Reviewer's report

Title: A seven-year retrospective analysis of patch test data in a cohort of patients with contact dermatitis in Sri Lanka

Version: 1 Date: 27 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Anna Caroline Pilz

Reviewer's report:

1. The attached table of the shoe series is of poor quality. Please provide a list that is easy to read (sharp letters).

2. Unfortunately, you did not yet correct #2:

Since you did not perform patch tests on randomly selected people of the general population but on patients with contact dermatitis, please replace the term "population" (p.2, l.56) with e.g. "study population" or "tested patients".

3. Please only cite recent papers that contain relevant information for the paper. The aspect that 28.6% of children had a positive reaction in an Israeli study does not add valuable information.

Please cite other more recent and relevant studies in regard to patch test results in Asian countries.

4. Unfortunately, you did not yet correct #12.3 und #12.9:

p.3, l.39: please insert "to" between "estimated" and "be"

p.2/7/8: Please pay attention to small and capital letters (consistent style). If not located at the beginning of a sentence, the mentioned allergens e.g. "nickel sulfate", "potassium dichromate" "thiuram mix", "2-mercaptobenzothiazole", "mercapto mix" do not need to be capitalized.

5. Unfortunately, you did not yet revise the following sentences.

p.3, ll.1-3

p.4, ll.5-8
6. p.5, l.33: Please insert a blank between "48" and "hours"

p.4, l.22: Please remove "irritant"

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 recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published
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