Author’s response to reviews

Title: Sleep quality in cigarette smokers and nonsmokers: findings from the general population in central China

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Sleep quality in cigarette smokers and nonsmokers: findings from the general population in central China

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BMC Public Health
Dear Editor

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to revise our manuscript again. In the following, we have addressed your comments below.

Editor Comments:

1. Consent:

In your “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section of your declarations please confirm if an ethics committee approved the use of verbal consent instead of written, and why written consent was not necessary for this study. Please also detail how you documented the consent.

Yes, ethics committee approved the use of verbal consent instead of written. This is a very simple and short survey study, and data is collected anonymously and without any personal identifiers. Before the survey, participants were fully informed about the purpose, procedures, measurements, benefits and risks of the study. Thus, the ethics committee think verbal consent is sufficient. We added information in this revised manuscript.

2. Overlap:

We note that some sentences in the Methods section have been reused from one of your previous publications, "Gender and Regional Differences in Sleep Quality and Insomnia: A General Population-based Study in Hunan Province of China" (2017) Scientific Reports https://doi.org/10.1038/srep43690.

While we understand that the methodology is the same, we would appreciate if you try to minimise direct repetition previously published text. Please rephrase the methods and ensure your previous paper has been cited.

Response: Thanks for your suggestion. We rephrased the methods and cited our previous paper.

3. Remove files:

Thank you for uploading your response to reviewers, cover letter, and STROBE checklist. As these files are no longer required at this stage of the editorial process, please remove them from your submission.
Response: We removed the files that not needed here.

4. Headings:

Please amend the following headings in your manuscript, as indicated:

- “Introduction”: please change this to “Background”

Response: We changed “Introduction” to “Background”.

5. Clean manuscript:

Please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Response: We uploaded a clean manuscript.

Thank you for your consideration of this work!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jinsong Tang