Author's response to reviews

Title: Use of Complementary and Alternative Medicine: A survey in Turkish Gastroenterology Patients.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Answers to the reviewers:

I would like to thank you for your meticulous work on the manuscript, which showed me inappropriate parts especially unclear sides. I made the necessary revisions to the article that you will see. I simplified my answers into several topics, suggestions were taken into consideration and appropriate explanations or comments were added.

For the reviewer 1:

I should have noticed such errors before the submission, which were replaced with appropriate ones.

I have an objection on the expansion of literature expansion in the introduction. IBD and ĮBS are chronic conditions that are associated with CAM use. This study was performed in a private hospital that IBD patient were scarce and I did not make any distinction between infectious diarrhea or IBD, so I did not add literature on İBD and stay straight with general population and general GI patients.

Referencing was reviewed.

Results: yes you are right; than I noticed I do not have words on this topic in discussion. I did not include that part in the new one.

Grammatical errors and concept confusion through the manuscript were cleared.

Method section was corrected. Since most common CAM modality is herbal therapy, I think it is not useful to include the therapies as a whole other list, which may be also find in the reference articles.

Table 1: patient reports on use are included.

Other tables were corrected accordingly.

For the reviewer 2:

1 As a practicing gastroenterologist we see lots of patients with mild GI diseases that even do not need a medication. Honestly, I do not specially question CAM in the medical history of a
GI patient and I believe neither of my fellow colleagues. We all know most of the MDs are skeptical about the CAM use and think it is a fad. For a change of attitude, I personally believe, CAM use rates in the special disease populations should be clarified so that we can use these modalities for the own good of the patients by giving appropriate information. Back in the time of survey I was working at a private hospital where this study was undertaken and, I know it is a shame, was surprised with the prevalent use of CAM. I had patients with complications of CAM modalities. So I decided to perform this survey.

2 Grammatical errors were corrected, which I think is the source of some misunderstandings in the text.

3 Material and method section was reviewed and mistakes or missing parts were corrected. Interestingly every participant accepted the survey. We provided the list of herbs and alternative medicine modality and patient could add things to the survey. Most of the added items were on preparation and usage type.

Table 5 shows 2x2 chi square and t test statistics, I guess it is little bit confusing but percentages are correct. Actually it is a combination of 6 separate tables.

4 Discussion: This study supports higher education is associated with CAM use. Possible explanations for why age might effect were included. Conclusions were expanded.

5 Discretionary revisions: We adapted a survey by Molassiotis which included such methods under CAM.