1. **Rationale for conducting the systematic review**

Leprosy is a complicated bacterial infection which manifest in a variety of ways depending on immunological response1. Leprosy is linked to CXCL10 expression and investigating CXCL10 role in leprosy’s immunopathogenesis could help diagnosing leprosy apart form using clinical diagnosis criteria2–6. Also, CXCL10 had an easily accessible detection method7–9. A systematic review on the relationship between leprosy and CXCL10 can help in drawing conclusion of different outcomes from various studies to prove the relevance of CXCL10 as a biomarker in diagnosing leprosy and determining the types of leprosy. This study was conducted because there haven't been any systematic reviews done on CXCL10 and leprosy. Therefore, this one is expected to provide a concise conclusion, especially due to the heterogeneous findings from various studies.

The rationale for conducting the systematic review can be found on pages 2-3 (see the introduction).

1. **The contribution that the systematic review makes to knowledge in light of previously published related reports**

For the first time, the existing experimental research on CXCL10 and leprosy has been methodically synthesized in one comprehensive study. Various studies found CXCL10 to be potential in diagnosing of leprosy particularly in leprosy reactions, determining the types of leprosy, and as indicator of the efficacy of leprosy therapy. However, these findings are not heterogeneous, so further research is needed with larger sample sizes and more diverse methods, taking into consideration other confounding factors in order to establish CXCL10 roles in leprosy.

See the last paragraph of the introduction (page 3), the discussion and conclusion sections for information about the contribution of the systematic review.

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