Reviewer's report

Title: Gastroesophageal reflux symptoms in infants in a rural population: longitudinal data over the first six months

Version: 1 Date: 13 November 2009

Reviewer: Taher Omari

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Minor Essential Revisions

1. If the authors wish to discuss the mechanisms of reflux triggering, such as TLESR, then they should reference papers describing these in the population being studied.

2. Whilst the discussion is a nice review of many of the studies in the literature, it is too long for this type of paper. The Authors should attempt to shorten it.

3. Assuming that the patients with ‘positive’ scores were in fact false positives as they were healthy infants, the results would suggest that the recommended I-GERQ cut-off should be and made age-specific. This to me is one of the major findings of the study. The Authors should consider a proposing new age-related criteria based on the 95th percentile for each age group.

Discretionary Revisions

4. Figures 2-4 could be removed. Tables 1-3 could be incorporated in text.

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