Author’s response to reviews

Title: How newly diagnosed HIV-positive men who have sex with men look at HIV/AIDS - validation of the Chinese version of the Revised Illness Perception Questionnaire

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear editors and professors:

Thank you for your comments to revise our manuscript “How newly diagnosed HIV-positive men who have sex with men look at HIV/AIDS – validation of the Chinese version of the Revised Illness Perception Questionnaire”. Your comments and suggestions are very helpful guiding our revision. Below, we list the reviewers’ comments along with our responses and specific changes to the manuscript. The changed parts are highlighted in the manuscript. We believe this manuscript is stronger and clearer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Xiaobing Wu

Reviewer reports:

Gregory Phillips (Reviewer 2): I appreciate the authors’ attention to my first round of comments. While there have been some improvements in the grammar and wording of the manuscript, additional work is still needed. Below are my comments:
- **BACKGROUND**

  - It is quite easy to get confused between "newly infected" and "newly diagnosed" individuals within this section, so I would try to make it clear how "newly infected" is defined.

Thanks so much for the suggestion. Newly infection is different from newly diagnosis. Newly infection means the person gets the virus recently. Newly diagnosis means the person takes the HIV testing recently and is finally confirmed to be HIV infection. According to the published research, about 30% to 60% newly diagnosed PLHIV get HIV recently. A lot of infectors do not know their infection status as most of them are asymptomatic.

  - Page 6, Line 3: add "with" between "infected" and "HIV."

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have revised it in the manuscript.

  - Page 6, Lines 5-7: "Newly diagnosed...infect HIV recently" needs some editing to be more understandable.

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have rewritten the sentence.

  - Page 7, Line 9: add "a" between "with" and "chronic."

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have revised it in the manuscript.

  - Page 7, Line 12: "the HIV problem" is an awkward way to say that there is an ongoing HIV epidemic in China.

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have revised it in the manuscript.

  - Page 7, Line 18: change "to infect HIV" to "to be infected with HIV."

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have revised it in the manuscript.

  - Page 7, Line 22: drop "their."

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have deleted the word.

  - **METHODS**

  - Page 9, Line 6: instead of "for lacking time," I would use the phrase "because they did not have time."

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have revised it in the manuscript.
Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have written the sentence.

- Page 9, Line 6: what is meant by "migration?"

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have added the word.

- Page 9, Line 12: add "incentive" after "cash."

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have added the word.

- Page 9, Line 13: add "them" after "compensate."

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have added the word.

- Page 9, Line 21: change "is" to "are."

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have changed the word.

- Page 10, Line 14: change "were" to "was."

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have revised it in the manuscript.

- Page 10, Line 17: "god" is lowercase in this section, but capitalized elsewhere, so this should be consistent.

  - Yes. We have checked the word throughout the manuscript and revised all the word into “god”.

- Page 11, Line 2: was the IPQ-R back-translated into English rather than Chinese, as listed?

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have revised it in the manuscript.

- Page 11, Line 11: change "ranged" to "ranging."

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have revised it in the manuscript.

- Page 11, Line 13: drop "in the present."

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have deleted the words.

- Page 11, Line 16: change "de-emphasize" to "de-emphasizes."

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have revised it in the manuscript.

- Page 11, Line 17: change "5-Likert" to "5-point Likert."

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have revised it in the manuscript.
Page 12, Lines 10-11: change "it" to "they."

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have revised it in the manuscript.

- RESULTS

  - Page 13, Line 6: change "was to "were."

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have revised it in the manuscript.

  - Page 13, Line 8: drop "past."

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have deleted the word.

  - Page 13, Line 9: change "duration" to "time."

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have revised it in the manuscript.

  - Page 14, Line 1: "eigenvalue" is misspelled.

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have revised it in the manuscript.

  - Page 15, Line 1: "not construct factor" should be edited.

Yes. We have rewritten the sentence.

  - Page 15, Line 11: change "were" to "was."

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have revised it in the manuscript.

  - Page 15, Line 24: change "ranged" to "ranging."

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have revised it in the manuscript.

  - Page 16, Line 7 and elsewhere: the parenthetical is entirely italicized, but this was not done in previous sections.

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have revised the style in the whole manuscript.

  - Page 16, Line 14: should "r=21" be "r=0.21?"

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have revised it in the manuscript.
DISCUSSION

- Page 16, Line 20: add "far as" between "as" and "we."

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have added the words.

- Page 17, Line 4: change "as other studies" to "similar to other studies."

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have revised this sentence.

- Page 18, Line 21: change "risk" to "risky."

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have revised it in the manuscript.

- Page 18, Line 23: change "self" to "them."

Thanks so much for the suggestion. We have revised it in the manuscript.

- Page 18, Line 24: what is meant by "careful enough?"

Yes. We have rewritten the sentence.

- Page 19, Line 1: drop "in their mind."

Yes. We have deleted these words.

- Page 19, Line 12: change "to" to "with."

Yes. We have revised it in the manuscript.

- Page 19, Line 13: drop "the."

Yes. We have deleted the word.

- Page 19, Line 15: add a period after "al."

Yes. We have revised it in the manuscript.

- Page 19, Line 18: change "affect" to "affects."

Yes. We have revised it in the manuscript.

- Page 19, Line 20: I don't think "alienate" is the correct word.

Yes. We have revised it in the manuscript.
- Page 20, Line 7: what is meant by "illness representation towards HIV/AIDS?"

Yes. We have revised the sentence.

- CONCLUSION

- Page 21, Line 5: change "period" to "periods."

Yes. We have revised it in the manuscript.

- ABBREVIATIONS

- Page 21, Line 15: change "R-IPQ" to "IPQ-R."

Yes. We have revised it in the manuscript.