

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

February 13, 2015



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 16278-review.doc).

Title: Significance of Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Author: Xingshun Qi, Zhiping Yang, Ming Bai, Yongji Wang

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Meta-Analysis*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 16278

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

Reviewed by 02451558

This review was designed to clarify: 1) systematic reviews can provide the highest level of evidence for clinical decision; 2) systematic reviews can propose unresolved issues and future directions; 3) systematic reviews can avoid the harms of human body; and 4) systematic reviews can prevent from the wastes of resources. It was written well, however, some major concerns should be resolved.

1. Title: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis in China: Don't Be Ashamed The contents of this review were not in accordance with the title. The contents of this review only showed that systematic reviews and meta-analyses can provide the highest level of evidence for clinical decision, propose unresolved issues and future directions, avoid the harms of human body, and prevent from the wastes of resources. However, they could not explain the title. The title is suggested to be changed.

2. From the title, the authors should describe something about the systematic review and meta-analysis in China. However, I could not find something about China in this review. It could not be connected with China. "In china" should be deleted from the title.

3. In the title: Don't Be Ashamed. As described in this review, China contributed over 1000 meta-analysis papers in 2012 and there was a 40-fold increase in the annual number of meta-analyses in the genomic era for China from 2003 to 2011. I could not find that Chinese investigators are ashamed for doing systematic reviews and meta-analyses instead of original clinical experimental studies. They felt very well, not ashamed. What the authors said was totally opposed to the facts. The title is suggested to be revised.

4. Abstract In this circumstance, the significance of systematic reviews and meta-analyses is seriously distorted. Herein, we illustrate several classical examples to clarify The logic is wrong. Please re-write the abstract.

Answer: Thank you for your review.

According to your comments, we would like to revise the title and abstract.

The revised title was "**Systematic review and meta-analysis: Why are they clinically significant?**".

The revised abstract was as follows:

"This review aims to clarify the clinical significance of systematic reviews and meta-analyses by illustrating

several classical examples. First, systematic reviews can provide the highest level of evidence for clinical decision. Second, systematic reviews can propose unresolved issues and future directions. Third, systematic reviews can avoid the harms of human body. Fourth, systematic reviews can prevent from the wastes of resources. Generally speaking, clinical researchers should be encouraged to perform systematic reviews and meta-analyses."

Reviewed by 02467561

Dear Authors, Your manuscript is focused on an important topic, underlining the significance of systematic reviews and meta-analysis. I have just some comments and suggestions. - In my opinion, the title does not fully reflect the aims and the contents of the paper. - The conclusions should be argued in more detail, showing why and how to improve the quality of systematic reviews and meta-analysis.

Answer: Thank you for your review.

First, according to your insightful comments, we would like to revise the title as **"Systematic review and meta-analysis: Why are they clinically significant?"**.

Second, we deleted the paragraph about the quality of systematic reviews and meta-analyses. In the current version, we did not discuss why and how to improve the quality of systematic reviews and meta-analyses.

Reviewed by 02460781

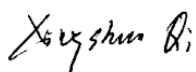
This manuscript is to clarify the significance of systematic reviews and meta-analysis. Systematic review and meta analysis are common methods of EBM research. The controversial issue can be thorough analyzed. However, at present, there are a large part of the medical researchers doesn't comprehend of evidence-based medicine. Even there is prejudice against Chinese work. So this review is timely. This article is plain and pungent. The proof is properly. It might be a big inspiration for the people who do not know the evidence-based medicine. It also has important significance for promoting the popularization of evidence-based medicine. But, the title does not fully reflect the aims and the contents of the paper. The authors should modify the title to conform the title to the content.

Answer: Answer: Thank you for your review. According to your insightful comments, we would like to revise the title as **"Systematic review and meta-analysis: Why are they clinically significant?"**.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Meta-Analysis*.

Sincerely yours,



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