Reviewer’s report

Title: Features of Complementary and Alternative Medicine Use by Patients with Coronary Artery Disease in Beijing: A Cross-Sectional Study

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Reviewer: Kehua Zhou

Reviewer’s report:

The study explored the features of CAM use in Chinese patients with CAD. Due to the existence of both traditional hospitals and modern medicine hospital, sampling was based on two Chinese medicine hospitals and two western medicine hospitals. While the study question is clearly defined and is of interest to understand the behaviors of Chinese patients diagnosed with CAD in selecting CAM treatments, I have the following comments:

Major Compulsory Revisions:

In the Study Design and Setting section, it seems to me that four hospitals were purposely selected; however, the authors also mentioned “Patient recruiting process was completed based on principles of cluster sampling by a random number table.” Please explain. Also, how did you get the information that the patient has the diagnosis of CAD?

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. In the Introduction section, as the majority of readers of the journal understands the components of CAM, I don’t think the sentences “CAM therapies are commonly categorized into the following categories: whole….perceived as the whole medical systems” are necessary. In addition, these sentences are redundant given the authors already explained CAM in the first sentence of the previous paragraph. Also, please delete “the” in Line 7 from the sentence “….of cardiovascular death in the China.”

2. In the Contents of the Questionnaire section, what is the meaning of prevalence in the sentence “(3) CAM use characteristics (prevalence, types, frequency, perceived effectiveness, reasons for use or non-use)”? In the sentence “During the past one year prior to study participation, 220 CAM users in the present study…”, I suggest adding the number of total CAM users in the sentence.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.