Reviewer’s report

Title: The Effect of Patient Death on Medical Students in the Emergency Department.

Version: 1 Date: 15 Feb 2017

Reviewer: James Cameron

Reviewer's report:

Generalises from a very small and homogeneous group. Cultural issues need to be commented on - certainly unusual in other countries to see students crying in ED. Further, there is no mention in the demographics of the religious/cultural background of the students.

Controls needed - do these students cry from stresses other than death in ED?

Line 207 - "16 students, 10 females (62.5%) and 5 males (37.5%)" - 10 + 5 = 15!

Line 208 - mean age to 2 decimal places inappropriate.

Aerospace medicine literature has extensive content on debriefing around traumatic death; that (or equivalent) would be worthwhile as part of the discussion given that counselling is discussed.

Overall a useful piece of qualitative research but needs to be placed in a proper context for transferability.

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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