Reviewer's report

Title: Trauma to Transformation: The Lived Experience of Bereaved Parents of Children with Chronic Life-Threatening Illnesses in Singapore

Version: 0 Date: 23 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Wataru Irie

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript explores the lived experiences of bereaved parents of children with chronic life-threatening illness in Asia.

The research approach and analyses are appropriate and have a clear theoretical basis. However, some modifications are necessary to clarify some points.

1. The results are not clearly linked to the research purpose.

The main research questions are: "how do Asian parents journey from the diagnosis of their child's chronic life-threatening illness to his/her death?" and "how do Asian bereaved parents experience life after their child's death?" However, the results section is not clearly organized. There is no clear distinction between the results pertaining to the periods before and after the child's death.

2. The characteristics of Asian parents in the results are described in the discussion section; however, the relevant parts of the underlying results are not clear.

3. It should be considered that the time elapsed since bereavement is &lt;5 years for participants. Thus, the process is likely to continue, although this paper describes posttraumatic growth as an outcome of the journey.

4. The difference in themes between transformation and transcendence and posttraumatic growth-oriented ritualization is not clear. According to Tedeschi and Calhoun (1996), posttraumatic growth pertains to five themes: (1) relating to others; (2) new possibilities; (3) personal strength; (4) appreciation of life; and (5) spiritual change. Acknowledging mortality, enhanced gratitude, and inspired philanthropy in theme 5 seem to overlap with the concept of posttraumatic growth.
5. The time from diagnosis to death varies widely (range, 5 months-22 years).

Interview data around the time of diagnosis are liable to be affected by retrospective bias. Therefore, the perception of the experience may have changed from the time of diagnosis to the time of survey.

Does "the lived experience" in this study show current perceptions?

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.

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Acceptable

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