

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019

Dear Lian-Shen, Jin-Zhou and Reviewers

Manuscript Number: 51511

Thank you for the precious opportunity to improve our manuscript. We sincerely thank the editors and reviewers for their time and comments. We are heartened by the positive feedback and the potential acceptance of our manuscript. We acknowledge various points that require further elaboration.

Please allow me to address the reviewers' comments point-by-point. Once again thank you for the opportunity to improve this manuscript.

REVIEWER 1: *It is a very nice try to establish the epidemiology of IBD in South America. Figure 3 is not visible*

>> Thank you for this feedback. We can confirm that the reference to Figure 3 was in fact a typographical error and this has since been removed. We have also further proof-read the manuscript.

REVIEWER 2: *The idea of the study is nice yet the study design could have improved if it was cross sectional and not based on the results of other studies. Otherwise more references should be included as only 27 references are few for a systematic review*

>> Thank you for this advice. We agree that population-based cross sectional or longitudinal studies will be very useful in capturing the disease burden of inflammatory bowel disease within the South American continent. This is especially important given the current scarcity of high-quality epidemiological studies on Inflammatory Bowel Disease from this region.

>> Collective epidemiological data is not currently available from the South American continent. The aim of our research was therefore to perform a systematic review of the current inflammatory bowel disease literature from this region. To achieve this, we utilised a comprehensive search strategy in accordance with the PRISMA checklist. Only 18 studies met inclusion criteria due to the limited existing epidemiological data available from this region. As a consequence, 32 references in total have been cited in our manuscript.

EDITOR:

>> Thank you for your valuable comments throughout the manuscript. We understand and agree with all of your suggestions. As a consequence, the following changes have been made to the manuscript:

- Running Title, Keywords, Core tip and Article highlights have all been included
- Author and Corresponding Author information has been updated with more detail
- Colours used in Figure 2 have been changed to be considerate of colour-blind readers
- Subtitles have been distinguished to reflect WJG convention
- In-text citations have been modified to reflect WJG convention
- Abbreviations in figures and tables have been removed
- Reference list has been modified to include PMID and DOI for each reference
- All figures and tables have also been uploaded in editable format onto a PPT file

As requested, the above changes have also been highlighted in the updated version of the manuscript.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rupert Leong', with a stylized, cursive script.

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