

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors:

Authors have written an editorial on Casual links between Gastroesophageal reflux disease and essential hypertension. I have few comments. 1. Authors are writing an editorial. They should include comments about the original study by Wei et al with regard to methodology, statistics and results. This may include strength of the study as well as any shortcomings. 2. They should include a conclusive statement for the readers at the end of the article.

Answer 1: We thank the authors for the valuable comments we have included comments on the original study by Wei et al with regard to methodology, stats, strengths, shortcomings and results in the manuscript.

“In the study by Wei et al the authors describe pleiotropy in the initial analysis suggesting the association with the exposure is weak between GERD and essential hypertension (OR 1.46) that required changing the data of hypertension. The final odds ratio after changing the data is 1.002 between GERD and essential hypertension. The authors also state they detected heterogeneity and horizontal pleiotropy between GERD and diastolic blood pressure suggesting absence of a strong causal relationship between GERD and diastolic blood pressure. GERD is also thought to provoke arrhythmia and bradycardic episodes predisposing to hypertensive heart disease in literature.^[7, 12] Wei et al also describes the association between GERD and hypertensive heart disease. Similar to prior studies Wei et al also describes an association between GERD and renal disease.^[8]” ^[18, 19] GERD is a disease that can be influenced by several factors. Certain lifestyle factors, dietary habits, medications, or comorbidities that were not adequately accounted for in the analysis could influence the observed associations. The Mendelian randomization study conducted by Wei et al is unable to measure multiple confounding

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factors that influence the association between GERD and hypertension and therefore the results drawn may be distorted.”

Answer 2: There is a causal and bidirectional relationship between GERD and HTN. This correlation is influenced by patients' underlying comorbidities, medications, dosage, and duration of usage.

(1) Science editor:

1 Conflict of interest statement: No conflict of interest.

2 Manuscript's theme: The topic is within the scope of the journal.

3 Academic misconduct: No academic misconduct was found.

4 Scientific quality: The authors submitted a manuscript discussing the causal links between gastroesophageal reflux disease and essential hypertension. The manuscript is overall qualified.

(1) Advantages and disadvantages: The reviewer has given positive peer-review reports for the manuscript. Scientific Classification: Grade C; Language Quality: Grade B. Authors have written an editorial on Casual links between Gastroesophageal reflux disease and essential hypertension.

(2) Table(s) and figure(s): There are no tables and figures.

(4) References: A total of 18 references are cited, including 4 published in the last 3 years. There are no self-cited references of the authors. The cited references are overall sufficient and reasonable. The reviewer didn't request the authors to cite improper references published by him/herself. The WJCC article which this editorial discussed has been listed in the references list (Ref. 1).

5 Language evaluation: The English-language grammatical presentation needs to be improved to a certain extent.

6 Medical ethics: Please provide the filled conflict-of-interest disclosure form.

7 Specific comments: No specific comments.

8 Recommendation: Conditional acceptance.

1. Please provide the short running title (no more than 6 words).

Answer: Causal links between GERD and Hypertension

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Answer: Done

2. Answer to reviewers: Please provide point to point answer to all reviewers.

Answer: Done

3. Please check the full name of LOS "lower esophageal sphincter".

Answer: It is correct

4. Please provide the full name of OR.

Answer: Done