Reviewer's report

Title: Adverse Events in Traditional Korean Medicine: A Result from Survey of 2000 Korean Individuals

Version: 3 Date: 12 October 2012

Reviewer: Gioacchino Calapai

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The authors discuss data collected through an online survey about adverse events in Traditional Korean Medicine.

Major questions

1) The question is posed by the authors in a not well defined manner, since they declare that aims are to assess experience about the adverse events of traditional Korean medicine in Korea. However, the aims are not focused on specific items and too much vague. For example, it should be necessary to specify that aim is to report experiences only by non-health professionals.

2) The methods are not appropriated and methodology is not sufficiently described. Informed consent formula has been administered to the participants? People who conducted the interviews had sufficient scientific background on pharmacovigilance? They have been trained for this task?

How people knew the existence of the survey?

How was the sampling methodology for the recruitment?

3) Data do not add novelties. Another major problem is that the analysis of data regards collectively all TKMs without detailed description of adverse events of the single medicines. It could be better to associate to the text the questions contained in the survey.

4) Discussion is conditioned by limited accuracy of data collection and by the strong eterogenous kind of therapies considered for the study. It should be newly addressed comparing data to others previous published articles on the same topic (studies reporting non-professionals opinion).

On the basis of the above considerations I do not consider discussion and conclusions well balanced because originating by confusing aims and not well organized planned methodology.

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’