Reviewer's report

Title: The association between objective tongue color and endoscopic findings: Results from the Kyushu and Okinawa Population Study (KOPS)

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Reviewer: Jia-Xu Chen

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P3, line 11 - line 12, Conclusions: the authors regarded that "the color of the middle area of the tongue body reflects acute change of gastric mucosa, such as EG". According the traditional medicine, the middle tongue coating is more related to the GI tract, and the tongue color including the tongue body color and tongue coating color, please make sure which kind of color; and explain why the authors did not use the tongue coating quality other than the tongue coating color?

P9, line 3 - line 5, the authors considered that "the coating of the tongue does not grow on the edge of the tongue, and the color of that point can be considered the color of the tongue body"; why not use the apex of the tongue as the color of that point can be considered the color of the tongue body? because of this area few coating of the tongue.

P9, line 8 - line 9, as the authors considered that "the middle of the tongue reflects the stomach and pancreas (GI tract traditional medicine), therefore, is there any association of this area tongue color with endoscopic findings, other than areas tongue color?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'