

Reviewer #1:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade C (Good)

**Language Quality:** Grade B (Minor language polishing)

**Conclusion:** Major revision

**Specific Comments to Authors:** It is an interesting cross-sectional study of estimated prevalence of mental disorders in Chinese medical students. The main strength is the number of participants. Also it is important that describes the phenomena in a different cultural environment than in western societies and certain correlations can be made. Suggested interventions:

1. Review from a native English speaker

Reply: Thanks to the valuable comments of the reviewers. This article has been reviewed from a native English speaker again.

2. Confine the tables to 3-4. This amount of information may make the reader tired and does not improve the quality of the paper

Reply: Thanks for the valuable advice of the reviewers. The forms have been reduced to 4. The content of the deleted forms was simply expressed in the article.

3. It should be stressed (in the title and elsewhere) that this is about the estimated prevalence and not the real one, because the participants were not examined by psychiatrists

Reply: Thanks to the suggestions of reviewers. The prevalence in the paper has been adjusted to the estimated prevalence.

4. Results such as the strikingly low rate of drug abuse or eating disorders should be discussed more extensively taking into consideration the cultural context

Reply: Thanks for the valuable advice of the reviewers. Results such as the strikingly low rate of drug abuse or eating disorders have been discussed more extensively: Unlike the findings of many western scholars, the estimated prevalence of drug abuse and eating disorders in this study was low. This may have something to do with the differences between Chinese and western cultures. In terms of drug abuse, China has strict supervision on addictive drugs, so students have less exposure to addictive drugs. Moreover, medical students have some understanding of pharmacology and are more aware of the harm of drug abuse. In terms of

eating disorders, most medical students focus on finishing school and pay less attention to habitus index, so fewer of them lose weight through excessive dieting, which may explain the lower incidence of anorexia. Medical students understand nutritional metabolism and the importance of regular diet, which may also explain the low prevalence of eating disorders.

5. Were the students who had a diagnosis from the MINI, but not examined by a psychiatrist, referred to a psychiatrist for proper examination and treatment?

Reply: Thanks to the valuable comments of the reviewers. The purpose of this study was to establish mental health records for students, and psychiatrists were involved in the whole screening process. Our mental health department has opened a convenient channel for students diagnosed with mental diseases by MINI 5.0. Students can voluntarily go to the hospital for treatment, and psychiatrists will give more comprehensive examination and evaluation at any time.

Reviewer #2:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade B (Very good)

**Language Quality:** Grade B (Minor language polishing)

**Conclusion:** Rejection

**Specific Comments to Authors:**

a. The authors need to mention, that which version of MINI was used in the abstract?

Reply: Thanks to the suggestions of reviewers. We have corrected the version of MINI to MINI 5.0 in the abstract.

b. The study was conducted during October 2021 to November 2021 in one of the major epicentre of COVID-19, the COVID-19 related changes are likely to affect the mental health of the medical students. Hence, it limits the generalizability of the study findings. The findings will not have any significance at the current scenario. Several articles related to COVID-19 among medical students referring to the mental health domain are already published which significantly reduce the novelty of this research. This article may be of some relevant for the regional journal (but I doubt about it too).

Reply: Thanks to the valuable comments of the reviewers. The investigation node of this study

was a relatively stable period for the COVID-19 pandemic in Shijiazhuang. Students' lives on campus have been largely unaffected by the outbreak. Although students do not have free access to the school, there are a variety of extracurricular activities within the school. The results of this study may have been influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, but there was no significant increase in the prevalence of mental illness among medical students in this study compared to other studies. It may have something to do with the fact that school leaders pay attention to the balance between COVID-19 prevention and students' mental health. The student mental health Service Center has taken various measures to alleviate the psychological impact of COVID-19 on students, including organizing psychological support groups. It may also provide reference for other universities to carry out psychological services for college students.