Research in Complementary Medicine and Classical Natural Medicine: Objectives and Perspectives

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We have extracted and categorised data from all papers of issues of FORSCHENDE KOMPLEMENTÄRMEDIZIN UND KLASSISCHE NATURHEILKUNDE published in 1995 and in 2000 according to pre-defined criteria such as type of methodology, subject area and direction of outcome in order to monitor trends in publication practice.

There was a small decrease in the total number of published articles in the journal. The total number of original articles (including that of clinical trials) decreased from 19 in 1995 to 17 in 2000, the number of studies reporting clinical trials also decreased from 19 to 11 and the number of surveys increased from 0 to 5. The majority of articles published in 1995 yielded positive treatment effects (68%) – a phenomenon that was

less apparent by 2000 (47% positive results). The subject areas of papers showed great breadth. A main focus of the journal seems to be phytomedicine. In 2000 there were no papers on other important areas of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) such as aromatherapy, homeopathy, massage therapy and reflexology. In both years almost all authors originated from Germany or Switzerland. 57% in 1995 and 67% in 2000 of authors had a university affiliation. 81% in 1995 and 77% in 2000 of the first authors were physicians. We conclude from these findings that there are some indications that the clinical investigation of CAM, as reflected in this journal, appears to be becoming more mature.