Title: Practice Patterns of Naturopathic Physicians: Results From a Random Survey of Licensed Practitioners in Two US States

Authors:

Heather S Boon (heather.boon@utoronto.ca)
Daniel C Cherkin (cherkin.d@ghc.org)
Janet Erro (erro.j@ghc.org)
Karen J Sherman (sherman.k@ghc.org)
Bruce Milliman (doctorwbm@earthlink.net)
Jennifer Booker (jenniferbooker@earthlink.net)
Elaine H Cramer (ecramer@telus.net)
Michael J Smith (Michael_J_Smith@hc-sc.gc.ca)
Richard A Deyo (deyo@u.washington.edu)
David M Eisenberg (david_eisenberg@hms.harvard.edu)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Dear Editor:

**RE: MS: 1829631771410634 - Practice Patterns of Naturopathic Physicians: Results From a Random Survey of Licensed Practitioners in Two US States**

We have made the following revisions in response to the reviewers’ comments:

**Reviewer 1 (Mary Koithan)**

**Major Compulsory Revisions:**
1. pg 6 – the wording has been changed to refer to prescription drugs and minor surgery as “more invasive” rather than “higher level” interventions.

2. The abstract has been revised so that the objective reads: “to describe and compare the practice patterns……” to clarify that we have not investigated how naturopathic practice actually occurs.

**Minor Essential Revisions**
1. p 9 the sentence describing the sample beginning “All high volume….” was re-written as suggested to clarify.

**Reviewer 2 (Andrew Vickers)**

**Major Compulsory Revisions:**
A new table (Table 1 in the revised version of the paper) has been added to clarify our sampling strategy. In addition, the text on page 9 was revised to clarify that we randomly selected practitioners only from Washington, but that in Connecticut all eligible practitioners were contacted because of the small total numbers in that state.

**Minor Revisions:**
a. We agree that hypothesis testing is inappropriate and have focused on presenting descriptive statistics to show that the characteristics of naturopathic practice are very similar in the two states. Table 2 (old table 1) does note that there is a statistically significant difference between the states for two characteristics. If the reviewer or editor would like we can remove these notations. The analysis section has been re-written to clarify our intent.

b. We have removed the notation to the use of Taylor series linearizations; however we feel it is important to report the standard deviations in tables 2 and 3 (old tables 1 and 2).

c. No, complex statistical methods were not used to calculate the standard deviations in tables 2 and 3 (old tables 1 and 2). We have clarified that analysis section to reflect this. As suggested, we have added reporting of the results by categories to table 3 (old table 2).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Heather Boon, PhD
Assistant Professor
Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy
University of Toronto
19 Russell Street
Toronto, ON
M5S 2S2
Tel. 416-946-5859
Fax. 416-978-1833
Email. Heather.boon@utoronto.ca