Reviewer’s report

Title: Classical Homeopathy in the Treatment of Cancer Patients - A Prospective Observational Study of Two Independent Cohorts

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Reviewer: Moshe Frenkel

Reviewer’s report:

This is quite an interesting article on the issue of homeopathy use among patients suffering from cancer. The article is well written and reflects the complexity of evaluating homeopathy in cancer care. There are a few points that I think will increase the clarity of the article. There should be a description of what was the homeopathic treatment, is that treatment classical in nature or using complex remedies? Is the treatment goal just to improve symptoms or was it constitutional? Was there any intent to improve the tumour response and progression or just improve QOL?

In both groups it is not clear the type of patients, and their diagnosis, were they all breast cancer patients in both groups or there were a major difference in terms of diagnosis? What type of diagnosis was common in both groups and what was the difference? What type of conventional treatments was utilized? Is there a difference between the oncology groups approach in the HG group as well as the CG group? (That means, maybe the differences in the response can be related to the difference in the conventional treatments that both groups received?)

Time spent with patients can be a factor in the difference, the HG group is presumed to have two groups of practitioners taking care of these patients dedicating an increased time and intention to treat, just that factor can be important in the response. By the way and relating to this point, it is not mentioned, the average number of visits that the HG had with their homeopaths.

If those issues cannot be answered from the data, it should be mentioned in the discussion. I do comment the authors for their dedication and originality of the research idea and the implementation of this study.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests