

Peer Review

Review of: "Human Exposure to Arsenic and Toxic Metals Through Meat Consumption in Africa: A Review of the Scientific Literature"

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The review article titled **"Human Exposure to Arsenic and Toxic Metals Through Meat Consumption in Africa"** presents a valuable contribution that synthesizes the research findings, but requires major changes to improve its clarity and research impact:

1. The second sentence of the abstract ..."African nations, average meat consumption is generally lower in Africa than in other continents.....needs to be revised.
2. Improve some data/details in the abstract to make it more impactful.
3. In the introduction, a map of Africa may be included, with highlights on the regions from where meat studies are reviewed.
4. Why are so many studies only from Nigeria?
5. In the methodology, include a flow sheet to show the number of studies retrieved, screened, excluded, and finally reviewed. Mention criteria like study design, sample size, analytical method, etc.
6. Compare meat studies from Africa with advanced studies like those from the USA, Korea, Japan, China, etc.
7. Standardize the units used across the paper. There's inconsistency in reporting units $\mu\text{g/g}$ vs. $\mu\text{g/dL}$ vs. $\mu\text{g/kg bw/week}$, etc.
8. A section about the regional comparison in the manuscript may be included.
9. Include more details about the strategies to reduce exposure of consumers.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.