Author’s response to reviews

Title: Association between anthraquinone laxatives and colorectal cancer: protocol for a systematic review and meta-analysis

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor in Chief
BMC Systematic Reviews

Florence, Italy, January 7th 2020

Fwd: Your submission to Systematic Reviews - SYSR-D-19-00322R1

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your mail of 03 January 2020, and for considering our paper to be potentially acceptable for publication in Systematic Reviews.

Please find enclosed our point-by-point response to reviewers’ comments (all changes included in the article are in red), as suggested in your mail.
We would be happy to assist your Editorial staff whether further questions should arise, and look forward to receiving your final decision.

Best regards,

Prof. Alfredo Vannacci

Corresponding author on behalf of all the Authors

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Reviewer reports:

Reviewer #2:

Title: Association between anthraquinone laxatives and colorectal cancer: protocol for a systematic review and meta-analysis.

The authors have extensively edited the previous manuscript and significantly improved it. However, the following revisions are required before publication.

* On the title; delete "the full stop (.)

We removed it.

* Page 2 line 11-12
Delete ", for clinical trials and observational studies performed on subjects taking AQ laxatives, assessing the incident of CRC"

We deleted it.

* Page 2 line 22
Change "subjects" to "participants" or any other suitable word

We changed it.

* I think "STRENGTHS OF THIS STUDY" is not need not be included in the abstract

We removed this section from the abstract.
We deleted it.

Why only articles written in the English language?
We modified the sentence as follows: “We will include articles written in any language.”

Page 9 line 7; "If studies are sufficiently homogeneous ..." How can you measure sufficiency?
We removed “sufficiently”.

Page 10 line 46-47
"This risk could be greater for self-administered products that are easily available without a medical prescription." This statement could only be asserted only after completing your review, otherwise provide a reference/evidence.
We used the form "could", therefore, in our opinion, this is not a statement but only a hypothesis.

Page 13; should be placed before the reference list
We placed page 13 before the reference list.

Page 13; Change "Contributors" to "Authors contribution"
We changed it.

Page 13 line 13; is that "have not declared" or "have not received"
We corrected “declared” with “received”.