

## The use of complementary and alternative medicine in breast cancer: bridging the gap

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**B**reast cancer is the most prevalent cancer in United Kingdom. The extensive use of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) by women suffering from breast cancer is well documented in research. A study in Canada, reported this use to be as high as 80%. In a similar survey in Germany, over 90% of breast cancer patients used CAM therapy. Similar trends have been

reported in USA, and Asia. The literature highlights a disturbing lack of communication between healthcare professionals and patients about CAM use. Up to 77% of cancer patients do not reveal their CAM use. This creates a communication gap and could hinder efforts to provide effective healthcare. Our study aims to address this deficit. We have two aims: To explore the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) towards CAM. of women with breast cancer, to understand and to use this information to develop means of improving communication between cancer patients and their Health Care Professionals. The results of this study will be presented and opened to discussion.

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