Reviewer's report

Title: Translation and adaptation of an international questionnaire to measure usage of complementary and alternative medicine (I-CAM-G)

Version: 3 Date: 29 June 2012

Reviewer: Vinjar Fonnebo

Reviewer's report:

1. ABSTRACT
   a. There is no aim stated in the abstract. This needs to be given, and has to be identical to the one in the introduction (Major compulsory).
   b. The abstract needs to be rewritten after the manuscript has been adjusted (see below).

2. INTRODUCTION
   a. The aim of this study needs to be clarified. I do not see a translation as an aim of a scientific paper, but the validation of a German version is certainly appropriate. (Major compulsory)

3. METHODS
   a. I would have expected the authors to give a detailed description of how they validated the questionnaire. They have described an approach that can be interpreted as trying to determine face validity, but the rest of the methods section describes how they have given the questionnaire to two groups, and recorded their results. There is no indication of how they have validated the questionnaire in relationship to other sources of information of CAM use in the two groups. This has probably not been done, and they therefore need to revise their aim with the study. A comparison with other unvalidated surveys is not validation. (Major compulsory)

4. RESULTS
   a. Due to the methodological challenges described above, the results are to a large degree irrelevant with regard to the stated aim of the study. The level of use of CAM in Germany measured by the use of ICAM-G is in itself interesting, but it is not a validation of the questionnaire as such. This needs to be changed, or the aim needs to be adjusted (Major compulsory).

5. DISCUSSION
   a. The discussion needs to be rewritten after the two previous points have been adressed.

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