



Prevalence and risk factors of fatigue and its association with quality of life among patients with chronic pancreatitis: A cross-sectional study

To the Editor,

We have read with interest the article "Prevalence and risk factors of fatigue and its association with quality of life among patients with chronic pancreatitis; A cross sectional study" by You Zhou et al. We appreciate the study which has addressed the critical subject matter. We concur with the article's primary conclusion that the quality of life of patients with chronic pancreatitis is adversely affected by fatigue [1]. We would like to raise a few important issues regarding the study.

Ideally, the study should have included a control group for the purpose of comparison or analysis. It is impossible to ascertain which changes or outcomes are confidently due to intervention as opposed to some other variable in the absence of a control group. Secondly, cross-sectional research has raised a number of concerns due to its lack of generalizability, as it is unable to establish a connection between the variables discussed in the study. Additionally, conducting a study in a specific location may introduce bias as a result of the diverse socio-economic, health, and environmental conditions. The authors previously mentioned the limitations in the article; however, it is noteworthy to reiterate them. For example, a longitudinal study conducted in 2011 on patients' quality of life following pancreaticoduodenectomy yielded superior outcomes [2]. Third, this study employed self-reported data, which may result in recall bias and poor patient documentation. These issues could have been resolved if the authors had incorporated current cases from the era. Additionally, the study did not comprehensively describe the confounding variables, which could have contributed to its further development [3]. Fourth, it is important to mention that the Izbicki pain score would have been advantageous for assessing specific pain in CP patients. The "international consensus guidelines for assessment of pain associated with chronic pancreatitis" are an excellent reference [4]. Fifth, the relationship between variables such as smoking and alcohol could have been elaborated upon, as they are significant factors that contribute to chronic pancreatitis and fatigue [5].

It is suggested that longitudinal data be collected to enhance the reliability of the study and document changes over time. This involves collecting measurements at different time intervals

throughout the study period.

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Declaration of competing interest

None.

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