Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 4 December 2012

Reviewer: Darshan Mehta

Reviewer's report:

This article focuses on the patterns of dietary supplement users amongst subject recruits for another study.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. It is imperative that the authors incorporate findings from the 2007 National Health Interview Survey, as those findings are also generalizable to the US population. According to that study 18% of the US population used a dietary supplement.

2. I would argue that the FDA does have oversight over dietary supplements (http://www.fda.gov/Food/DietarySupplements/default.htm) It would be important to reference this.

3. On page 5, there is no reference provided for the 2007 survey mentioned.

4. It is not clear how analyses of these study populations can be extrapolated to the general healthy populations.

5. The description of the statistical tests used should be in the methods section, rather than in the tables.

6. Table 2 does not have any p-values. Were the different categories (location, age, sex) significantly different between users and non-users?

Minor Essential Revisions

1. It would be important to reference the two studies on herbal and DS disclosure:


2. It would be helpful to provide the survey tool as an appendix

3. Table 1 is slightly confusing; I would suggest eliminating the Total column, and have that incorporated directly in the text.
4. Some of the data in table 2 is part of table 1 (such as location data). The percents are confusing, since it is not clear as to what "n" it is referring to.

5. There is a great deal of repetition between the figure and the text. I would choose one or the other; if you are using the figure, then simply summarize the significant differences.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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