

## PEER REVIEW HISTORY

BMJ Open publishes all reviews undertaken for accepted manuscripts. Reviewers are asked to complete a checklist review form (<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/site/about/resources/checklist.pdf>) and are provided with free text boxes to elaborate on their assessment. These free text comments are reproduced below. Some articles will have been accepted based in part or entirely on reviews undertaken for other BMJ Group journals. These will be reproduced where possible.

### ARTICLE DETAILS

<b>TITLE (PROVISIONAL)</b>	Perceived health after percutaneous pulmonary valve implantation: in depth interviews of patients and next-of-kin
<b>AUTHORS</b>	Andresen, Brith; Andersen, Marit; Lindberg, Harald; Døhlen, Gaute; Fosse, Erik

### VERSION 1 - REVIEW

<b>REVIEWER</b>	Alessandra Frigiola Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. UK
<b>REVIEW RETURNED</b>	03-Apr-2014

<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>	<p>The paper explores an important area of patient's care which is the perceived quality of life and burden of treatment as lived by those who receive the treatment and by their families. This area is acquiring more and more attention especially since patients are offered choices with regard to their treatment options.</p> <p>Here some comments:</p> <p>The number of patients analysed is very small, more appropriate for a pilot study. This also makes difficult to draw conclusions about differences between males and females. Nevertheless it seems that pts unanimously reported a better experience with percutaneous pulmonary valve implantation.</p> <p>The follow-up is also short, so no long enough to judge what are the possible consequences of a sub-optimal results, if any, or non sustained improvement. This limitation has been stated though.</p> <p>The methods need further explanation and details especially with regard to the structured interview (what main areas have been explored etc). Was the interview modified accordingly to the pts/next of keen age? If so, how.</p> <p>Reference is made to "previously used methodology (ref 11, Kvale S), which is not written in English and therefore not assessible to most readers.</p> <p>Ref 21 should also be replaced by a ref written in English. Wyller VB, Aaberge L, Thaulow E, Dohlen G. Percutaneous catheter-based implantation of artificial pulmonary valves in patients with congenital heart defects. Tidsskr Nor Laegeforen 2011; 131:1289-1293.</p> <p>In the summary would be good to have the patients' age and range</p>
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	stated. There are a few minor typo mistakes that need editing.
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<b>REVIEWER</b>	Jeremy M Ringewald Congenital Heart Institute of Florida Pediatric Cardiology Associates
<b>REVIEW RETURNED</b>	21-Apr-2014

- The reviewer completed the checklist but made no further comments.

<b>REVIEWER</b>	Philipp Lurz, MD, PhD Department of Internal Medicine/Cardiology Heart Center of the University of Leipzig
<b>REVIEW RETURNED</b>	16-May-2014

<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>	This is a very important study assessing the impact of percutaneous pulmonary valve implantation on perceived health. The conducted thorough assessment demonstrates what has been assumed but never confirmed in such a way before. I have no relevant comments.
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### VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

#### Answer to Reviewer 1

The sample is very small.

As this was a qualitative study we did not aim to produce findings that are necessarily representative of a larger population, but rather to increase the understanding of some aspects of the patient experience. Based on these aspects, we have designed a controlled quantitative study focusing on quality of life and clinical outcomes after percutaneous pulmonary valve implantation and open-heart surgery for pulmonary valve disorder that will be published later. The small number allowed a more personal and detailed presentation of the data which we in this setting saw as an important supplement to the larger quantitative study.

The method needs further explanation and details especially with regard to the structured interview (what main areas have been explored). Was the interview modified according to ...

Phenomenological analysis includes a non-numerical organization and interpretation of data to discover patterns and themes in the interviews. Ten patients were in-depth interviewed in the present study. We think that the number of participants was adequate for the research method because the in-depth interviews provided us with a large amount of information sufficient to detect patterns. The interview guide contained the following themes:

- Life satisfaction in the early rehabilitation period
- Experiences of physical, psychological and social limitations
- Family and friend network
- Life perspectives

In the interview we used open ended questions. We started the interview with: "How are you? How did you experience your rehabilitation after your last treatment? How was the influence in every day living? These are examples of questions. The modifying of the interview according to the patients age, was done mainly by following up of their answers. The children and teenagers needed more following up questions compared to the grown-ups in general. The main concern then was to try to get the patient to elaborate the experience in order to get as rich information as possible.

Concerning the interview of the next-of kind, the questions were open and questioned in a way that explored her/his experiences on how the rehabilitation situation influenced their child, and their family life in daily living.

Reference 11 is not written in English and should be replaced in an English version.  
Kvale S. Brinkman S. Interviews: learning the craft of qualitative research interviewing. Sage Publications, 2009.

Reference 21 should be replaced by a reference written in English.  
Reference 21 has been deleted.

In the summary it would be good to have the patients' age and range stated.  
The following information has been added: The patients`median age was 17 years (7-30).

There are a few minor typo mistakes that need editing.  
Types of mistakes have been corrected.

#### **VERSION 2 – REVIEW**

<b>REVIEWER</b>	Alessandra Frigiola Guys & St Thomas's Hospital Cardiology - ACHD London, UK
<b>REVIEW RETURNED</b>	06-Jul-2014

- The reviewer completed the checklist but made no further comments.