

Answer to Reviewer comments

Manuscript NO: 41455

Title: The association between functional abdominal pain disorders and asthma in adolescents: A cross sectional study.

Reviewer #1:

Comment:

For the definition of functional abdominal pain disorders, Rome IV criteria should be used.

Answer:

I agree with the reviewer that the most recent criteria for FGIDs are Rome IV criteria. However, at the time of data collection for this study, Rome IV criteria and questionnaires had not been released and therefore, we used validated and translated Rome III questionnaire for data collection and Rome III criteria for diagnosis of functional abdominal pain disorders. This fact is also discussed under limitations of the study.

Reviewer #2:

Comment:

This study titled "The association between functional abdominal pain disorders and asthma in adolescents: A cross-sectional study." has determined a strong independent association between asthma and three different types of "Functional abdominal pain disorders" (functional dyspepsia, abdominal pain, and functional abdominal pain) in children. Authors pointed out the importance of upper gastrointestinal symptoms which were more common among children with asthma. There are some mistakes which need to be corrected before publication ; 1. The explanations of the abbreviations should be added when first using in the abstract. 2.

There are some grammar mistakes in the text. For example.; " This too could contribute to the lower HRQoL in adolescents with only FAPDs".

Answer:

We thank the reviewer for pointing out these mistakes and they have been corrected in the revised manuscript.

Reviewer #3:

Comment:

This is a very well designed and written study focusing on the association of asthma with FAPDs. The only suggestion for improvement would be to address briefly in the introduction why asthma should be studied in comparison with FAPDs. Although shared mechanisms are addressed in the discussion, the study rationale should address this as well in the introduction.

Answer:

We thank the reviewer for your valuable suggestion. Introduction of the study has been revised according to the reviewer comment.

Reviewer #4:

Comment:

This article "The association between functional abdominal pain disorders and asthma in adolescents: A cross sectional study" is the first study which has reported the impact of asthma on quality of life among Sri Lankan adolescents. The author found that adolescents with both diseases (FAPDs and asthma) had lower HRQoL than children with asthma alone, and children having only FAPDs had lower total HRQoL score than adolescents with asthma alone. However, no association was observed between asthma and irritable bowel syndrome which in contrast to previous studies among adults. In discussion part, the author discussed why asthma and IBS, two different disorders involving two different systems, are associated with

each other, but hadn't explained why in their research there have no association between IBS and asthma.

Answer:

We revised the discussion to explain possible mechanisms by which asthma and FGIDs are associated with each other. However, why there is no association between asthma and IBS in the current study could not be explained by currently available research data and further studies are needed for this.

Please note that in previous studies have reported that in patients with IBS, even without respiratory symptoms (or asthma), tend to have lower FEV1 and higher airway resistance which we have discussed under common pathophysiological mechanisms for both disorders. May be the increase in airway resistance is not large enough to produce symptoms of asthma in pediatric IBS.

Since no previous studies conducted in airway resistance of other FAPDs such as FAP, FD and AM, we cannot comment on similar effect on them. It might be that the increase in airways resistance in other FAPDs types is large enough to produce symptoms of asthma. This needs to be investigated in the future studies.