

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 58328

**Title:** Relationship of meteorological factors and air pollutants with medical care utilization for gastroesophageal reflux disease

**Reviewer's code:** 04025443

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Doctor, Senior Researcher

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Russia

**Author's Country/Territory:** South Korea

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-07-19

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-07-19 15:28

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-07-24 08:12

**Review time:** 4 Days and 16 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	[ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Grade A: Excellent [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade B: Very good [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade C: Good [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade D: Fair [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	[ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade A: Priority publishing [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	[ <input type="radio"/> ] Accept (High priority) [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Accept (General priority) [ <input type="radio"/> ] Minor revision [ <input type="radio"/> ] Major revision [ <input type="radio"/> ] Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	[ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Yes [ <input type="radio"/> ] No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="radio"/> ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="radio"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] No



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## **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The manuscript provides the data of a national study on the correlation between meteorological factors and healthcare utilization related to GERD. Several considerations were taken into the account during review process. Novelty: the study is original and novel; no other studies (at least with such a sample size and number of studied parameters) was published. Adequacy: The methods used for data collection, and especially statistical analysis, are relevant for the study purpose, allow to make the conclusions provided by the authors. The study provides new data that have scientific and practical importance. The study has several limitations, however most of them are addressed by the authors in the discussion. I have only a few minor comments. Though meteorological factors are well-described, there is some uncertainty on the type of GERD-related medical care sources utilizations. Normally in health care, "utilization" is the consumption of services or supplies, such as the number of office visits a person makes per year with a health care provider, the number of prescription drugs taken, or the number of days a person is hospitalized etc (McGraw-Hill Concise Dictionary of Modern Medicine. (2002)). This information is important and requires clarification as causality in case of GERD may depend on different factors - either dependant on the disease itself (like symptom exacerbation) or behaviour models, not directly related with the disease itself. Probably type of utilization, like physician office visit or new prescriptions of PPI should be analysed separately in the further studies. It is not quite clear, whether the code for "fundoplication" served a stop-criterion for further analysis of a patient's use of medical care resources related to GERD? The date of GERD-related medical utilization was defined as the first date of PPI administration, however GERD is a chronic condition that requires long-term treatment with PPIs especially in case of erosive esophagitis. Thus, it is not clear whether the start of PPI treatment really a good



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time point for this purpose. A number of medical procedures was used to support the diagnosis of GERD. Still, some of them are not routinely used to support the diagnosis (like esophageal manometry), the others are usually performed in certain situations (like esophageal pH monitoring). Please, explain inclusion of these procedures in the analysis (for example in the discussion). As only data of urban population was used for the analysis, it may be necessary to reflect this in the title. Moreover, health care resource utilization may depend on some other factors, like type of health care system, insurance coverage of the procedures/visits/treatment, specialists availability etc. It is clear, that in a single country, these factors may not be taken into the account as the situation is more or less homogeneous in different cities. However, this also may need to be addressed in the discussion (for example in context of further research). Despite mentioned above, the data, provided by the authors may serve as a basis for further research and may be helpful for practice. The reviewed manuscript requires language polishing (see, for example, page 8, lines 3-4; page 12, line 1).

## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 58328

**Title:**

Relationship of meteorological factors and air pollutants with medical care utilization for gastroesophageal reflux disease in urban area

**Reviewer's code:** 04025443

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Doctor, Senior Researcher

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Russia

**Author's Country/Territory:** South Korea

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-07-19

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-08-20 09:04

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-08-20 09:40

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The authors made appropriate corrections, that improved the manuscript quality. I really enjoyed reading this paper. Congratulations with a great job done!