Reviewer's report

Title: Effectiveness of oral nutritional supplementation for older women after a fracture: a randomized controlled pilot study

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Reviewer: Angela Vivanti

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Review 9530181523762952

Effectiveness of Oral Nutritional Supplementation for Older Women after a Fracture: Rationale, Design and Study of the Feasibility of a Randomized Controlled Study

Thank you for the changes and enhancements made to the paper

The authors have included additional discussion points and more modest conclusions have been drawn. One key point still remains from my perspective.

The authors state “However, we don’t agree that albumin alone was the indicator of nutritional status. We used mid upper arm circumference at the primary indicator of nutritional status.

However, I note that the method states PEM was defined as moderate if
1) the mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) was less than the 10th percentile for age and gender

OR

2) if the pre-surgery serum albumin concentration was lower than or equal to 35g/L [11].

(And sever Malnutrition if both criteria met)

It is stated that 39% were severely undernourished (both serum albumin < 35 g/l and MUAC less than the 10th percentile for women > 70 years.) Consequently 61% were not and so were assessed by EITHER serum albumin or MUAC. Eighty eight percent of participants had serum albumin <35 g/l, and 48 % had MUAC < 10th percentile …. Consequently around 50% would be approximated to have been assessed by elevated albumin alone

So the concerns about the use of albumin alone as a means of identifying malnutrition still appear valid and acknowledgement as a potential limitation in the discussion still appears valuable.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'