Author's response to reviews

Title: Dietary patterns are associated with obesity in Japanese patients with schizophrenia.

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4-June-2014
Dear Editor
BMC Psychiatry
MS: 7127794201164212
Title: Dietary patterns are associated with obesity in Japanese patients with schizophrenia.

Thank you for your letter concerning the above-mentioned manuscript. I received your letter on May 13, 2014 and now I have the manuscript.

I am pleased to note the favorable comments of Referees and have made correction as follows. I hope meet with approval.

< Referee 1>
#Discretionary Revisions
Abstract:
> “Three dietary patterns ,, , and alcohol and accompanying dietary patterns.” Strictly it appears the four categories are mentioned- too many commas and ‘ands’: please phrase so these three patterns are clearly indicated.

In accordance with the suggestion of Referee 1, we reedited the sentences of the revised sections.

> Can the “tertiles” be specified/defined better in the Abstract?
Because the meaning of the tertiles is widely known, I think that it is not
necessary to define this in Abstract.

> “After adjusting for potential confounds...”- specify which confounds (age and gender?)

Based on the suggestion of Referee 1, we specified the confounders.

Background:

We updated the reference [7].

Methods:
> “The BDHQ was ,,,,,, and 0.54 (0.45 to 0.61) for women [18].” For this purpose this is too much detail- state that it is a validated questionnaire and provide the ref.

We deleted the sentences.

Statistical analyses:
> “We derived dietary ,,,,,, used a density method” define/describe ‘a density method’ and provide ref if available. Scree test: provide ref.

We provided the references concerning density method and Scree test.

> Start Statistics section by presenting statistical software used.

In accordance with the suggestion of Referee 1, we started Statistics section by presenting statistical software.

Results:
> Only 18% of patients were obese: ,,,,,,This aspect should be addressed in the

Discussed: are the patients in this study selected or is the presence of obesity so markedly different in Japan as compared with Europe/US?

Concerning different prevalence of obesity between Japan and Western countries, we described in Discussion section.

> “Odds ratio section”Again spell out “potential confounds”

As described previously, we specified the confounders.

Discussion
> “Patients with schizophrenia have poorer diet quality,,,,,,in schizophrenic populations.”- strictly, this is redundant as it has been stated in the Introduction- suggest to delete.

Contrary to Referee 1’s comments, we believe that the sentence is necessary to our manuscript.

> “To date, several cross-sectional studies,,,,,,with significantly greater weight
gain.”- this section is just one very long list of similar studies in non-psychiatric populations- but this could easily be condensed and put in Introduction as no attempt is done to specifically relate to the present results. Rather a comment of the low prevalence of obesity would be of interest. Moreover, a discussion of the pros (and cons) from using an advanced statistical methods to extract dietary patterns should be addressed. This is important since the conclusion of the study is somewhat trivial and intuitive- bad eating patterns are associated with obesity. This is already evident from table 1. Nevertheless, it appears that PCA refines this patterns, which of course should be mentioned. As mentioned is is a major limitation that medication and psychopathology was not assessed. If available in any way this data (or even proxy measures) would considerably improve the importance and scientific merit of this work.

Comments of the low prevalence of obesity and advanced statistical methods were added in Discussion.

#Minor Essential Revisions

Background:

> “However, no study has investigated associations between dietary patterns and obesity among patients with schizophrenia.” –is repeated at the end of Background and should be deleted.

In accordance with the suggestion of Referee 1, we reedited the sentences of the revised sections.

Method:

> Strictly, BMI should be defined (unit)

BMI was defined in our manuscript.

Tables:

> Legends to all tables should be self-explanatory- Please elaborate.

We rewrote the Legends to table 4.

I would like to thank Referees for their helpful comments, and hope that the revised manuscript is acceptable for publication in BMC psychiatry.

Yours sincerely,

Norio Sugawara