WITHDRAWN: Is the use of complementary and alternative medicine associated with low levels of health literacy

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Abstract
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WITHDRAWN: Is the use of Complementary and Alternative Medicine associated with low levels of Health Literacy?

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Aims & rationale/Objectives
For the last 2 decades the phrase ‘complementary and alternative medicine’ (CAM) has been used to describe a wide array of treatments, health practices and practitioner disciplines with historical roots outside conventional medicine. CAM typically includes herbal remedies, acupunture, visits to complementary clinicians such as naturopaths, homeopaths and chiropractors as well as meditative practices such as mindfulness, yoga and tai chi. Recent data from the US indicates that about 40% of residents integrate one or more of these unconventional health practices into their personal health care, spending $34 billion per year out of pocket. This strain on household budgets may cause further erosion of personal health, in many cases leading patients for postpone or forgo needed conventional care. Low levels of health literacy have been linked to poor health outcomes and increased healthcare costs worldwide but is unclear what the association between levels of health literacy and the use of CAM is. Therefore, this study was designed to identify whether low levels of health literacy are associated with increased use of CAM.

Methods
Over 300 patients are recruited from rural General Practices in Tasmania and NSW. Validated instruments are used to assess health literacy (HLQ) and CAM use (modified I-CAM-Q). Sequential logistic regression models will be applied to analyse the association of CAM use and low levels of health literacy.

Principal findings
Findings from the Tasmanian study cohort will be reported.

Implications
The results of the study will have significant impact on understanding the factors influencing the use of CAM in rural communities in Australia.

Presentation type
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