

Review of: "Pain Assessment and Management in Children at Lusaka Children's Hospital: Nurses' Experiences - A Qualitative Study"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I appreciate the opportunity to review this manuscript and hope my comments assist in the revision process. The material is interesting and the topic is relevant. The method seems to have been followed faithfully and the authors were well-positioned to conduct the analysis. However, some areas need clarification as noted below:

- The literature addressed is not described accurately so far as I can see. Further, overall organization and clarity throughout the manuscript should be improved. Further, reorganized the manuscript sections in terms of the content they report. I suggest the following structure, namely: introduction (explain the general argument of the paper, without going into specific details) background (situate the study concepts within the context of extant knowledge, discuss the international relevance of the concepts) and purpose, creating greater clarity in the analysis of the reader.
- What knowledge does this paper add from an international perspective? How this/your study is increasing our understanding/knowledge?
- Please provide the specific questions under study, it would be helpful for the readers.

Method

- Authors need to pay close attention to the requirements of reporting guidelines for qualitative research (COREQ checklist).
- It is stated that a "qualitative study" was used. However, there are a number of qualitative approaches. More information is, therefore, needed about the study approach, along with its epistemological underpinnings. This needs to be expanded, clarified, and supported by in-text citations.
- More precision is necessary regarding the sampling strategy and access to the target population.
- Interviews: How were the questions chosen? What was the process? The interview guide was developed based on instruments previously used in other studies?
- The ethical aspects in collecting data are not specifically clarified, independently of the voluntary nature of the subjects' participation variables such as the offer of incentives to participate (how participants were compensated for participation),

sharing and use of data is not patent.

- It is unclear how authors will ensure the reliability of qualitative coding. Will they calculate inter-rater reliability?
- The process of analysis should be made as transparent as possible (notwithstanding the conceptual and theoretical creativity that typically characterizes qualitative research). Did participants provide feedback on the findings (triangulation)? How do you ensure methodological rigour? The researcher's own position should clearly be stated. For example, have they examined their own role, possible bias, and influence on the research (reflexivity)? What experience or training did the researchers have? Did they use reflexive bracketing to achieve openness?
- Whether analysis was computer-assisted (and, if so, how).
- The authors stated that data were analyzed using a content analysis approach. This needs to be expanded, clarified, and supported by in-text citations.

Findings

- Findings were not explicitly interrelated; there was no presentation of a structure. I suggest an illustration/diagram for a better analysis.

Discussion

- There are some conclusions drawn that have neither a literature review nor research to support them. It is also not entirely clear whether this is deductive or inductive logic employed here.- Some of the contributions that are highlighted here could be flagged in the introduction for a more consistent narrative throughout the paper. I believe there should be better integration of the results with the existing literature.
- In the discussion section, the recommendations for practice/research/education should have been approached in greater depth. Please discuss whether or how the findings can be transferred to other populations or considered other ways the research may be used.
- Theoretical and methodological limitations should be presented.