Reviewer’s report

Title: How medical teachers use narratives in lectures: a qualitative study

Version: 0 Date: 28 Aug 2015

Reviewer: Adam Gordon

Reviewer's report:

I found this a really fascinating read. It is quite apposite that research about narratives seemed to tell a story, was well written and represented a compelling read from beginning to end. I have considered it against COREQ requirements and think it meets these relatively well.

It is long. At times potentially over-long. The background presented is lengthy and I wonder whether the author might economise on some of the history there to make the piece as a whole briefer and more readable. The methodology as well as methods is presented in some considerable depth. In one respect this is good - in that there is certainly sufficient information there to ensure that the piece meets COREQ requirements. In another respect it reads a bit like a thesis which has been insufficiently abridged prior to publication. I am, however, for the most part more content to see such lengthiness in the methodology section.

The results are really very well presented. Quotes are well used. Their interpretation is well justified through triangulation. I would not recommend any changes to this part of the manuscript.

The most disappointing part, I think, is the discussion. I would have been keen to see the author adopt a more conventional structure here - starting by highlighting his main findings, moving on to discuss how these add to, emulate and differ from the existing literature, followed by a discussion of major limitations and strengths, and then the conclusions section.
I would suggest:

- The author abbreviates some of the background/introduction by taking out references to related studies that they can then reflect upon in their discussion.

- That they restructure their discussion around a more conventional template, particularly spending some time reflecting, for the benefit of the reader on what their piece of work adds to the existing global literature on the topic.

I think with those amendments it would hold together better as a piece and would seem more final and ready for publication.

I am happy to look at this again with those amendments.

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.
Yes

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

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
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