

Review of: "Allergies In India: Myths, Misconceptions, and Awareness"

Kunal Chatterjee

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the article titled ' Allergies in India: Myths, Misconceptions and Awareness'. The article studied an important and contemporary topic and the authors need to be complimented for the same. Following are the observations -

1. The authors need to elaborate on the introduction giving references to studies on similar topics at national and international level.
2. Methodology - need to be worked out better. E.g. who diagnosed or how were the diseases included diagnosed?
3. What was the method of selecting the study subjects or how was sampling conducted?
4. This was the era of COVID 19. So why was it not considered in inclusion or exclusion criteria given its predominantly respiratory nature of symptoms.
5. Was the questionnaire pre-tested? Was it standardized? In view of subjects not being conversant in English was translation and backtranslation to vernacular language used?
6. Most questions appear to be leading and needed to be deliberately made. E.g. Q13 on steroids.
7. Q 3 and Q 12 have two different questions rolled into one. E.g. Q3 Infectious and contagious or Q 12 Dependence and damage to lungs. A Yes or No answer to one could be interpreted as answer to any or both parts of the question.
8. Authors need to prepare detailed analysis with tables or graphs.
9. Discussion needs more deliberation. Socio -demographic characteristics should have been studied in association with the allergy questionnaire to give a meaningful impact of the article. Answers could be bunched up to determine which are the domains where awareness was lacking.
10. Conclusions need to be in more detail.