

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 72785

Title: Epidemiological characteristics of Asian children with inflammatory bowel disease at diagnosis: Insights from an Asian-Pacific multi-centre registry network

Provenance and peer review: Invited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05060484

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Israel

Author's Country/Territory: Singapore

Manuscript submission date: 2021-11-03

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-11-07 19:58

Reviewer performed review: 2021-11-07 20:53

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" 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 Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<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
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



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Peer-reviewer statements	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

This is a well written concise article, discussing the important issue of IBD prevalence in the Asia -Pacific region, and the rise of disease prevalence in the last years. One question that should be addressed is the availability of medical services in those different countries and among these various populations, If medical services are not equally available it might cause a bias in the results, therefore this should be addressed, either by stating the medical services are equally available to all, or by describing the differences and how they affect the results minor language corrections: page 5 line 5 in the results section should be: An over-representation of the page 6 4th line from the bottom An over-representation page 16 top line: CD cohorts reporting even higher rates

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Title: Epidemiological characteristics of Asian children with inflammatory bowel disease at diagnosis: Insights from an Asian-Pacific multi-centre registry network

Provenance and peer review: Invited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03474116

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: AGAF, MD, PhD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Japan

Author's Country/Territory: Singapore

Manuscript submission date: 2021-11-03

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-11-24 11:43

Reviewer performed review: 2021-11-26 05:40

Review time: 1 Day and 17 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" 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
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
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Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Peer-reviewer statements	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

General: In this study, the authors investigated the presenting features of PIBD in 7 pediatric gastroenterology centers across six Asia-Pacific regions between 1st January 1995 to 31st December 2019. The concept of this study is interesting and this study was well written. Major comments: 1. Etiology of pediatric IBD may differ between South-East and East-Asian populations. Why did not authors investigate East-Asian populations? 2. As authors suggested, number of pediatric IBD is increasing. This findings may associate with number and rate of CT scanning and endoscopy for patients with diarrhea and abdominal pain.

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Provenance and peer review: Invited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03307766

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, MSc, PhD

Professional title: Associate Professor, Director, Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Kazakhstan

Author's Country/Territory: Singapore

Manuscript submission date: 2021-11-03

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-11-24 02:18

Reviewer performed review: 2021-11-30 02:42

Review time: 6 Days

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" 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
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
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Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Peer-reviewer statements	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

- This is one of the first multi-centric and international publication extensively dedicated to pediatric IBDs from Asia-Pacific regions. However, the title refers to “Epidemiological characteristics of ASIAN children...”. I think the authors should specify in the title that this study refers to a specific Asian region, namely the Pacific region of Asia, as specified several times in the main manuscript. - In the introduction and/or in the discussion, I think the authors should emphasize the point that Asia (like Africa) are not necessarily true “low-prevalence regions”. Indeed, there are some regions of Asia where there is a lack of any type of study or report about pediatric IBDs, like Central Asia (as discussed in Pediatric Ulcerative Colitis in Kazakhstan: First Case Series from Central Asia and Current Clinical Management, Gastroenterol. Insights 2020, 11(2), 27-35; <https://doi.org/10.3390/gastroent11020006>), Nepal (as emerges from Epidemiology of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases in Nepal. Cureus. 2021 Jul 28;13(7):e16692. doi: 10.7759/cureus.16692.) or Afghanistan, for instance. - “The biostatistician is Yoko Wong who is listed as the second author of this manuscript”. I would suggest removing this sentence and, conversely, to clarify the specific authors’ contribution in the appropriate statement at the end of the manuscript or in the title page, according to the editorial rules of the manuscript. - the statistical methods need more detailed description. - in the materials and methods, there is no ethical statement. The authors should report the number and date of all the IRB approvals, if appropriate, or at least the one received by the Singapore Clinical Research Institute, which is the site where the data were centralized. - In table 1, demographic information is completely missing: please, add it. - For the rest, figures and tables look all appropriate. - The results are clear and



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appropriately described, overall. - The discussion is also comprehensive; as previously mentioned, I would suggest adding some more comments about the epidemiological situation and mention about lack of knowledge on pediatric IBDs in other Asian regions.

- the conclusion should provide clear final messages and not only future perspective.

Please, revise the conclusions accordingly.

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Academic degree: AGAF, MD, PhD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Japan

Author's Country/Territory: Singapore

Manuscript submission date: 2021-11-03

Reviewer chosen by: Jing-Jie Wang (Online Science Editor)

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-01-05 22:49

Reviewer performed review: 2022-01-06 03:00

Review time: 4 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
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Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Authors have well revised according to reviewer's and editor's comments.