Reviewer's report

Title: Dietary differences between elderly Iranians living in Sweden and Iran A cross-sectional comparative study

Version: 1 Date: 7 July 2010

Reviewer: Ian Brown

Reviewer's report:

This report is limited in scope and sample size, but the analysis is thorough, with appropriate statistical methods. It may be of particular interest to nutrition and geriatric practitioners in Sweden and Iran. Conclusions would have been strengthened by a third comparison group: native born Swedish.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Limitations and Strengths: Limitations are not discussed sufficiently, (a) the use of different FFQ instruments will limit comparability; (b) limitations of FFQ method (as opposed to other dietary instruments) are not discussed; (c) analysis did not assess micronutrient intake differences.

2. Table 4 is unnecessarily confusing. I suggest presenting a single fully adjusted model. Replace "Outcomes" with "Dietary variable". For every dietary variable present data in the following columns: Adjusted mean intake Iran (95% CI), Adjusted mean intake in Sweden (95% CI), Difference (Sweden-Iran) (95% CI). Change the title and footnote accordingly. Re-write "Statistical Analysis" paragraph 2 and "Dietary Intake" para 2 to reflect the updated table.

3. Possible pathways, para 1: delete "and is consistent with the potential health benefits of these recommendations". This is speculative, since you have no health markers except BMI, and despite eating more fruits and vegetables, the Swedish sample are more obese.

Discretionary Revisions:

4. Limitations and Strengths: I am not sure that using the appropriate statistical method for the data set is a strength.

5. The written English requires some corrections, see attached PDF with comments.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.