Reviewer's report

**Title:** Knowledge and attitudes towards complementary and alternative medicine among medical students in Turkey

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 14 December 2011

**Reviewer:** Sheila Greenfield

**Reviewer's report:**

Major compulsory revisions

**Abstract**

The discussion section contains some repetition of the results section and the discussion needs to take more of a summary approach rather than just repeating results.

We really could not understand what you mean. There is no discussion section in the abstract. We just summarized the important findings.

There is similar wording in both the findings and concluding section and the concluding section would be improved by rephrasing using different words.

Findings “Overall, the students thought that CAM needed to be taught in medical schools, that doctors needed to know about CAM treatments, and that knowledge of CAM would be useful in their future professional lives”.

Conclusion “Overall, most students have positive attitudes towards CAM, they want to receive training on the subject, and they are likely to recommend CAM methods to their patients in their future professional lives”.

**Background**

The authors also need to make the case as to why their research question is important.

The sentence “Medical students opinions about the inclusion of CAM to the medical curricula as partners of medical education are important” The meaning of this sentence is unclear and further text is need to emphasise why the authors’ research question is an important one e.g. has this research question been posed in the Turkish context before?

We have added a new paragraph to the introduction giving also some very new studies published after we have sended this manuscript.

Although a paragraph has been added the studies referenced have not been sufficiently critically discussed e.g. which studies quoted include medical students, where were they recruited from etc.
Reference 2 is rather old—could the authors find a more recent reference.
Yes, but the sentence used for reference also related to historical background.
So if you don’t mind we prefer to keep as one of the old ones.
Methods Preference for keeping the reference accepted but this is a general statement about CAM and medical curricula as a whole and it has been included for some time in some countries—towards the current position the sentence could be rephrased to read e.g. CAM was excluded from conventional... for many years but more recently has begun to be included in the medical curricula in some countries

Data analysis:
More details is needed of any comparisons done
This has not been included

Results
Any therapies that the general reader may not understand need to be explained briefly e.g. 'healing hands' mean?
This has not been included

Discussion
Details of the most well known methods practiced in Turkey need to be given in the Introduction—the results can then be contextualized against these in the discussion. Paragraphs 2, 3, 4 contain some repetition of the results and need summarising.
A new paragraph added to the introduction generally summarizing Turkey studies and also some very new studies also added.
It only mentions herbal treatment in the introduction—in the discussion it also mentions there are others and this needs to be included in the introduction as well for context.

The content of paragraph 6 also needs mention in the Introduction to set the scene. In the Introduction the authors need to critically discuss existing studies in Turkey and any variables e.g. gender, year of study which have been explored in previous studies.
We preferred to discuss the studies in discussion part
For contextual reasons it would help to include this detail at the start as this helps to inform understanding of why this study is important.

The study limitations section is far too brief and needs expanding in the context of the comments made about the methodology above.
It is expanded and marked
This still does not refer to other potential limitations of the study e.g. how representative of the medical student population as a whole were the participants, how many people declined to complete the questionnaire, could only students who were interested in CAM have chosen to complete it etc.

Spelling and grammar needs to be carefully checked throughout.
Translation has been done by a professional firm and as they have acknowledged us controlled by a native speaker. If you have still some comments. There are still many spelling and grammatical errors throughout which need careful checking and amendment e.g.

Also in Turkey, CAM popularity seems to be increasing. Although studies targeted at the general population are few in numbers, research with patient subgroups shows that many patients with chronic diseases use a CAM method, mostly herbal treatment, and rarely share this with their primary doctors. Studies that have been carried out with health professionals also show that CAM popularity is increasing among health workers. Most of these studies underline the importance of health workers discussing CAM use with their patients and giving advice. 8-16

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests.

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

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'