

Answering reviewers

All of the point-by-point changes are mentioned below together with an explanation of the modifications.

Reviewer 2

Dear author, it is a well designed and hard working study. If you write the incidence of IBD in

each country in separate paragraphs, it would be more easy to read.

We would like to thank the reviewer for invaluable help in the revision of our manuscript and remarks. The exact incidence of IBD in each country is presented in the tables 1 and 2 and the worldwide incidence of IBD and subtypes stratified by geographic region are presented in interactive global maps (Figure1-4). The data extracted included the main author, geographical location (area and country), study period, year of publication, the incidence of IBD, CD, UC and IBD-U and references. We summarized and discussed the time trend and incidence for each country and region in separate paragraphs of discussion. We have amended our text in light of the reviewer's comments.

Reviewer 1

The Authors performed a systematic review of all papers dealing with PIBD incidence worldwide. The paper is well written and clear but I have two major concerns: Discussion section is extremely long and should be moved to results section in a Table format (as partially done by the Authors). As such, the discussion must be completely rewritten. I do not think that this paper adds new knowledges to the available literature data but confirms what

is already known providing a clear picture of the incidence of PIBD. This looks more like a popular publication than a scientific paper. Alternatively, the paper could be submitted to a more epidemiologically-oriented

We thank the reviewer kindly for the suggestions and have incorporated invaluable reminder into the article. In response to this valid suggestion, we have changed the text of the manuscript in accordance with the reviewer's suggestions. These changes have now been effected, as per the reviewer's instructions and the necessary amendments have been made.

We sincerely believe that the manuscript now adheres to all of the requirements stipulated by the reviewer. With regards to the overall length of the article, as stated earlier, we have taken all the possible measures to shorten the text. We believe that any further shortening would result in a loss of the fundamental points that we wish to put forward to the readers. We have substantially reduced and shortened the discussion to conserve the essence of our deductions and we have now rewritten the discussion to address this very valid point made by the reviewer. We now feel that the text now focuses on the main message of the work related to all aspects and the aims of our manuscript. Furthermore, the results are fully summarized in Tables 1-2 and in interactive maps (Figures 1-4). We summarized and discussed trends over time and incidence for each country and region in separate sections. Though it is easily possible to include many additional facts and points for discussion and debate, we have had to come to a balanced compromise. We hope that this is now satisfactory.

The incidence of IBD is increasing worldwide in both adults and children. As an increasing body of evidence in the basic science literature associates the increasing incidence with the a major role of the environmental factors. Thus, knowledge of the incidence of IBD and trends are essential to define new etiological hypotheses and predictors for the development of IBD

and to better define health care burden of managing childhood-onset IBD. Furthermore, additional evidence has recently become available since the publication of previous reviews. Collectively, these observations make this an appropriate and opportune time to complete recent rigorous systematic reviews. The purpose of systematic review is to deliver a meticulous summary of all the available research in response to a research question using all the existing research. Our aim was to delineate the latest results of incidence trends in pediatric IBD. We aimed to perform a comprehensive systematic review to identify and summarize existing worldwide incidence and trends of pediatric IBD regarding the main principles of systematic reviews to establish the state of existing knowledge. We applied these principles to the process of conducting review providing a complete, exhaustive summary and evaluation of current existing studies regarding all available research relevant to topic area of interest and the particular research questions. Furthermore, by collating all reports on the pediatric incidence of IBD, we aimed to anticipate that this review will serve as an essential resource for gastroenterologists. We trust that this is now clearer.

Answering editor's suggestions

We have amended our text in light of the editor's suggestions and all of the revisions were highlighted in the updated version of the manuscript.