Author’s response to reviews

Title: Experiences of Complementary and Alternative Medicine in Patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease - a Qualitative Study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor

The manuscript “Experiences of Complementary and Alternative Medicine in Patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease – a Qualitative Study” has now been revised.

We are grateful for the comments from the referees which we believe have clarified and improved the manuscript. Please see below our response to the referee’ comments, point by point.

Authors’ response:

Referee 1
Some minor errors with grammar which will probably be detected during editorial processing. For example; Page.5, ‘two - 34 years’. Choose either a number ‘34’ or a word 'thirty four' and maintain consistency throughout the paper. 

*The time period was 1980-2002, which has now been add to the manuscript.*

Also, a little more information would be useful re: Page.3, 'CAM use increased from 22-49%’. Over what time period?

This is corrected in the manuscript.

Page.13. Statement reads as follows: "A significant finding was that dietary change is beneficial for patients with IBD”. I do not think this type of claim can be made through this kind of qualitative research. Rather, some patients feel dietary manipulation may be beneficial to them?

*Thank you for this valuable comment. This is corrected in the manuscript.*

Referee 2
Throughout the manuscript abbreviation should be given in full in the first Instance

This is corrected throughout the manuscript.

A reference should be included for ‘stress’ in the 2nd last line of the 1st paragraph on page 3

This is corrected in the manuscript, and this is the same reference as “wish for a holistic approach”.

It would have been helpful to readers outside Sweden to give a brief indication of the types of CAM available to patients e.g. would it be primarily naturopathy, herbal medicine, acupuncture, traditional Chinese medicine etc?

This has been added to the manuscript.

Did the study ask whether the CAM was self-prescribed or prescribed by a CAM parctitioner?
Yes, this is already addressed in the manuscript, page 8. “None of the respondents who had tried CAM at least once for their IBD had been recommended to do so by HCPs but had searched for the information, initiated and paid for the treatment on their own initiative.”

I’d suggest that the first couple of paragraphs in the Background might be re-ordered as the flow is currently a little disjointed
Thank you for this valuable comment. The background has been revised.

Yours sincerely

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