Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence And Modes Of Complementary And Alternative Medicine Use Among Peasant Farmers With Musculoskeletal Pain In A Rural Community In South-Western Nigeria

Version: 3 Date: 8 November 2014

Reviewer: Wenbo Peng

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:

Methods

1. The study sample size is not clear – “A total of 230 consenting rural farmers responded in this study” (see Abstract), “A total of 216 respondents were expected to be recruited based on the number of households to be sampled…” Only 230 individuals who met the inclusion criteria of a positive history or present use of CAM to manage a physician or self-diagnosed MSP responded in this study” (see paragraph 2, materials and methods), and “N=216” (see tables). In addition, the above sentences from paragraph 2 of materials and methods should be restructured to make it easier for the readers to follow.

2. The authors used #2 test to examine the associations between CAM use and socio-demographic variables (Table 5). However, one of the assumptions of using #2 test is that the cell counts are 5 or more in all cells of a 2 x 2 table, or 5 or more in 80% of cells in large tables. The authors need to consult a statistician.

Results

1. Although the numbers of ethnicity are revised in Table 1, these numbers are not in line with the numbers of ethnicity in Table 5.

2. What is the number of “Dietary supplementary diets or fasting” of current CAM users in Table 2?

3. Based on the statement of definition of CAM in this article (see paragraph 3, materials and methods), CAM refers to any treatment or health practice which is self-prescribed. The title of Table 3 is “Health care practices and the use of CAM for musculoskeletal pain among the respondents (N=216)” with the details of “healthcare practice”, “Use of Traditional Health products”, and “Seek CAM providers”. What is the definition of traditional health products and healthcare practice? Further, what is the definition of “complementary and alternative medicine products” in the corresponding item 12 (for Table 3) in the questionnaire?

Questionnaire

1. The pattern of item 4 is not consistent with items 1-3 (pain, ache, discomfort,
2. Mind-body therapy is included in items 8 and 9 as a CAM treatment, paralleling with herbal medicine, massage therapy, prayer, etc. According to the definition of CAM from National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM), mind-body therapy refers to a wide range of techniques administered by a practitioner including acupuncture, massage therapy, meditation, relaxation techniques, yoga, and Tai Chi. The questions seem confusing as the authors mentioned in the manuscript that acupuncture, aromatherapy, ayurveda, homeopathy and yoga in the original prototyped tools were excluded in this questionnaire due to cultural difference.

3. Item 11 is not clear. What is the definition of “complementary and alternative medicine practices”? What is the evidence of the only two options of CAM practices – use CAM only and use CAM with conventional treatments by the medical doctor?

Minor Essential Revisions:

Introduction
Third paragraph: The attention of the first sentence is the combined use of CAM and conventional therapies, while the following sentences only indicate the use of CAM in different countries.

Discussion
The focus of this article is the prevalence of CAM use among peasant farmers with musculoskeletal pain in a rural community in south-western Nigeria. However, there is no comparison with other prevalence rates of previous relevant studies.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.