Reviewer's report

Title: Complementary or alternative? The use of homeopathic products and antibiotics amongst pre-school children

Version: 1 Date: 1 July 2007

Reviewer: Andre Busato

Reviewer's report:

General
The study is part of a large project and covers important aspects in the treatment of health problems of preschool children; the results are potentially useful. However, there are aspects in the design and the methods which reduce the generalisability of the results.

The data were collected more than ten years ago. The perception of CAM in the general population may have changed quite dramatically in the meantime. The overall relevance of the results is therefore questionable.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Recall and selection bias may be a real problem of this study (as acknowledged by the authors). However, without any information about the direction and extent of bias it remains difficult to assess the value of the data presented in the paper.

Multivariable logistic regression was used to analyze the data and variable selection was based on p-values obtained through bivariate analyses. Based on the data given in table 3, it is, however, possible that some explanatory variables were correlated; e.g. associations between health status data of children or between maternal anxiety and use of medical services. The reliability of individual effect estimates may consequently be compromised. Some additional analyses are therefore needed to evaluate the association between explanatory variables and to assess the respective effects on regression parameters.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

For readers non familiar with the British educational system the educational levels given in table 3 need some explanation.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
**What next?:** Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests