Reviewer’s report

Title: Assessing skin disease and associated health-related quality of life in a rural Lao community

Version: 0 Date: 14 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Maria Isabel Schmidgen

Reviewer's report:

The Original Article „Assessing the prevalence of skin disease and associates health-related quality of life in Laos“ by Wootton et al. is an interesting original article and the first study about the prevalence of skin diseases and the associated health-related quality of life in a rural village in Laos.

The following minor points could be taken into consideration.

Background:

Page 5, Line 98-101: The sentence is too long and the reviewer recommends to simplify it.

Results:

Page 6, Line 146: Please ease the expression "0.7:1 male:female ratio", e.g. 0.7 male/female.

Page 7, Line 160-165: Please also provide the number of patients in the brackets.

Page 7, Line 166-172: Please also provide the percentage of patients in the brackets to be clearer. The style of presentation should be similar to the style in the previous paragraph.

Discussion:

Page 8, Line 212: … et al. …

Page 8, Line 213: …finding that an average…

Page 12, Line 294: …and is…

Page 13, Line 308-313: Please use both, numbers and percentages.
You describe, that the most common dermatological disease was eczema (22 % of the participants). Kuroiwa et al. analyzed the prevalence of asthma, rhinitis and eczema in school children from Vientiane (Kuroiwa et al., Prevalence of asthma, rhinitis, and eczema among children in Vientiane city, Lao PDR. Southeast Asian J Trop Med Public Health, 2006 Sep;37(5):1025-33). In this study only 7.1 % of the children suffered from eczema. How was the percentage of children having an eczema in your study? Are the data comparable to the data found by Kuroiwa et al.?

Tables:

Table 1: Please also add the percentages.

Table 2: I would suggest "Percentage of patients" as title of the third column.

Table 3: Please also add the percentages

General:

Have any photographs of the patients been taken? The appearance of skin diseases in patients from south-east Asia might be of interest, especially for not in Asia working medicals.

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.

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:
Acceptable

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