17-june-2025

Dear Prof. Nzinga,

You submitted the manuscript ID AJGH-2503-1079, " **Functional constipation among women healthcare professionals of University Clinics of Kinshasa: prevalence, habitus and risk factors**," to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. The reviewer's comments are included at the end of this email.

The reviewers have requested revisions to your manuscript.  Therefore, I invite you to respond to the reviewers' comments and revise your manuscript. Instructions on how to do this can be found at the bottom of this email.

To facilitate the timely publication of manuscripts submitted to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, we kindly request that you submit your revised manuscript as soon as possible.

Once again, thank you for submitting your manuscript to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. I look forward to your revision.

Sincerely,

Salem Y Mohamed

Chief Editor, African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Please revise your manuscript using a word processing program and save it on your computer.  Please also highlight the changes to your manuscript within the document using the track changes mode in MS Word or using bold or colored text.

Once the revised manuscript is ready, please send it to me via email.

When submitting your revised manuscript, please provide your responses and details of changes made to each comment in an Author Response Letter.  To expedite the processing of the revised manuscript, please be as specific as possible in your response to the reviewers.

**Reviewer Comments to Author:**

**Reviewer1:**

You need to clarify the definitions, the constipation definition, how you exclude organic causes, and how to diagnose functional constipation.  
You need to clarify exclusion criteria for patients with pelvic floor problems, patients with hypothyroidism, or even patients with colon cancer and other causes of secondary constipation.

**Reviewer 2: (ME)**

In this article “Functional constipation among women healthcare professionals of University Clinics of Kinshasa: prevalence, habitus and risk factors” the authors discussed prevalence of constipation among a cohort of healthcare professional in one big center in Congo, the study looks interesting, but we have some comments aiming to improve the quality of the work:  
A- In the work design:  
- The article title focuses on functional constipation; however, the methodology uses KESS and Bristol score for diagnosing constipation, functional constipation should follow the ROME criteria that must be included, described, and followed in the methodology, or the authors can focus on constipation rather than functional constipation  
- Is there a chance to examine the level of healthcare qualification on the constipation, i.e., doctors vs non-doctors, because the level of education and knowledge theoretically had an impact on the prevalence of constipation  
- It should be clear in the methods on which criteria patients were divided into group I and II  
- Inclusion and exclusion criteria are missing  
B- In manuscript writing:  
- The language needs revision  
- Reference list needs revision  
- Many other comments are highlighted in the Word file  
- The KESS should be submitted as a supplementary file

**Reviewer3: AM**

Please provide point a point-to-point response for the attached comments

**Editor Comments to Author:**

1. Please check the author names and affiliations included on your Title Page, mainly that the spelling of all authors' names is correct. They are cited in the order you wish them to appear in the final article. In addition, each author's affiliation details are correct.

2. Please include a 'Structured Abstract': not more than 250 words, broken down into, i.e., Aims, Patients & Methods/Materials & Methods, Results, and Conclusions. For authors presenting the results of clinical trials, the guidelines recommended by CONSORT should be followed when writing the abstract (http://www.consort-statement.org/), and the clinical trial registration number should be included at the end of the abstract, where available.

3. Please include up to 10 keywords in your revised manuscript (including the four keywords you selected as part of the submission process).

4. Please amend the references as per the author's guidelines:

a. References should be numerically listed in the reference section in the order they occur in the text.

b. References should appear as a number, i.e., [1, 2] in the text.

c. References should cite three authors et al.: It is our house style to list a maximum of six authors and, if there are more than this, three authors et al.

5. Please ensure all tables and boxes are titled and cited in the text. Three-line tables are preferred.

Please find a link to the African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Author Guidelines, which provide more detailed explanations of these sections: <https://ajgh.journals.ekb.eg/journal/authors.note>.

6. Please check the PDF file of your manuscript regarding plagiarism checking.

7. Please add the scale bar, annotations, magnifications, and the program used to generate these figures. Also, it is better to submit figures with high resolution and brightness.