Reviewer's report

Title: The Dawn of African American IBD

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Reviewer: Peter Laszlo Lakatos

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This is a retrospective study on prevalence and health care utilization of African Americans with IBD. According to the authors’ conclusion African Americans represent an increasing proportion of IBD cases and outpatients visits in a university center from Lousiana. In the present form the paper is descriptive, investigating basic patient flow data and heavily biased. There are important limitations that need to be addressed before the paper can be further assessed.

Comments;

1. The authors only calculate from the hospital records, therefore a valid prevalence/incidence cannot be calculated. The numbers are only representative for the center. Moreover, age at the visits are again not representative for age at onset, these are only markers of the patient population seeking medical help. As I understand authors could not assess the records per patient, thus some patients with frequent outpatient visit could heavily influence the age in this subgroup. The same is true for the gender ratio. In addition the disease duration as well as phenotype and other outcomes including surgery, extraintestinal manifestations are unknown (even though authors have investigated some of these according to the methods section). These should be added without it the paper is not suitable for publication

2. The introduction and discussion are too long and are not focusing on the major findings of the manuscript. The discussion needs to be completely rewritten and focused on outcomes investigated in the paper.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests: none