Reviewer’s report

Title: Selective citation in scientific literature on the human health effects of bisphenol A

Version: 0 Date: 03 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Lukas Schwingshackl

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the manuscript: Selective citation in scientific literature on the human health effects of bisphenol A. Urlings et al. presented a citation network analysis on human health effect of bisphenol A (BPA). Overall, the authors included 169 publications and observed that studies showing an association have a 1.5 times greater chance of being cited compared to studies showing no association. Thus the authors concluded citation is mostly driven by positive study outcome and author related factors, such as high authority within the network. Moreover, the authors questioned also to which extent the knowledge development in human literature on BPA is actually evidence-based.

Although I have to say, that I am not an expert in the field of network analysis, I believe that the authors have performed a very good job. The paper is well and clearly written and the methods applied seem to be state of the art.

My comments are all of minor nature:

* Please add in the Abstract type and amount of study designs across the included 169 publications

* Introduction: please add information regarding tolerable daily intake (safe level) of BPA from various authorities (e.g. EFSA). It might of be interest if there are large differences between authorities

* Page 4: Search strategy. Please add date of literature search

* Although the authors presented their results in various Tables, it would be great if the authors could provide some additional Figure in the paper (e.g. PubMedID: 26888870

* Figure 1: please be more specific regarding the box "Publications excluded based on full text"; The References for all these studies could be added in the Supplementary material; please provide also the exact number of studies excluded for each of the sub-reasons.

Level of interest

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English
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Acceptable

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