Author’s response to reviews

Title: Attitudes toward Integrative Pediatrics: a National Survey among Youth Health Care Physicians in the Netherlands

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Comments to the reviewers: MS6541363395787391

“Attitudes toward Integrative Pediatrics: a National Survey among Youth Health Care Physicians in the Netherlands”.

Reviewer: Andrew S Day.

Comments:

1. The authors focus upon youth healthcare practitioners. These individuals appear to be different from paediatricians, but it is not clear how. This clinician role needs clearer description, given that it may be unique to the Netherlands. Later in Table 1, the authors report a variety of respondents.

Answer: In the introduction section, we now clearly describe the different role of the youth health care practitioner versus the paediatrician and family physician in the Netherlands. In addition, we refer to the organization of Youth Health Care in Europe. All respondents in the present study were working in youth health care and were physician. Thus as such there was no variety of respondents. In the revised version we have now deleted the profession category from Table 1 (also to make Table 1 more reading friendly) and explain in the results section the different status of the responding youth health care physicians.

2. The introduction does not flow and read well. Revision is recommended, with particular regard to the long first paragraph.

Answer: We have revised the introduction section to improve readability. However, we want to point the editor to the discrepancy between reviewer 1 and reviewer 2 in this respect. Reviewer 2 was of the opinion that the Introduction section was very well written.

3. Given the features of the respondents, do the authors feel that this dataset is representative of this group in the Netherlands.

Answer: We are of the opinion that the respondents in the present study represent the average YHC physician in the Netherlands since the average characteristics of respondents in the present study are very similar to another, non-CAM related published survey among this group (members of the AJN). This is mentioned in the discussion section of the revised manuscript.

4. Further, how do these responses translate to the wider world.

Answer: The present study is the first survey on attitudes towards Integrative Pediatrics within Youth Health Care. Responses can therefore not be compared to other results world-wide. However, in the discussion section of the revised manuscript we now describe how the current findings may be translated to other countries, also in relation to their outcome of surveys among paediatricians.

5. The authors use the word client instead of patient repeatedly.

Answer: We use the wording of client intentionally, since the YHC physicians do not treat patients like the paediatrician and family physician do. They have a preventive task and primarily advice parents on how to improve health in their children or how to prevent diseases. This in contrast with family physicians and paediatricians who see patients, since they provide curative services.
6. Subheadings in the Methods may enhance readability

Answer: Subheadings for the Methods section are now provided in the revised manuscript.

7. In the first part of the Results, the authors use the word most and majority for percentages that are well below 50%. Suggest rewording these statements.

Answer: The wording in the first part of the results section is revised accordingly to the suggestion of the reviewer.

8. One assumes that all respondents answered each and every question completely, and that all data is based upon the full dataset?

Answer: This is correct, all questionnaires were completely filled in and all data are on the basis of this full data set. The questionnaire was web-based and was designed as such, that respondents had to complete each question before they could continue to the next one, etc., and complete the survey. This is now stated in the methods section of the revised manuscript.

9. The authors use incorrect verbs on several occasions, for example in the results section, 52% was familiar.

Answer: Is now revised in the text.

10. There are other grammatical errors that also need correction.

Answer: We have corrected the manuscript accordingly.

11. The discussion section could be revised to also improve the readability and flow, with some additional discussion of the existing literature in the face of these data.

Answer: We have revised the readability of the discussion section were appropriate and have included additional discussion with respect to the existing literature on this topic.

12. A clear concluding statement/paragraph would also enhance the discussion

Answer: A clear concluding paragraph is now supplemented to the discussion section of the revised manuscript.

13. There are errors in the References, especially references 15 and 16

Answer: The errors are revised accordingly.

14. Table 1 could be revised to be more friendly

Answer: Table 1 is revised to increase readability.

15. The subsequent Tables could also be revised to improve understanding, including revision of the titles. The presentation of the percentages could also be improved, decimal points may not be required.
Answer: All other tables are revised to increase understanding and readability and titles have been changed.

**Reviewer: Ronald Thomas**

Comments:

1. *Abstract:* Replace the word clients throughout with patients. Insert odds ratios for predictors of a positive attitude towards integrative paediatrics with the four predictors listed.

Answer: We use the wording of client intentionally, since the YHC physicians do not treat patients like the paediatrician and family physician do. They have a preventive task and primarily advice parents on how to improve health in their children or how to prevent diseases. This in contrast with family physicians and paediatricians who see patients, since they provide curative services. Odds ratios are now provided.

2. *Methods,* again, replace clients by patients.

Answer: See answer to comment 1 with respect to the choice to use client rather than patient.

3. *Include separate heading for Statistical Analyses*

Answer: Revised accordingly

4. *Results:* replace correlation with association and report results in table format, including odds ratios, 95% CI and p-values.

Answer: In the revised manuscript we have now added an additional table, reporting the odds ratios, 95% confidence intervals along with associated p-values, according to the suggestion of the reviewer.

5. *Would results changed somewhat if compared to male YHC physicians, or are these results to be of the opinion of females YHC physicians only.*

Answer: It was not surprisingly that the majority of respondents were women, since this totally represents the average youth health care organization in the Netherlands. Male YHC physicians are a clear minority (about 8%). This is now mentioned in the discussion section of the revised manuscript.