Reviewer's report

Title: Person-centred and integrative medicine from the perspectives of patients using complementary therapies: a meta-ethnography approach

Version: 1 Date: 15 November 2012

Reviewer: Berthold Musselmann

Reviewer's report:

- Minor Essential Revisions
The author can be trusted to make these. For example, missing labels on figures, the wrong use of a term, spelling mistakes.

1. Background:
   ….use CAM use…. One “use” too much.

2. Background:
   …as well as their being feeling that…. “Being” doesn’t fit.

3. Background:
   …..As the nature of clinical knowledge based on quantitative research methods can be somewhat limited ? based on when individual or subjective phenomena or contexts of illness or health are to be investigated….
   Is always limited! Statistical data fail in understanding the own individual world of the patients.

3.5. Self-activation:
   In this interesting chapter the authors should give some attention to the propinquity of their thoughts to the concept of ‘salutogenesis’.
   This is mentioned in

4. Discussion.
   The discussed concept of integrative care doesn’t work very well in practice. What we need is to end the many mistakes of COM especially in the image of humanity and of the human being itself.
   It’s better for peace in medicine to believe in ‘integration’ from COM with CAM but the conventional medical paradigm has to be renewed and redeemed. The statistical dogmata called ‘EBM’ in conv. med. and other wrong and unidirectional believes have to be ended. The placebo research has uncovered the main topics and factors of healing that should considered much more during the healing process. We need science in medicine but as ONE of our sources of knowledge. Qualitative sources as therapeutical experience and patients’ own experience an body knowledge are much more important than statistical data.
We need more studies and appendages like this study.

- Discretionary Revisions
  (These are recommendations for improvement which the author can choose to ignore. For example clarifications, data that would be useful but not essential)

1. Abstract:
   .....means of complementing standard care and ensuring a patient-centric approach. By means....
   Better replace one “means”

2. Background
   Should be written: Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM)

   **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