Author's response to reviews

Title: Clinical profile, outcome and improvement in symptoms and productivity in rhinitic patients in Karachi, Pakistan

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Title: Clinical Profile, Outcome and Improvement in Quality of Life in Patients with Allergic Rhinitis

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Reviewer 2: Ignacio Jauregui

1. Reviewer comments:
- Lack of definition of diagnostic criteria for allergic rhinitis
- Lack of definition of tools to measure quality of life.
- Lack of an explanation in the introduction and/or discussion of the unfeasibility, in actual clinical practice in Pakistan, of diagnostic tools in allergy such as skin prick-tests, and of QoL measuring by standardized questionnaires.
- Subjectivity of the suspected “exposure time to allergens”
- Labeling as “occupational rhinitis” of indoor rhinitis in office workers…

Nevertheless, the authors are free to consider them as (what you refer to as) Discretionary Revisions, and ignore them all, of course. The article is well intended and conclusions inferred are probably right. Only, I would withdraw the terms ‘allergic’ and ‘quality of life’ in the title, since the use of these terms can be confusing, and using a new title such as “Clinical profile, outcome and improvement in symptoms and productivity in rhinitic patients in Karachi, Pakistan”. It is my opinion.
Authors reply:
Thank you for providing your valuable input on the manuscript. We greatly appreciate your understanding and respect your comments and opinion. The following points have been duly acknowledged in the Strengths and Limitations section of the manuscript as limitations of the study.

- Lack of definition of diagnostic criteria for allergic rhinitis:

- Lack of definition of tools to measure quality of life.

- Lack of an explanation in the introduction and/or discussion of the unfeasibility, in actual clinical practice in Pakistan, of diagnostic tools in allergy such as skin prick-tests, and of QoL measuring by standardized questionnaires.

- Subjectivity of the suspected “exposure time to allergens”

Also, we realized that the term QOL was not being correctly used. Hence, we have replaced it with “improvement in symptoms and productivity” in the manuscript to avoid confusion as we had not used any technically standardized questionnaire in the study for QOL measurement. We simplified the measurement for practical purposes to enquiries about improvement in symptoms and productivity.

The title has been modified as suggested.

Thank you
Authors