Reviewer's report

Title: Unmet support needs of early-onset dementia family caregivers: A mixed-design study

Version: 1 Date: 3 September 2014

Reviewer: Evridiki Papastavrou

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This is an interesting paper dealing with caregivers’ of patients with Alzheimer’s disease at the early stages. The research is carefully designed and the paper well written. Suggestions for improvement are:

1. Setting and Participants: On page 8 you write Alzheimer’s or a related disease. Do you mean related dementias?
2. Results: You write 56% of the caregivers were fully employed. How they could be fully employed AND at the same time primary caregivers? may be you need to define again "who" is the caregiver
3. On page 16 you say one need regarded the relative’s quality of life (TO BE VALUED AS A PERSON). Can you relate to dignity?
4. Discussion: Please specify what kind of services are available
5. Much of the findings in the discussion could be explained if you use the Pearlin model of caring for patients with dementia
6. There is also a huge literature on the caregiver role, the relational process, emotions and all you mention in page 17. Please enrich your discussion and possibly the background

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

There are no competing interests