Reviewer’s report

Title: Systematic Investigation of gastrointestinal diseases in China (SILC): validation of survey methodology

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Reviewer: Mattijs E Numans

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting description of the methodology and first results of a large survey on UPPER GI disease (although the title suggests that more than upper GI disease might seriously be involved) combining information from questionnaires as well as from endoscopy and lab results from the open population. Essentially the main study is on GERD and it would be better to be clearer about that and be more focused. It is very interesting that a large part of the population was willing to be exposed to upper GI endoscopy and biopsies without an indication. Overall the response rates are remarkably high.

The methodology followed seems sound to me. However, representing a more general medical reading audience, I have difficulties with originality and relevance of results and conclusions from this study published in this stage.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have advised on research and development of the RDQ for AstraZeneca Sweden.