Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of faecal incontinence and its related factors among patients in a Malaysian academic setting.

Version: 1 Date: 14 March 2014

Reviewer: Massimo Bellini

Reviewer's report:

It is a well written paper dealing with an interesting matter, the fecal incontinence. It represents a very important and worldwide problem afflicting, often in a silent way, many people, especially females. It is highly appreciable that the authors underline the need to warrant targeted healthcare interventions and to improve public awareness.

The aim of the study is clearly defined and the methods are sufficiently described. The data are easily understandable and the discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately supported by the data.

Limitations of the work are clearly stated.

Major comments

1) It is highly appreciable try to estimate the unknown prevalence of fecal incontinence in Malaysia, but it is highly debatable to evaluate it only in a gynecological/surgical setting. Many patients are seen also by a gastroenterologist and not only by gynecologists or surgeons. The authors should discuss this issue.

2) The median age of investigated patients was very low, it is probably affected by the fact that obstetric patients are usually young.

3) How many patients were enrolled in O&G and how many in GS? It could heavily affect the gender distribution.

4) It is a bit strange that no statistical significant relationship was observed between FI and gender, even if the author report some data from the literature. Probably they should better discuss this issue and precise if males with FI are older than females.

5) It would be very interesting to know how many women were still fertile? Menopause is a well known risk factor for the occurrence of FI.

6) Was the number of parts and/or pregnancies related in some way to FI?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests.
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'