Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 29 Jan 2020

Reviewer: Bruce Rumbold

Reviewer's report:

It's good to see from the previous reviews attached that methodological and procedural issues have been clarified in this version of the manuscript. I do however have problems with aspects of the discussion, and would like to see this addressed before the article is accepted for publication.

It is claimed that this study makes a distinctive contribution to the literature because no other equivalent studies have been carried out with Asian (in this case Singaporean Chinese) respondents. The discussion claims that the study shows the importance of family and societal factors in providing bereavement support for Asian populations, and implies that this is a distinctive finding of the study. My problems with this are twofold. First, no evidence is provided for this claim about family: I would have expected it to emerge as a theme in analysis, but the themes that are identified and discussed do not include reference to family, except incidentally. In fact, the themes reflect the sorts of responses expected from a western population (as the supporting references show). Second, the need for attention to family and social support is just as evident in non-Asian populations (see Aoun et al for example). It's certainly not distinctive of an Asian population.

It may well be that Asian populations access family and social support in different ways - but there are no data here to indicate this. On what I read here I suggest that the findings of this study are congruent with those reported for other non-Asian populations. If this study has found otherwise we need to see the relevant findings. It may that the thematic analysis that was carried out was skewed because previous categories had not been sufficiently bracketed out. But if there are no further data to report, the discussion needs to be adjusted to focus on congruence, not difference, across Asian/non-Asian populations.
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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