly to memory in a qualitative study. It is very hard to capture objective data in terms of patient's perceptions particularly in music therapy and sometimes a qualitative study is much more relevant and meaningful to the patient rather than evaluation in a numerical/categorical rating scale.

The study is small and confined to one hospital. It is a good start to begin to understand memory with regards to music therapy. In the future, may need to increase study size to bring out other relevant themes which may not have come up in this study. However, I understand this could be long and expensive. The process to collect data, both qualitative and quantitative, are ongoing as other music therapy providers are publishing their results.

The other weakness is that the clinical psychologist conducted the interview. It might have helped if someone who does not know the patient would have done the interview.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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:

Acceptable

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