

Peer Review Report

Review Report on Between Autonomy and Paternalism: Attitudes of Nursing Personnel Towards Jehovah's Witnesses' Refusal of Blood Transfusion

Original Article, Int J Public Health

Reviewer: James West

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EVALUATION

Q 1 Please summarize the main findings of the study.

As suspected most nurses will honor adult Jehovah's witnesses refusal of blood products. However, their knowledge of what is and isn't acceptable to confirmed JWs was limited. These same nurses were more skeptical about honoring these same wishes for the minor children of JWs.

Q 2 Please highlight the limitations and strengths.

The biggest limitation of this study is one that the author mentioned and that is the small sample size. The main strength is that it makes a great first attempt at identifying nurse attitudes and knowledge about Jehovah's Witnesses and their beliefs concerning blood. It also points out the need for cultural competency training.

Q 3 Please provide your detailed review report to the authors. The editors prefer to receive your review structured in major and minor comments. Please consider in your review the methods (statistical methods valid and correctly applied (e.g. sample size, choice of test), is the study replicable based on the method description?), results, data interpretation and references. If there are any objective errors, or if the conclusions are not supported, you should detail your concerns.

I am not commenting on grammatical errors.

The only errors I found in the text start at line 67. You state there is no objection to transfusion of autologous blood but this is only true if the blood is kept in continuous circuit with the patient. Even though you later mention that cell salvage and acute normovolemic hemodilution are acceptable you don't mention the continuous circuit rule.

You do in other parts of the paper state that preoperative autologous blood donation is NOT acceptable but that appears to be contradicted on line 67.

On line 240 you quote Muramoto's article about "don't ask, don't tell" but I think you should give a brief explanation of this, otherwise some who have not read his paper may get the wrong idea. Also, I believe Muramoto's opinions are in a minority and his series of papers is over 20 years old.

In the results section when explaining Figure one it is not clear what the numbers (X vs. Y) represent. Also, in Table 2, I'm not sure I understand what the numbers are percentages of.

All in all, I believe it is a good paper and something that needs further study in both nurses and doctors. I believe this study is very reproducible. In fact this study brings to mind that further study of nurse and doctor attitudes and knowledge of many cultural issues need studying.

PLEASE COMMENT

Q 4 Is the title appropriate, concise, attractive?

Yes

Q 5 Are the keywords appropriate?

Yes but I would add acceptance

Q 6 Is the English language of sufficient quality?

Yes, but there are grammatical errors that I assume will be cleaned up in the final editing process. If not, I am happy to help with that as well.

Q 7 Is the quality of the figures and tables satisfactory?

Yes.

Q 8 Does the reference list cover the relevant literature adequately and in an unbiased manner?)

Yes

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Q 9 Originality

Q 10 Rigor

Q 11 Significance to the field

Q 12 Interest to a general audience

Q 13 Quality of the writing

Q 14 Overall scientific quality of the study

REVISION LEVEL

Q 15 Please make a recommendation based on your comments:

Minor revisions.