Author's response to reviews

Title: Community-based intervention to improve dietary habit and to promote physical activity among the elderly: A cluster randomized trial

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Version: 7 Date: 27 December 2012

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Author's response to the section editor

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Version: 4 Date: 27 December 2012

Author's response to the section editor: see over
Thank you for your consideration of our manuscript for publication in your journal.

We have revised the above manuscript according to the section editor’s comments.

Section editor’s comments
1 Abstract, Method: the total sample size (94) is not equal to the summation of intervention (57) and control (35). [In the text, authors noted that two people were dropped. In that case, I suggest using 92, and retain consistency throughout the text.

We replaced 94 with 92 in the abstract.

2 The sections “Sample size” and “Randomization” should be moved before “Main outcomes.” All citation serial numbers and references should be updated accordingly. “Sample Size” should be incorporated into “Participants”. Also see my Comment 4.

“Sample size” and “Randomization” were moved before “Main outcomes.” All citation serial number and references were updated.

3 I suggest changing “Main outcomes” to “Dietary habit outcomes” and “Secondary outcomes” to “Health and health practice outcomes” to better reflecting the title and contents.
In “Main outcomes”, we did not describe only the change of dietary habits but also the changes in physical activity. Therefore, we added “Dietary and physical activity habit outcomes”

4 The descriptions for sample design and selection procedure in the current version is a little bit messy. All descriptions about the sample design and selection should be placed in “Methods” Section. In other words, the “Participant flow” in “Results” Sections should be moved to the “Methods” Section and incorporated into “Sample size”, “Intervention”, “Randomization”. They also should be placed before the authors start to describe their outcome variables.

“Participant flow” was moved to the “Methods” Section before “Main outcomes”.

5 Is it possible for authors to describe a little bit more about the findings in Tables, especially in Tables 4 and 5? The Results Section in the current version looks thinner than the other sections.

We added some sentences to the “Results” Section to address this.

6 Table 5, please move “mean ± SD” in the left column to the top of the middle column to avoid empty title of the middle column. Also, please write out full names of “Very, Good, Not” in the lower panel of self-reported health. They are very confusing in the current revision.

We moved “mean ± SD” to the top of the middle column, and wrote more full descriptions for “Very, Good, Not” in the lower panel of self-reported health (Table3 and Table5).