Reviewer's report

Title: Functional constipation in infancy and early childhood: Epidemiology, Risk Factors, and Healthcare Consultation

Version: 0 Date: 29 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Ana Rita Goes

Reviewer's report:

The authors made a clear effort to answer to the presented concerns. I keep some concerns/suggestions regarding the present paper:

INTRO: "The authors are invited to present the arguments underlying the risk factors explored." The authors made a good job establishing the rational for the risk factors explored, which almost dismisses the need to justify the participants age groups in the methods. If they include in the intro all the risks being considered for each age group, that information will no longer be necessary at the methods.

METHODS - Measures: "Please clarify how the assessment of psychosocial risk factors was done. You have included several sensitive variables and the way you collected these data may interfere with the results." The authors made a clarification in the answers file, but there is still no information about this within the methods section. I suggest they add some information on this subject (the specific variables collected) when describing the data collection tool. In addition, the structure of the questionnaire presented in additional file 1 is not totally consistent with the description at the methods.

METHODS - Measures: "Please clarify what was understood as "toilet training" as a behavioural intervention" My concern did not intend to question toilet training as a therapeutic intervention. Instead, I was only wondering how did the authors conclude that the child received that intervention because it seemed unlikely to me that the parents could distinguish general counseling on toilet training from a real behavioral intervention. In my opinion, considering the questions from the questionnaire, the authors should name it only as advice/counseling on toilet training - it seems to me that there is not enough information to name it behavioral intervention.
METHODS - Measures - ADDITIONAL COMMENT: I also suggest that information on the kind of interventions explored through the questionnaire be added in the description of the data collection tool.

RESULTS - ADDITIONAL COMMENT: Suggest the authors make a revision on the tables (1, 2, 3) absolute and relative frequencies because there seems to be several mistakes.

RESULTS - ADDITIONAL COMMENT: Considering the kind of questions included in the questionnaire, it seems abusive to me to call behavior modification to interventions that may have been restricted to information giving regarding toilet training.

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

No

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

Yes

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

Yes

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
**Declaration of competing interests**

Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license ([http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal