Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors associated with requesting and receiving euthanasia: A nationwide mortality followback study with a focus on patients with psychiatric disorders, dementia or an accumulation of health problems related to old age.

Version: 0 Date: 09 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Sophie Pautex

Reviewer's report:

The aim of this study was to analyse a nationwide survey to estimate the frequency of requesting and receiving EAS amongst people with (also) a psychiatric disorder, dementia or an accumulation of health problems; to explore reasons for physicians to grant or refuse a request; and to describe differences in characteristics, including the presence of psychiatric disorders, dementia, and accumulation of health problems, between patients who did and did not request EAS and between patients whose request was or was not granted.

Method:
- do you have a definition of the category: accumulation of health problems?

- 143 EAS requests: Figure 1 shows that 11.2% of all deceased patients aged ≥17 years requested EAS preceding their death. … This sentence is not very clear

- 235 the involvement of a pain specialist and the involvement of a psychiatrists/psychologist were associated with higher likelihood of requesting EAS. This confirms previous research in Belgium and the Netherlands… the link with the PC physician should be more explicit

Results: strength and limitations
- psychiatric disorder and accumulation of health problem are a very broad categories and this make all the interpretation of the results difficult

Conclusion:
Perspective for the management for the next years, as we will have more and more older patients, without cancer and multimorbidities should be discussed.

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.

Not applicable

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
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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