Reviewer's report

**Title:** Complementary and Alternative Medicine in the Management of Hypertension in an urban Nigerian community

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 15 April 2010

**Reviewer:** Thomas Ostermann

**Reviewer's report:**

In their study on “Complementary and Alternative Medicine in the Management of Hypertension in an urban Nigerian community” the authors surveyed 440 hypertensive people of the Idikan community with respect to their beliefs, knowledge, practice and experiences in managing hypertension particularly with respect to CAM use.

Although the manuscript is well written and the context is clear there are some aspects that will enhance the quality of the manuscript.

1. As the common reader of BMC might not be well informed about CAM use in Sub-Saharan Africa, it would be nice to be introduced to the surrounding of the study:
   - How is CAM used in Sub-Saharan countries including Nigeria (What kind of CAM is what kind of medical field)
   - How is hypertension treatment and control in sub-Saharan Africa realized (epidemiology, guidelines, compliance,...)

There seem to be several papers on that i.e. Cooper et al.: Hypertension treatment and control in sub-Saharan Africa: the epidemiological basis for policy; Akinkugbe O: Current Epidemiology of Hypertension in Nigeria; Kabira et al.: Compliance to medication among hypertensive patients in Murtala Mohammed Specialist Hospital, Kano, Nigeria to mention some I found quickly. Would it be possible to summarize them and to put some data on CAM-Use in Nigeria in an introductory table.

2. The sample seems not to be representative for Nigeria. Is it comparable to other studies? I.e. to Ogunniyi et al. Morbidity pattern in a sample of elderly Nigerians resident in Idikan community, Ibadan. Can you give some remarks on this issue or stratify for this issue?

3. The methods section suffers a bit: There is no description on the statistics and the qualitative methods description (qualitative interview analysis) is also lacking. Although I am not an expert on qualitative data analysis it looks like the authors only quote interesting excerpts but did not do such an analysis.

4. Same holds for the statistics applied: The description is missing. I would also
like to encourage the authors to run a more sophisticated analysis of the quantitative data i.e. by using logistic regression or decision tree models to identify factors associated with CAM use.

Minor:

5. Table 1 is just a cross-tab and can be omitted as results are mentioned in the text.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'