Reviewer’s report

Title: “Whatever Happens, Happens” Challenges of End-of-Life Communication from the Perspective of Older Adults and Family Caregivers: A Qualitative Study

Version: 0 Date: 29 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Mamatha Pai

Reviewer's report:

The perspectives of the older population about the challenges about the end of life communication is an important area to be explored by using qualitative approach.

The researcher has explained the process of selecting the sample, the data collection process and the analysis in detail. Following are my comments:

The study design, setting and participants:

When was the study done?

What was the duration of the study?

What were the inclusion criteria for the caregiver?

Line number 39-49- "participants were contacted and thematic saturation was determined based on no new data on relevant phenomena of interest being generated. Of the 22 participants, two patients declined to be approached by the researcher and one candidate could not be approached due to cognitive decline": This sentence show that researcher has interviewed 22 participants. Not clear about how the total participants became 19. saturation will be achieved only after collecting the data. so, not clear about the three how they were included. clarify.

Mention the total sample size i.e. total 19; 12 patients and 7 caregivers.

Interviews were conducted in English?

Add information on how many dyad interviews were conducted.

The presence of the caregiver may influence the perspective of the patient and vice versa. Was this considered while analyzing the transcripts?

Findings:

Data in table 1: Add how many were females. under married, "other" means what?
Four were living alone? if so, who were the caregivers?
The characteristics like type of caregiver, gender, living status are important to be included and explained for the interpretation of qualitative research analysis.
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.

No

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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