Reviewer's report

Title: Homeopathic Treatment of Elderly Patients - A Prospective Observational Study with Follow-Up over a two year period

Version: 3 Date: 9 November 2009

Reviewer: Vinjar Fonnewbo

Reviewer's report:

INTRODUCTION:
The aim of the study (page 2, lines 67-69 and identical to the objective in the abstract) should constitute the last sentence in the introduction. The rest of line 69 and lines 70-72 should remain in the material and methods section.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:
The authors need to include in the manuscript the procedure for ensuring that the baseline questionnaire was completed "prior to the start of therapy". This is a crucial methodological aspect of the study.

"Subgroup analysis" should be phrased in the abstract likewise as in line 70-72 on page 3.

RESULTS:
(MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISION) The authors could possibly claim that the purely descriptive aspects of table 3 (STATUS) can be presented appropriately with 95% CIs. With regard to the data on change I am not convinced. When presenting the data on change, the authors are trying to present answer to a question: Has there been any change (testing a null hypothesis)? I still advise them to take multiple testing into account in the change data.

DISCUSSION
I would like to see the authors discuss briefly what implications the identified possible selection and information biases could have on the results presented.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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