Author's response to reviews

Title: Differences in the quality of interpersonal care in complementary and conventional medicine

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Resubmission of an article to BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Dear Sirs

Thank you for reviewing our paper entitled "Differences in the quality of interpersonal care in complementary and conventional medicine" submitted for publication in BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

We revised the paper according to the comments of the reviewers. The following manuscript changes were made:

**Reviewer Richard Nahin**

Major Compulsory Revisions

We performed multiple additional analyses stratified by disease severity, chronicity and educational status of patients and added 7 figures to the manuscript documenting these results. We are, however, reluctant to include the respective cofactors into the statistical model, because we consider these factors as inherent characteristics of the respective populations (and because of co-linearity problems). E.g. patients with chronic or severe disease conditions may specifically seek cure in CAM as "conventional" procedures were not perceived as successful. The stratified data showed almost no confounding effects but provide considerable evidence of consistent better relation and communication in CAM irrespective of disease status or level of patient education.
Reviewer Aslak Steinsbekk

Discretionary revisions

Potential confounding effects of different levels of chronic conditions across patient populations are documented in an additional analysis stratified by chronicity (figures 4 & 5).

All changes in the manuscript are made visible in a accompanying document (interpersonal_effects_5_rev.doc) and a file with figures 1-7 was added to this submission.

We now resubmit the article for your consideration to be evaluated by the committee of reviewers.

We look forward to your thoughts and comments regarding this article.

With best regards

André Busato