Reviewer’s report

Title: Patient Involvement in Clinical Trials: Motivation and Expectations Differ between Patients and Researchers Involved in a Trial on Urinary Tract Infections

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Reviewer: Shahid Muhammad

Reviewer’s report:

Dear Author(s),

First and foremost it was a privilege to review your manuscript. It is positive to see active research taking place surrounding this arena of work and in particular, strive to highlight necessity for joint partnerships to support best practice,

This a timely piece of work and believe that PPI is/ has become more important in the 5-7 years, (give or take a few years depending upon what type of research investigators are doing and where a team is in the world.

Given that your manuscript surrounded UTI's, I believe you should perhaps also relate some of the advantages/ disadvantages of PPI and your key themes in the format of a summary table (will help readers to appreciate this more).

You have made mention (which I think is quite pertinent):

The external demand to conduct PPI (so that the criteria for donation or publication are met) might have an influence on the genuine interest of researchers in PPI.

Further, when aware of this external demand on researchers, patients may get concerned that their involvement is a mere token involvement. To avoid misconceptions, researchers should reflect early on their motives and discuss them openly with patients.

Relating to the above, it would be good for the author/s to include some perspective on participation of patients being 'named co-author's on final publication', so that they have 'equal' credence, as much as the researchers.

You have also made mention (in your abstract):

Researchers were motivated by the possibility to improve research and to contribute to the empowerment of patients.
They also wanted to enhance their career opportunities, to learn more about patient involvement and to meet the increasing demand for it.

Relating to the above, it would be good for the author/s to include some perspective on how PPI can support patient empowerment.

Considering researchers want patient involvement - then they also need to highlight how patients can support 'fellow patients' by getting involved in research-related activities.

For example, you have made mention of: It supports the empowerment of patients and leads to a democratization of research processes - how is the case, how are non-research patients encouraged/empowered?


If you address/update your manuscript - it should be ready for publication.

Well done.

**Level of interest**
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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