Reviewer's report

Title: The self-reported prevalence of childhood allergic diseases in three cities in China: a multicentre study

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Reviewer: Ko-Huang Lue

Reviewer's report:

Comments to the Author:

The authors have studied the prevalence of allergic diseases in the pediatric age group in China. This is important in view of the changing prevalence of allergic disease as it would be important to know the age group in which the highest impact occurs. The authors used the ISAAC questionnaire to evaluate the prevalence of allergic diseases in three major cities of China, Beijing, Chongqing and Guangzhou. And the study showed the different prevalence of allergic diseases in 3 major cities with different environments. The environment and lifestyle change in China, the gap in prevalence of allergic disease between China and western countries is gradually narrowing and the prevalence of allergic diseases are relatively high in little children. However there is still lack of clear information on the prevalence of allergic diseases.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. ISAAC questionnaire is a good tool to evaluate the prevalence of allergic disease. But it is suitable for using in the two age group 6-7 years old and 13-14 years old. Why the authors used the same questionnaire to evaluate the aged 0-14?
2. It is very difficult to definite diagnosis of allergic disease, especially asthma less than 5 years old, even less 2 years old by pediatric allergic specialist. How did the authors to standardized and validated the face to face interviewer?
3. In general, the rate of prevalence is higher than current rate (last 12 months), but in Beijing 3.15% vs 5.54%, in Guangzhou 2.09% vs 3.93%, why?

Minor Essential Revisions:
4. In children the prevalence rate from high to low is allergic rhinitis, asthma and atopic eczema, but in this study, atopic eczema is the most high prevalence, Why?
5. The Discussion should be more detail.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.