

May 27, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 18848-edited.doc).

Title: The psychosocial impact of Irritable Bowel Syndrome: mental health, quality of life, daily functioning, and economic burden. A brief review.

Author: Sarah Ballou, Alyse Bedell, Laurie Keefer

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 18848

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers. Changes are highlighted in yellow:

1 The title must be informative, specific, and brief (Title should be no more than 10~12 words/60 bytes. Please revise it). Words should be chosen carefully for retrieval purposes. All nonfunctional words should be deleted, such as 'the', 'studies on', 'observations of', and 'roles of', etc.\

The title has been changed accordingly

2 Please write a summary of no more than 100 words to present the core content of your manuscript, highlighting the most innovative and important findings and/or arguments. The purpose of the Core Tip is to attract readers' interest for reading the full version of your article and increasing the impact of your article in your field of study.

A summary has been written and added to the manuscript

3 All figures, tables and legends should not be in the main text. They should be put at the end of this paper.

Figure 1 has been moved to the end of the manuscript, following the references.

4 Please add PubMed citation numbers and DOI citation to the reference list and list all authors. Please revise throughout. The author should provide the first page of the paper without PMID and DOI.

PMID (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db=PubMed>)

DOI (<http://www.crossref.org/SimpleTextQuery/>)

The reference list has been added in the required format

5 Reviewer 00033010 stated "Authors should report which questionnaires and clinical evaluation scales are commonly used to investigate quality of life in IBS".

This point has been addressed on page 5 of the manuscript. However, due to limitations on number of allowable references, the authors are not able to provide a list of commonly used, well-validated quality of life measures. These would include the Short-Form 12; the Short-Form 36; the Quality of Life Questionnaire; and the Health-Related Quality of Life questionnaire. These measures are well-known and easily accessible.

6 Reviewer 00033010 stated "Cognitive behavioral therapy should be explained more in depth. In detail, it is important to estimate quantitatively the effectiveness of this treatment in IBS".

A more detailed description of CBT, with quantitative information about the effectiveness of this treatment, is provided on page 4 of the manuscript.

7 Reviewer 00033010 stated "Percentages about the prevalence of psychiatric comorbidities are lacking, and could

be enclosed in a table”.

Overall percentages of psychiatric comorbidity (40-60%) are provided on page 4. It is beyond the scope of this manuscript to review the literature to identify specific percentages for each psychiatric comorbidity. Given significant overlap between symptoms of psychiatric illness, high prevalence of sub-threshold psychiatric conditions, and large proportions of individual with IBS who do not seek treatment, it is very difficult to estimate prevalence of individual psychiatric comorbidity in patients with IBS.

8 Reviewer 00033010 stated “Are there studies which have demonstrated if current therapies for IBS (drugs or psychological treatments) are able to improve the quality of life? If yes, is the economic burden linked to these treatments cost-effective to compensate the lost work productivity?”

Research studies have shown that psychological treatments for IBS (i.e. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) are effective in improving quality of life. The relationship between quality of life and economic burden is complicated and indirect. Improved quality of life may be associated with reduced symptoms, which would be associated with fewer medical visits and fewer missed days of work.

9 Reviewer 00033010 stated “The conclusion is too short, and needs to be further discussed.”

Please see edited conclusion on pages 7 and 8.

10 In regards to the cross check, the highlighted sentences indicating “overlap” were all generic sentences (i.e. “IBS is associated with...”) and rewording these sentences would negatively affect the clarity of this paper.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

Sarah Ballou
Northwestern University
676 N Saint Clair, Suite 1400
Chicago, IL 60611
sarahballou2015@u.northwestern.edu