

## Review of: "A Literature Review on the Levels of Toxic Metals/Metalloids in Meat and Meat Products in Asian Countries: Human Health Risks"

## Shah Rukh<sup>1</sup>

1 Environmental Geosciences, National Centre of Excellence in Geology, University of Peshawar, Peshawar, Pakistan

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This study reviews recent scientific literature on human exposure to toxic metals and metalloids (e.g., arsenic, cadmium, mercury, and lead) through the consumption of meat and meat products, with a focus on Asian countries, particularly China. While meat is known to be nutritionally beneficial, this review addresses concerns around potential contamination and health risks from metal exposure. Findings indicate notable regional variations in metal concentrations but suggest that, in Asia, meat and meat products are not among the primary dietary sources of toxic metals.

However, there are some shortcomings, improvements, and suggestions that I want to give for the improvement of the article.

- 1. First of all, the English language needs to be improved, as I have found many grammatical and fluency issues in the manuscript, which I have highlighted in the attached PDF file. I would suggest that the author should take help from a native English speaker. The section "Analytical methods to measure metals/metalloids in meat and meat products" is unnecessary, as it says this was not the focus of the review. I think the information given in this section is not significant.
- 2. Jiang et al. [17] studied rare earth elements in meat (pork, etc.). I was wondering whether this study comes under the scope of this review because this review only focuses on metals and metalloids.
- 3. It was noticed that this review is focusing on meat and meat products. But when previous studies are reported, other food items such as vegetables and dairy products are also given. In my opinion, the author should target only meat and meat products, which is the main focus of this review, and present only relevant figures and results
- 4. Safe limits of studied metals/metalloids in the meat or meat products (Food) daily intake should be presented in table form.
- 5. Different regulatory bodies are mentioned, saying the limits are exceeded by WHO, for example. I think uniformity is required. Try to mention the same regulatory bodies' limits for all the studies to avoid confusion.
- 6. In conclusion, or after that, add recommendations. What steps should be taken to reduce the risk of metal/metalloid exposures to humans?