Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 26 October 2010

Reviewer: Diana Steinmann

Reviewer's report:

Dear Authors,

first of all I like to express my acknowledgment for this very successful research. It is very courageous and forward thinking to do a study in this very controversial area.

This prospective study observed an improvement of quality of life in cancer patients under complementary homoeopathic treatment. The question posed by the authors is well defined. The methods and data are appropriate and well described but it remains unclear, which aim follows the antitumoral treatment in the CG and HG patients in detail. Could you please describe the treatment spectrum of different clinics and list several patients characteristics: histology of primary tumor (lung cancer, breast cancer, etc.) and tumor stages (the sentence in the 2nd part of results is not sufficient). How did the tumor stage change in both groups after 1 year? How many patients suffered from a local recurrence or new diagnosed metastases during the 1st year in both groups?

This publication will be discussed controversial in future. So it is necessary to explain that all HG patients has been informed in detail about evidence-based medicine. Why had the majority of 25.6% of HG patients no indication of a conventional tumor treatment?

The manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data depositions. The discussion and conclusion are well balanced and adequately supported by the data.

Limitations of the work are clearly stated, especially, of the necessarily matched pair analysis and randomised homoeopathic studies.

The authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building.

The title could be changed and completed with the now known fact of improved Quality of life under homoeopathic treatment. The abstract accurately convey what has been found. The writing is acceptable.

- Minor Essential Revisions
  I missed the legends of all tables and figures.
- Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a
decision on publication can be reached) It would be described above.

**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.