Reviewer's report

Title: An Evaluation of the Completeness of Safety Reporting in Reports of Complementary and Alternative Medicine Trials

Version: 1 Date: 13 May 2011

Reviewer: Lehana Thabane

Reviewer's report:

This is a systematic review to assess the quality of safety reporting in complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and to explore the influence of different trial characteristics on the quality of safety reporting.

This is a statistical review of the study focusing primarily on the design, methods, analysis plans, reporting an interpretation of the results. Overall, the review was well designed, conducted, analyzed and reported. Below are some minor editorial suggestions

1. Abstract: Background: Replace “Our objective,” with “The objectives of this study are:”
2. Results:
   a. Adequacy of safety reporting: Qualitative measures:
      i. Replace “IQR” with “Q1-Q3”, which is how the results are currently presented. Please note that IQR=Q3-Q1, which is the length between the two quartiles. This needs to be corrected throughout the paper.
   b. Regression analysis:
      i. Replace “multivariate” with “multivariable”. Please note that the former refers to analysis of multiple outcomes at the same time, while the latter deals with analysis of a single outcome or dependent variable as a function of several predictors.

Overall, this is a very good review!

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'