Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2  Date: 16 March 2014

Reviewer: Alfred Laengler

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written paper of general interest for people interested in CAM in pediatrics.

There are some major revisions needed before the paper should be published. These are in detail:

The abstract must reworded. There are no findings regarding the whole population. Percentages are sometimes with full numbers, sometimes with points. Statistical details should not be reported in the abstract (e.g. t-test-results).

Incidence on IBD in Finland is cited with literature from 2003. Is there any new literature?

Possible serious adverse events of CAM are cited to literature 19; there are much better and detailed papers regarding this topic. Some of them should be cited.

The authors report some details about the non-responders. In the methods-section there are no details if the investigation was anonymous. Where do the authors now details from non-responders?

In the discussion-section there are some data discussed which are not presented in the results-section as:

"Indicators identified to predict CAM use include a desire for better disease control and the perceived helpfulness of CAM"

"Here, according to self-reports, the adherence to conventional medication was nevertheless excellent in more than 70% of the IBD and JIA patients. Thus, we found no significant reduction of treatment compliance among adolescent IBD/JIA patients using CAM"

These data should be reported in detail in the results-section or not be discussed.

The second last paragraph dealing with response-rate is not fully understandable and should be reworded.

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'