Reviewer’s report

Title: TV viewing and food preferences and food habits among children: A prospective epidemiological study

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Reviewer: Johannes Brug

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting paper describing analyses of a longitudinal data set on the associations between TV watching and a measure of food preferences and habits.

There are two major issues, I believe:

1. The paper is not organised well enough, I think. No precise research questions of hypotheses are provided, it is not fully clear how the analyses for each of the implicit research questions were conducted, some information about the validity of one of the key measures is provided after this measure is described, etc.
2. The quality of the measures is not clear. Very little information about the reliability and validity of the measures is given.

Abstract:
The background section does not have information about the hypotheses of the study
The methods section should have some information about the measures used for the main variables
The methods section does not include information about the analyses conducted

Background:
Good concise problem analysis. However, I would prefer this paragraph to end with more specific hypotheses. These more specific hypotheses can than also guide the methods and results paragraphs, i.e. the methods for analysing and the results for each hypothesis can be provided, resulting in a somewhat more consistently organised paper.

Methods:
No information is provided regarding the psychometrics/clinimetrics of the main variables, i.e. food preferences, food habits, TV habits. This is crucial information.

The description of the recoding of the variables is also not very prices. What does, for example, "based on the distribution ... in the study population" on page 7 mean?
Later on in the Methods section, on page 10, beginning of 2nd paragraph, the authors claim that a single 24h recall provides valid data on individual level. I think the word 'no' should be insterted here.

Were the same questionnaires used for the 8-10 y old sample and for the 14 y old sample? Was it possible to do valid questionnaire research among 8 year olds?

What do the authors mean by interactions between sex and TV, and TV during meals? Was their a sex X TV interaction effect on food preferences or habits or both?

**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:**

declare that I have no competing interests