Author’s response to reviews

Title: Dietary supplement users vary in attitudes and sources of dietary supplement information in East and West geographic regions: a cross-sectional study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to revise and re-submit the manuscript *Dietary supplement users vary in attitudes about usage and sources of dietary supplement information in East and West Geographic regions: a cross-sectional study* to *BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine*. In this article, we discuss the differences in usage, attitudes, and sources of information of dietary supplements (DS) according to geographic location, thus providing novel information about how these factors vary according to geographic setting. Additionally, the authors present data on perception of DS essentiality to health and degree of confidence in choosing an appropriate DS. We document and discuss the trend toward higher participation of the conventional health care provider in patient DS usage.

I would like to thank Dr. Cartmel for her insightful review. Her suggestions and concerns were carefully considered and addressed as follows:

1. Participants without supplement usage data were eliminated from analysis.

2. Multivariate logistic regression was utilized to control for demographic and lifestyle factors in analysis of the relationship between geographic location and supplement use, belief is dietary supplement essentiality, and confidence in choosing appropriate dietary supplements. Nearly all relationships persisted despite control of these factors, and we thank the reviewer for this suggestion, as multivariate analysis contributes to increased understanding of these relationships.

3. Errors in table totals and reference numbers have been corrected. Thank you for drawing our attention to these.

4. Supplement use was added as an additional variable/predictor in Tables 2 and 3.

We are thankful to the reviewer for her expert opinion and suggestions, and hope that her concerns were addressed adequately. Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions or concerns.

All co-authors accept responsibility for the content of this manuscript. There are no declared conflicts of interest.

Sincerely,

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