Author's response to reviews

Title: Systematic Review of Worldwide Variations of the Prevalence of Wheezing Symptoms in Children

Authors:

Swatee P Patel (s.p.patel@gre.ac.uk)
Marjo-Riitta Jarvelin (m.jarvelin@imperial.ac.uk)
Mark P Little (mark.little@imperial.ac.uk)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
22nd September 2008

Dr Philippe Grandjean, Dr David Ozonoff,
Editors-in-Chief, *Environmental Health*

Dear Dr Grandjean, Dr Ozonoff

I enclose a revised copy of our article “Systematic review of worldwide variations of the prevalence of wheezing symptoms in children” for publication as a Review in *Environmental Health*. This revised copy has been updated following the comments of the two reviewers’ comments. An itemised set of responses to the referees’ comments is enclosed. We very much look forward to hearing from you as to the acceptability of the manuscript.

All correspondence should be with me, at the details given above. We look forward to hearing from you on our submitted revised our paper.

Yours sincerely

Mark Little

Enc

cc: Ms S Patel
    Professor M-R Järvelin
Response to the comments of referee 2 (Patrick Goodman) on “Systematic review of worldwide variations of the prevalence of wheezing symptoms in children” by S Patel, M-R Jarvelin and MP Little

I have reviewed the revised manuscript and i am happy that the points rasised in my initial review have been addressed.

My only comment for now is that I would still like to see some form of overall conclusion at the end of the manuscript, there is one in the abstract but not in the manuscript itself. The abstract also to be quite long!

Agreed. Although the last paragraph was in effect a conclusion, we have highlighted this with a title, and have slightly augmented it.
Response to the comments of referee 3 (Fritz Horak) on “Systematic review of worldwide variations of the prevalence of wheezing symptoms in children” by S Patel, M-R Jarvelin and MP Little

The corrections of the papers are more than acceptable. The manuscript has sufficiently improved.

Few minors:

p 2 (Abstract) par 2, lnr 2: skip: "in the past 12 months" as this is explained in the method section and can possibly confuse the reader.
Agreed. We have removed this.

p 4, par 2, l 1: there are a multiplicity --> there IS a multiplicity (?)
Agreed. We have changed this.

p4, par 2, l 3: auscultation also includes examination of lower respir. airway, not only upper.
Agreed. We have changed this along the lines suggested by the referee.

p12, par 3, line 3: "a clear increasing trend for both countries". I am aware that the authors are not conform with my impression, that the trend seen in Figure 1 for Australia is only on the basis of two points (early 1980s), with no data until 1990 then. However, I would be happy, if you could weaken the sentence f.e.: "a clear increasing trend for the UK and a trend for Australia". Or "an increasing trend for both countries".
Agreed. We have changed this sentence along the lines suggested by the referee.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.