Reviewer’s report

Title: The use of complementary and alternative medicine after the completion of hospital treatment for colorectal cancer: Findings from a questionnaire study in Denmark

Version: 1 Date: 22 April 2014

Reviewer: John Hughes

Reviewer’s report:

The submitted paper is the first Danish study examining the use of CAM by colorectal cancer patients who had completed their hospital treatment. The study is methodologically sound, and the paper well written. I would have no reservations in recommending the paper for inclusion in BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine subject to the following minor essential revisions:

Abstract:
-I would recommend the authors state in their abstract that 49.4% used some form of CAM 'in the past month.'

Methods:
-It may be useful for the authors to include the list of CAM therapies which was included in their questionnaire.

Results:
-First paragraph, apostrophe required after the word 'positive'.
-As 'can' be derived from Table 1 (as opposed to as 'may' be derived)
-In the list of the most common therapies, could the authors list the therapies according to the frequency utilised? ie just switch acupuncture and mindfulness/meditation round.
-The tables require spaces adding between some words.
-Under perceived effects of CAM, could the authors add the number of responses and percentage to the text for 'the improvement of mental/psychological wellbeing'?
-Apostrophe required after 'influence of blood samples'

Discussion:
-In the second and third paragraphs could the authors make it clearer that their figures for CAM use are for use in the previous month? At the moment it reads as though the figures are for CAM use following treatment completion (up to 18 months), which it is not.

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'