Reviewer’s report

Title: Complementary and alternative medicine use among outpatients during the 2015 MERS outbreak in South Korea: a cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 21 Jan 2020

Reviewer: Siti Nurkamilla Ramdzan

Reviewers report:

Thank you for addressing the comments. The manuscript is better but some important points needed to be addressed as stated below.

Comments:

Abstract: Line 48: the associated factor
Comment: please define older age.

Conclusion: Line 51: Establishing a media platform is of paramount importance to provide reliable information and ensure the safety of their use.
Comment: What is their referring to? CAM? Their is only used for animate objects e.g. people and animals.

Background: Line 74: typo error; has-gained

Method: survey instrument: line 110: Include the text to inform that the questionnaire is attached as appendix/supplementary. Based on the questionnaire, it is not clear whether the patients were existing users of CAM (prior to the outbreak) or use CAM because of the outbreak. Maybe include this as a limitation. It would be interesting and important to know if patients just started the use of CAM during the outbreak, rather than a continuation of their existing CAM during the outbreak.

Discussion
Paragraph 1, Line 213: Our findings also revealed a high prevalence of CAM use (76.1%) during the MERS outbreak than that reported during a non epidemic period in Korea [38, 39].

The references used for this statement were not recent and may be less relevant to current the situation. Suggest quoting the reference no 31 (Ock SM, Choi JY, Cha YS, Lee J, Chun MS, Huh CH, Lee SY, Lee SJ: The use of complementary and alternative medicine in a general population in South Korea: results from a national survey in 2006. Journal of Korean medical science 2009, 24(1):1-6.)

This paper is used to estimate CAM use in the general population and more recent compared to the reference used in the discussion. The findings of this study is similar to your study, thus this paragraph may need to be revised.
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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal