Reviewer’s report

Title: Use of complementary and alternative medicine by Turkish infertility patients: a descriptive study

Version: 1 Date: 30 January 2010

Reviewer: Helen Skouteris

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Major Compulsory Revisions

The aim of this study was to investigate CAM use among infertile Turkish women and to determine whether there are specific demographic factors that determine whether such advice is followed.

The aim of the study as stated above is not revealed in the Abstract. The Introduction is limited in that a thorough literature review of CAM use by infertile women from other countries – the literature on CAM use through pregnancy is also relevant in that it reveals women are using both before and during pregnancy. Also, why is it important to understand CAM use by infertile Turkish women; what are the medical and practical implications? How much money is invested in CAM use in Turkey? The rationale for the study is not clear in the Introduction.

The paper is largely descriptive; only group differences conducted. What analyses were performed to compare WHO Group I and WHO Group II (p. 5); what p values were obtained?

Table 2 is not needed; this information can easily be presented in text. There is no need for the expanded description of the CAM use – all this information is summarised in Table 3.

The second part of the aim was not evaluated: “whether there are specific demographic factors that determine whether such advice is followed”. Only group differences were reported – a sense of what factors predict CAM use cannot be derived from these data.

How is the study limited by the low sample size – only 18 women in the sample did not use CAM. A qualitative arm to the research, further exploring the findings revealed (i.e., living with parents; not feeling supported, never speaking to physician about CAM) is needed to further clarify the findings and make a more meaningful contribution to the literature. At present the conclusions are highly speculative.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being
published

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

Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests