Reviewer’s report

Title: Why People Use Herbal Medicine: Insights from a Focus-Group Study in Germany

Version: 0 Date: 07 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Mary S. Koithan

Reviewer's report:

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Overall, this is an excellent manuscript. However, there are 2 issues that should be resolved before publication. These are #2 and 3 below.

1. There are several issues re: grammatical formatting, including sentence fragment in the abstract and use of present rather than past tense when describing methods.

2. Your statement of "research methodology" is inaccurate. Focus group is a data collection method but is not a research methodology. Your methodology is best identified as qualitative descriptive study (you are identifying and describing the reasons, barriers, and frequency of use of HM). A good citation for this would be Creswell. Then under data collection state that you used focus groups as a method. Content analysis as a analytical technique is appropriate for qualitative descriptive designs/methodological approaches.

3. You are missing statements re: scientific rigor --- applicability, transferability, credibility, auditability. See Lincoln and Guba or Creswell again. This should be there ---- how did you maintain truthfulness and reproducibility of the results. This should be the last section of methods before results.

4. You chose not to create a frequency table for the reasons for use of HM. Why? I could go either way, but consistency is helpful and would be standard outcomes/results format for a QD design and content analysis. I don't know how many people chose certain reasons. How prevalent was the response that they did not trust conventional medicine?
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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