Reviewer's report

Title: Lifestyle factors affecting gastroesophageal reflux disease symptoms: a cross-sectional study of healthy 19864 adults using FSSG scores.

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Reviewer: Mattijs E Numans

Reviewer's report:

This is an average interesting manuscript on a relevant subject. Pro is that it is on a large population sample that seems unselected. Con is that the population is studied with a relatively new questionnaire not validated outside of Japan. I have no major objections on methodology, my main comments are about presentation. Editorial advice is needed, prefarrably native speeking. Overall the manuscript is too long for what it adds to our knowledge. This is partly due to language problems, but it also seems that authors might need to focus one step further. Repeating findings should be avoided unless very much needed to make a point.

Major compulsory Revisions

1. Abstract has too many details in methods and results
2. Introduction needs a clear couple of questions to be answered
3. Methods
   Content of the questionnaires itself should be presented in a figure or table, not in the text.
   A couple of sentences on validation on the questionnaire and its relation to other questionnaires are needed
4. Results should be related to the questions formulated after 2. and need to be presented more concise, with referral to tables
5. Discussion again repeats too many details, try to focus on major positive and negative findings and what others found on this.
6. Conclusion repeats again

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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