Haywood Cilla (Orcid ID: 0000-0002-8127-7014)
Sumithran Priya (Orcid ID: 0000-0002-9576-1050)

16 April 2019

Professor David York
Editor, Obesity Reviews

Dear Professor York,

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to respond to the letter OBR-03-19-3865 regarding our manuscript "Treatment of obesity in older persons: a systematic review" in Obesity Reviews.

Please find our response attached.

Yours Faithfully,

Dr Cilla Haywood and Dr Priya Sumithran

This is the author manuscript accepted for publication and has undergone full peer review but has not been through the copyediting, typesetting, pagination and proofreading process, which may lead to differences between this version and the [Version of Record](#). Please cite this article as doi: [10.1111/obr.12880](https://doi.org/10.1111/obr.12880)

We welcome the interest of Jebai et al in our paper 'Treatment of obesity in older persons', and appreciate their intention to improve the quality of reviews. We have noted their concerns about methodology, and would like to make the following points:

Regarding the PRISMA statement, our search and reporting strategy is in keeping with the style and level of detail consistent with previous systematic reviews published in this journal. We acknowledge that our search terms for pharmacotherapy and bariatric surgery studies should have been included. Currently, prospective registration of systematic reviews on PROSPERO is not mandatory. In the interests of length and readability, we did not include details of all sources which were not used (e.g. grey literature, contacting study authors).

Searches of both PubMed and MEDLINE databases found studies not identified in the other. We performed a search of EMBASE in April 2019 using our original search criteria, and found no additional articles which would have been eligible for inclusion in our review. Furthermore, two more recent systematic reviews of bariatric surgery in older people [1,2] with wider literature searches (including PubMed, Embase, CINAHL, PsycINFO, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews databases and clinical trials registry platforms) did not contain any eligible studies that we did not identify, therefore it does not appear that the concern that our search might have missed two thirds of the relevant literature was borne out.

Our search for pharmacotherapy studies included general terms (such as pharmacotherapy, "appetite suppress*", "appetite reduc*", anti-obes*) as well as specific terms for medications currently indicated for obesity treatment in the US, Canada, European Union, Australia and New Zealand (phentermine/topiramate, naltrexone/bupropion, orlistat, liraglutide 3 mg, lorcaserin). Although it did not identify the paper regarding sibutramine, this agent was withdrawn from the market in most parts of the world, including by the Food and Drug Administration (US), the European Medicines Agency (EU) and the Therapeutic Goods Administration (AU), in 2010.

We agree that ultimately, the aim of a systematic review is to provide information which can be used to guide clinical decisions, and are confident that our conclusions remain valid.

Dr. Cilla Haywood and Dr. Priya Sumithran

1. Panagiotou O et al. Comparative Effectiveness and Safety of Bariatric Procedures in Medicare-Eligible Patients: A Systematic Review. *JAMA Surg.* 2018;153(11):e183326
2. Marczuk P et al. Effectiveness and Safety of Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass in Elderly Patients- Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *Obesity Surgery* 2019;29:361-368.

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Author/s:

Haywood, C;Sumithran, P

Title:

Letter to the Editor: Treatment of obesity in older persons, reply

Date:

2019-08-01

Citation:

Haywood, C. & Sumithran, P. (2019). Letter to the Editor: Treatment of obesity in older persons, reply. OBESITY REVIEWS, 20 (8), pp.1185-1185. <https://doi.org/10.1111/obr.12880>.

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