Reviewer's report

Title: Public and physicians’ support for euthanasia in people suffering from psychiatric disorders: a cross-sectional survey study

Version: 0 Date: 06 May 2019

Reviewer: Morten Magelssen

Reviewer's report:

In this study, Evenblij and colleagues have studied public acceptance of and doctors' willingness to perform euthanasia/assisted suicide (EAS) for persons with mental illnesses.

The study is well presented. The methods and conclusions drawn appear appropriate. I recommend publication.

Minor issues:

The statement that the public should take a stand on, «I am of the opinion that patients with a psychiatric disorder should be eligible for EAS in case they ask for it», might be thought to be ambiguous as to whether the psychiatric disorder is what motivates the EAS request or whether it is present as a co-morbid state and the main motivation for the EAS request is something else, e.g., a somatic illness. I would like the authors to reflect on whether this potential ambiguity is a problem.

Similarly, when the authors on p. 6 write that «This specification, "in patients with psychiatric disorders", was omitted for psychiatrists as they presumably do not receive EAS requests from patients without psychiatric disorders», I wonder whether this was a wise choice. Conceivably, the question might have led some psychiatrist respondents to have thought of somatic patients seeking EAS. Some respondents might have a somatic specialty in addition to psychiatry, or might be thinking of changing their medical field. The authors should reflect on whether introducing a different formulation for psychiatrists creates a source of error in this respect.

p. 10: «[Psychiatrists’] reticence rather seems to be due to doubts about whether or not there still is prospect of improvement». I do not see how this interpretation is supported by the data.

The paper needs some language corrections.
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.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
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Needs some language corrections before being published

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