Reviewer's report

Title: A survey on patterns of integrative Korean medicine practice for lumbar intervertebral disc displacement: Preliminary research for clinical practice guidelines

Version: 2
Date: 9 October 2015

Reviewer: Samantha Wai Chan

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

The author must respond to these before a decision on publication can be reached. For example, additional necessary experiments or controls, statistical mistakes, errors in interpretation.

1. The study is a survey of opinion from Korean medicine doctors using Korean medicine for treatment of back pain. This study analyzed the methods of diagnosis and frequently used alternative treatment methods on treating back pain. This study contains a lot of information on what treatments were applied and how were they applied, how can the authors make these data valuable thereby establish clinical practice guidelines in Korean medicine for back pain? Please discuss further.

2. One finding of the study was the time needed to achieve a 50% or 80% pain reduction. The length of treatment needed to achieve a reduction of pain was indicated. However, the percentage of pain reduction was merely the memory and opinion from a KM. How can the length of the treatment be translated to the clinical setting? Please discuss further.

Minor Essential Revisions

The author can be trusted to make these. For example, missing labels on figures, the wrong use of a term, spelling mistakes.

1. The manuscript contains syntax and grammar errors, and typo, it is quite difficult to read as it is now. It should be revised thoroughly and corrected by professional language editing agency.

2. References are often placed only at the end of each paragraph which should be cited already when statement or information was referred from any publications. For examples, Page 12 data comparison between surgeon and KDM, are these number from other articles?


4. P5, line 18 & page 10, line 23, specify MDs or use KMD or MD consistently. Clarify difference between Korean medicine doctor, medical doctors or surgeon. It is maybe very well understandable in Korea but maybe not for all reader of an international journal publication.
Discretionary Revisions

These are recommendations for improvement which the author can choose to ignore. For example clarifications, data that would be useful but not essential.

1. To improve the readability of the manuscript, the author can add section subtitles in the result section and a topic sentence in every paragraph.

2. Table 1. years of clinical experience is a bit confusing as written in the form as now. better to use 5-10 years, 11-15 and so on. Please explain what is primary and secondary level of care.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests