Author’s response to reviews

Title: The Prevalence of Obesity in Older Adults in Iran: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Authors:
Aliakbar Vaisi-Raygani (wiza206@gmail.com)
Masoud Mohammadi (masoud.mohammadi1989@yahoo.com)
Rostam Jalali (Rostam@gmail.com)
Akram Ghobadi (Ghobadi@gmail.com)
Nader Salari (Salari@gmail.com)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Ian Cameron (Reviewer 3)

Respond

The authors have appropriately responded to the reviewers' comments and the paper is improved. However, there are a number of additional issues to address.

1. The change in terminology to "older adults" is correct but it is redundant to state "older adult people"

Respond: Corrected

2. The English language expression is improved but there could be further changes. The title and abstract with further editing is shown below.

Respond: used

3. To define adults as "older" if their age is greater than 50 years is not as is usually suggested (see https://www.who.int/healthinfo/survey/ageingdefnholder/en/). If the authors wish to persist with this definition justification for this should be provided.

Respond: Since the study was conducted in Iran and most studies in this country have examined elderly over 50 years (According to references), the present study is in accordance with those studies.
Older adult (within the age range over 50 years and in healthy older adult without any comorbidities in Iran) [12-23].

4. Overall the systematic review and meta-analytic methods are reasonable but there are a number of issues to address. Firstly justification for restricting the searches to studies from 2000 should be given. Secondly excluding articles based on an arbitrary quality score is not recommended. This must be addressed. There might be a justification for exclusion for some studies but that should be clearly justified. In addition, a list of excluded studies should be provided as a Supplementary Appendix.

Respond: Since new studies have been needed for meta-analysis studies to use the results, Studies are selected from 2000 to 2018 years.

The quality score is based on the lowest score obtained in the reviews to eliminate less studies at this stage and to use all studies.

Most of the omitted studies have been studies in which authors in Iran have not had access to the full text of those articles, so there is no list of them.