

Reviewer's report

Title: Anthroposophic therapy for children with chronic disease: a two-year prospective cohort study in routine outpatient settings

Version: 1 **Date:** 5 May 2009

Reviewer: Peter Heusser

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1. The primary and secondary questions posed by the authors are clear and well defined, and well placed the respective field of work, chronic paediatric illnesses, complementary and anthroposophic treatments. The posed questions are important and relevant, given the fact that chronic conditions belong the major problems in medicine, including paediatrics; and therapies with a low profile of side effects well as the ability to activate patients are warranted.
2. The interventions, methods are appropriate and well described, the rationale for them becomes clear, and they are also well referenced. By using sensitivity analysis and population comparisons an optimum of precaution has been taken to minimize the weakness of not having a comparative trial.
3. The data are sound, the measures taken to assure their quality are appropriate and clearly described.
4. Does the manuscript does certainly adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition.
5. The discussion and the conclusion are well balanced and adequately supported by the data as well by the referenced literature.
6. In this sense, the authors also clearly acknowledge the work upon which they are building, and the contributions and conflicts of interest are clearly stated.
7. The strengths and weaknesses are clearly described, and the presentation of the overall conclusion is adequately balanced on this background.
8. Title and abstract do adequately convey the content.
9. The writing is good, well formulated and avoids lengthy descriptions, but is highly informative in its concentrated diction.
10. Overall judgement and recommendation: Excellent paper, accept without revisions.