Reviewer’s report

Title: FREQUENCY PATTERNS OF CORE CONSTIPATION SYMPTOMS AMONG THE ASIAN ADULTS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Version: 0 Date: 30 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Massimo Bellini

Reviewer’s report:

It is a potentially interesting paper dealing with an intriguing matter: if frequency patterns of constipation symptoms in adults are different between the West and the East.

Constipation represents a very important and worldwide problem afflicting, often in a silent way, many people, especially females.

It is highly appreciable that the authors underline the need to increase the diagnostic confidence of constipation and its subtypes.

The aim of the study is clearly defined and the methods are sufficiently described.

1) Unfortunately I think that the authors should also describe not only core constipation symptoms and their frequency patterns among the Asian adults, but also the same issues in Western population (producing tables comparing the possible geographical differences, if any), and discussing them more in depth. They use only few lines of their paper to describe the "core" symptoms in Western countries.

Inded, in my opinion, this in depth comparison could be the real "news"!

They could use some papers dealing with this matter in Western countries such as:

-Bellini M Chronic constipation diagnosis and treatment evaluation: the "CHRO.CO.DI.T.E." study BMC, 2017


Suárez NC, Prevalence of, and risk factors for, chronic idiopathic constipation in the community: systematic review and meta-analysis. Am J Gastroenterol. 2011;106:1582-91. doi:10.1038/ajg.2011.164. quiz 1, 92. PMID: 2160697


The discussion and conclusions will provide clear benefits because the data shown in these papers, and in many other ones, surely will improve the quality of the paper adequately supporting the authors' opinions

2) In the discussion the authors should report more in depth

-how lifestyle and cultural and dietary behaviours are able to affect the perception of symptoms

-is there a different symptom perception between male and females

3) Here enclosed you'll find also the text with some note added which the authors should reply

4) English could be improved.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.
I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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