Author's response to reviews

Title: Why women choose compounded bioidentical hormone therapy: Lessons from a qualitative study of menopausal decision-making

Authors:

Jennifer Thompson (jjthomp@uga.edu)

Cheryl Ritenbaugh (rittenbau@email.arizona.edu)

Mark Nichter (nichtermark@gmail.com)

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Author’s response to reviews:

August 11, 2017

Dear Dr. Stafford and BMC Reviewers,

Thank you for the careful review and thoughtful feedback about our manuscript, “Why women choose compounded bioidentical hormone therapy: Lessons for a qualitative study of menopausal decision-making.” My co-authors and I are happy to have received positive reviews and we are pleased to have the opportunity to improve this paper.

In this resubmission, we have made significant revisions to address reviewer comments, which we detail in the attached Response to Reviewers. (Editor/reviewer comments are in black; our responses are in blue.)

In particular, we have addressed concerns about the relevance of the data, which was collected in 2007-2008. As we detail below, and in the revised manuscript, we believe that the medical and informational environments in which women are making menopause treatment decisions has not changed substantially over the last decade to make these data obsolete. The findings of the Women’s Health Initiative remain prominent in information and media related to menopause management. Further, despite concerns coming out of the medical community, data indicates women continue to use compounded hormones at high rates; yet, there has been little qualitative research to understand these decisions. In this context, our data make an important contribution to making sense of women’s motivations for choosing and using compounded hormone therapy.

Although we have added text in response to reviewer comments, we have also endeavored to make this manuscript more succinct while preserving the ethnographic richness of our data. We have made substantial cuts to the Background section and targeted reductions in the Results and Discussion.
We believe this paper makes an important contribution to our understanding of why women choose compounded hormone therapy, and to the literature on menopausal decision-making more broadly—areas of interest to the readers of BMC Women’s Health. This manuscript is original work, not published elsewhere or under consideration by another journal. All authors have approved the manuscript and agree with its resubmission.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Jo Thompson