Reviewer's report

Title: Dietary Patterns of Adolescents in Germany - Associations with Nutrient Intake and other health related Lifestyle Characteristics

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Reviewer: Sousana K Papadopoulou

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written manuscript which deals with a comprehensive dietary assessment in order to identify dietary patterns among a representative sample of German adolescents.

With the exception of minor revisions which will be described below, the authors clearly stated the strengths and limitations of their work and provided useful information on dietary patterns among German adolescents, boys and girls, to be considered for future nutritional interventions to promote healthier dietary habits in older teenagers.

1. The aim of the study (in the abstract) included the association between dietary pattern and overweight status. The answer to this important question was not given in the abstract and it was only discussed later in the manuscript. This missing point would be an appropriate addition to the abstract.

2. In the abstract (under methods), the dietary history interview was characterized as "consecutive" giving the impression of subsequent interviews conducted for each individual instead of a comprehensive one. It seems that a better description for the dietary history interview is "comprehensive" and not "consecutive".

3. Vitamin B7 was only mentioned in the abstract (also in Table 4 and 5) and it was not described in the results section. It would also be helpful to refer to this vitamin by its common name, biotin.

4. There are some typographical errors and inconsistencies in terms and words, such as beta-carotin instead of beta-carotene (abstract, Table 4 and 5) fibre for fiber, characterised for characterized, standardised for standardized, Vitamin for vitamin (abstract) and less often for less often (under characteristics, 2nd paragraph, last sentence).

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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