

Reviewer's report

Title: The self-expressed needs of people with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis: A systematic review

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Reviewer: boudewijn van Houdenhove

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting manuscript reporting a systematic review of qualitative studies on CFS/ME. It provides important information concerning the illness experience and coping of these patients and their needs and expectations with regard to their family, social environment and health care providers. The information summarized in the manuscript can be very useful in view of optimal management of the illness.

However, a limitation of this study is that it neglects possible links between 'illness story' and 'life story'. Every experienced CFS/ME clinician who carefully listens to these patients' history will agree that such links can be found in the great majority of patients. In my view, paying attention to this aspect of 'the patients' story' can for many of them have an additional therapeutic value (see e.g. Van Houdenhove 2002; Van Houdenhove & Luyten, 2008).

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests