Reviewer's report

Title: The experiences of Healing Therapy in Individuals with Irritable Bowel Syndrome and Inflammatory Bowel Disease.

Version: 3
Date: 23 January 2015

Reviewer: Fanny Airosa

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Major Compulsory Revisions

Comments to the author

This is an interesting study regarding a patient’s experience in healing therapy. I believe that this study is important and will contribute to a greater understanding of healing. However, I have a few suggestions for revision prior to publication.

1. The intervention is a bit confusing for me, is there a special healing therapy? In the background “therapeutic touch” is mentioned, is it about therapeutic touch? You would need to clarify this, as it is a bit confusing, as you well know there are many existing healing therapies (Reiki, Karuna, Therapeutic touch and Healing touch etc.) Or is the name of the specific therapy is in fact “healing therapy”, this needs to be clarified, and what makes it so different from other healing therapies.

2. How did you access the patients? Mail, e-mail or phone?

3. Where did the interviews take place? Were recorded by tape? Verbally transcribed?

4. Through your findings you often use the number of patients in reference to a specific subject “the fifth patients said”, as this is a qualitative study it would improve without using numbers, use the word patients instead “i.e. the patient said”, experienced etc.

5. Discussion, Line 231 “there were undesired experiences” undesired from whom? (Patients or the researcher?)

6. There are a lot of unnecessary tables of analysis that are not required; the work should improve with less of these. Table 1: Confuses me, Trial arm-treatment group is not explained, if you want to keep it like this, please explain what you mean. As I can see, all the other tables are analyzed data material, you could put a label under the analysis explaining how the codes, sub-themes and themes where developed, if you like you could also give a short example in a table of how you did it. I believe the reader would benefit from a more comprehensive description and less tables.

7. The abstract is also a bit confusing, the aim appears to be about the patient’s experience in undertaking a course of healing therapy? But as I read through the study I discovered it is about the patients experience taking part in an
intervention of healing therapy?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests