

Research Team

Principal Investigator:

Lisa Brenner, PhD

Co-Investigators:

Theresa Hernandez, PhD

Lisa Betthauser, MBA

Research Coordinator:

Lisa Betthauser, MBA

Research Assistants:

Melissa McHarg

Alexandra Schneider

Tyler Jorgenson



MIRECC
1055 Clermont St.
Denver, CO 80220

CONTACT PERSON:
Lisa Betthauser
CONTACT PHONE:
303.399.8020 x 5643
CONTACT EMAIL:
Lisa.Betthauser@va.gov

www.mirecc.va.gov/visin19/

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**A Survey of Complementary
and Conventional Medicine Use
Patterns in the Veteran
Population**

COMIRB # 11-1086



CURRENT RESEARCH:
**Examining attitudes and beliefs
towards alternative and traditional
medicine use patterns in the Veteran
population**

Veterans Integrated Service
Network (VISN) 19 Mental Illness
Research, Education, and Clinical
Center (MIRECC)

Website: www.mirecc.va.gov/visin19/

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Study Description and Background

The use of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) has been increasing in the United States. CAM has been used to treat symptoms and illnesses associated with stress. These include depression, anxiety, back and neck pain, and gastrointestinal disorders. While there has been an increase in use and study of CAM in the civilian population, not much is known about the use of CAM in the Veteran population.

This study will use a brief, self-report questionnaire that assesses medical use patterns, attitudes and beliefs about medical treatment options, and the relationships between use, attitudes and beliefs of CAM in the Veteran population.

Additional information and data regarding physical and mental symptoms will be collected to further describe the Veteran population completing this survey.

This observational study will examine the relationships between variables collected from the study measures.

Hypotheses, Study Aims, and Short-term Goals

The primary aim of this study is to examine the use, and patterns of use, of complementary alternative medicine in the Veteran population.

It is hoped that information from this study will help to determine additional optimal medical treatment options for this particular patient population.



Progress Report

We are continuing to recruit and enroll for participation in this study.

Long-term Goals: Putting Research into Practice

Few studies have explored the complementary and alternative medicine use patterns compared to conventional medicine use patterns in the military and Veteran population. Thus, knowledge may be obtained regarding Veteran's attitudes and beliefs of medical care. Such knowledge may contribute to optimal treatment options for this population.

