Reviewer’s report

Title: Complementary and alternative medicine use in adolescents with inflammatory bowel disease and juvenile idiopathic arthritis

Version: 2

Date: 24 February 2014

Reviewer: Miek Jong

Reviewer’s report:

A very well designed study. The outcome of the study is of high interest since it links CAM use to disease severity, demonstrates no effect of CAM use on treatment compliance and also demonstrates high use of dietary restrictions among this group of adolescents. Many new and interesting information that has not been published earlier.

The manuscript is very well written. The introduction introduces the topic in a good way, the definition of CAM used in the study is well described and results are presented in a clear way.

I honestly do not have much to comment that needs improvement.

Maybe some suggestions for discretionary revisions:

1. The results section describes that 8.8% of adolescents refused to participate in the study. Is the reason known why they refused to participate? This might be interesting to know for the readers.

2. Highest CAM use was found in dietary supplements such as probiotics etc. Use of the more traditional forms of CAM such as acupuncture and homeopathy was very low among this group. Is it know how many of the surveyed adolescents visited a CAM practitioner? If so, this would be interesting to show and describe in the results section. Also it would be interesting to state in the results section which mind-body medicine therapies and body-based therapies were practiced. Just to get a better idea of the other CAM therapies used by this group, although I realize that numbers are low. Maybe the authors can also further elaborate in the discussion section why the traditional forms of CAM are not so much used in Finland among this group and how that compares to other patient groups.

3. The authors describe in the Discussion section that patients often do not discuss CAM use with their physician or other healthcare provider. Was this also asked to the adolescents in the present survey? If so, please include the data as this would strengthen the discussion section of the paper.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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 interest