Author’s response to reviews

Title: An overview of systematic reviews of complementary and alternative therapies for infantile colic.

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Dear Dr Kelly,

Thank you again for considering our manuscript SYSR-D-19-00227 entitled “An overview of systematic reviews of complementary and alternative therapies for infantile colic” by Perry et al. and for the very helpful feedback from the reviewer and the editorial team.

We have revised our manuscript in line with the reviewer’s comments and the requests from the editorial team.

Many thanks and we look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Rachel Perry

Reviewer reports:

Editorial comments:

Thank you for addressing the reviewer and editorial comments. I would suggest one additional inclusions, inline with reviewer 2's residual comment.
Please include a brief description of your search terms before you refer to appendix 3.

Thank you for this suggestion: I have added the following sentence to make this clearer:

The search strategy was structured using subject (MeSH) headings, text word terms and their derivatives: homeopath, acupuncture, spinal manipulation, hypnosis, reflexology, phytotherapy, probiotics, infant, colic, systematic review, metanalysis

Reviewer #2: Congratulations!

The authors have addressed almost all of the comments.

I still strongly believe the inclusion of brief Population, Intervention, Comparison and Outcomes (PICO) search terminology in the main text in addition to inclusion of detailed search strategy in appendix.

Thank you for your suggestion – I have expanded this section (but have kept the full criteria in the appendix.

Type of reviews - all systematic reviews of randomised controlled trials (RCTS) of infantile colic (IC)

Type of participants - human subjects diagnosed with infantile colic using standard diagnostic criteria (e.g. WESSEL criteria3). No restrictions regarding gender, condition duration or intensity were applied. Age was restricted to infants under 1 year.

Type of intervention - reviews of effects of any CAM therapies. Reviews that included multiple CAM therapies were also included, as long as the CAM therapies were not used in combination.

Type of comparator- placebo, active treatment, no treatment, treatment-as-usual or waitlist control groups

Type of outcome - any review that included studies that reported measures of colic severity (e.g. parent-reported crying diaries; questionnaires and parental interviews).

The full criteria are listed in table 4, Appendix 2.