Reviewer’s report


Version: 0 Date: 19 Dec 2017

Reviewer: Tanja Stamm

Reviewer's report:

Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a text format.

Please overwrite this text when adding your comments to the authors.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to review this interesting, qualitative study on the representation of RA in UK newspapers. The method is appropriate and well described and the article is well written. I have a few comments:

Abstract: Please explain/define the LexisNexis database.

Background: is it only lay beliefs or maybe also wording that is used on purpose to have as many people as possible to read the article and to sell the newspaper to a higher number of people, even if this not the "belief" of the journalist? Maybe this reflects also how the general public views the concept of "disease"? Rheumatic condition may be different from other health conditions, e.g. neurological diseases, as rheumatic conditions do not commonly involve a loss of cognitive functions. Furthermore, the authors could include the aim of the study in the end of the introduction.

Method: the method, especially the data analysis, is well described and quality of rigor of the analysis is appropriately addressed. Please just include one additional (methodological) sentence on the descriptive statistics that are shown in the results section.

Table 2: maybe the information "mass market", "medium market", "quality paper" could be included in table 2?

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.

Unable to assess

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

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

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