Reviewer's report

Title: Assessing the Quantity and Quality of Research about Obesity in Arab Countries

Version: 1
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Reviewer: Jesus Vioque

Reviewer's report:

The authors report a bibliometric study of the scientific literature on obesity from Arabic countries that can be retrieved with the ISI Web of Science up to year 2011. This information may be relevant to call the attention from the obesity research community, particularly in Arabic countries where obesity is really prevalent. In the opinion of this reviewer, this paper is well written and the analysis of literature is correct although a more detailed analysis standardising for some country variables would substantially improve the manuscript interest (eg. Number of publications per million population; Number of publications per gross domestic product or number of publications per XXX patients estimated with obesity from available sources; prevalence of obesity by country; etc). Please, see minor comments and suggestions (voluntary).

Minor comments

1. Abstract. Methods or results must define the period of time covered in the literature review (from starting year to 2011).
2. Introduction. Second paragraph, although related to obesity, it has nothing to do with the aim of the manuscript. It should be deleted.
3. Methods. Some more details of the database of ISI Web of Science should be provide and, if possible, some comparative analysis with respect to other database (eg. Medline in Pubmed)
4. Discussion. Page 11. The final part of the first paragraph. There is some repetition with respect to a previous sentence in page 10 (“Furthermore, up to the author’s best knowledge, this is the first bibliometric study to assess obesity research activity from Arab world”. It should be deleted.

There is also a no sense sentence, please for an editing mistake?: “bibliometric studies that assessed….”

Suggestions (discretionary revisions)

A table with some relative index for publicationa as pointed out above

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:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

no conflict of interest to declare