Reviewer's report

Title: Asthma Prevalence among 16- to 18-year-old Adolescents in Saudi Arabia Using the ISAAC Questionnaire

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Reviewer: Pascal Chanez

Reviewer's report:

In the present paper, a south Arabia group of authors reported the epidemiology of asthma in adolescents in their country using the ISAAC validated questionnaire. They report a prevalence of 25% and new cases around 20%. They describe high incidence of exercise-induced asthma and a very frequent occurrence for rhinitis associated with asthma symptoms. It is a straightforward study and the ms is easy to read and well written.

I would like the present authors to consider and answer the following comments:

The present data have been obtained in a specific group of patients and should then discussed with findings obtained in the same age in various countries. The present authors report that south Arabia findings are different from the Egypt data considering the access to health care providers in the two countries. Then they should compare with countries with the same kind of health care and money income as it was shown to change according to these parameters.

Other points:

The relation to triggers are not well reported: one will be interested to consider the impact of allergy, smoking, obesity etc. in this population and in south Arabia.

The present authors are interested to link asthma and nasal symptoms but the season occurrence of both disease is not mentioned and should be reported in more details.

The specificity of the climate and the way of life in south Arabia “use of air conditioning “ during the childhood and its impact on the occurrence of asthma is a potential interesting point to be discussed.

The gender difference tends to disappear in asthma at adolescence; the authors should discuss this point more carefully.

It is difficult from the present study to consider the severity and control of the disease; some authors have tried to investigate the severity based on epidemiological questionnaire, perhaps the authors need to investigate their database to better classify their subjects with asthma.

It is surprising to consider the results of the childhood ISAAC data and the present report, how the authors explain the global very clear increase in the
subject reporting past or recent symptoms of asthma.

Is it possible for the authors to know if all the subjects were born in south Arabia?

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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