

# ABSTRACT

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Title of Diploma Thesis:

## ATTITUDES OF PHARMACISTS AND PHARMACY TECHNICIANS TOWARDS COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

**Background:** The popularity of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) is increasing and becoming more and more competition for conventional medicine. Opinions on the CAM among pharmacists and pharmacy technicians have not yet been assessed in the Czech Republic.

**Aim:** Primarily to evaluate the attitudes of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to CAM. Secondly, to determine if there is a correlation between a positive approach to CAM and gender, age, length of practice in a pharmacy, a population of place in which the pharmacy is located, a fiction which the interviewee in a pharmacy performs or educational attainment (acquired title).

**Methods:** Within the research project - a pilot survey "Complementary and alternative medicine - a survey of opinion on health", we obtain data using a validated anonymous questionnaire. The questionnaire survey was carried out between 1/2/2009 - 31/5/2009 in selected Czech pharmacies. The data were evaluated in the computer programs MS Excel and SPSS.

**Results:** The vast majority of respondents (92%) have a friendly relationship with unconventional medicine. A relationship between positive attitude to CAM and age, position in pharmacy, education (acquired title) and the place where the pharmacy is given by (population) has not been confirmed. However, we found a correlation between a positive attitude to CAM and sex of respondents - women (mean score 50.80) have a friendlier attitude toward CAM than men (meanscore 47.45).

**Conclusion:** Czech pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are supportive of unconventional medicine. Further research in this area is desirable.

**Keywords:** complementary medicine, alternative medicine, pharmacists, attitudes