Author’s response to reviews

Title: Effect of omega-3 fatty acid supplementation on cancer incidence, non-vascular death, and total mortality: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear editor,

I am Dr. Yu-Hao Zhou, the corresponding author of Manuscript numbered MS : 1662085599103518-Effect of omega-3 fatty acid supplementation on cancer incidence, non-vascular death, and total mortality: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. Thank you for your letter dated 4-Jan-2014, requiring a further revision of our manuscript.

I, along with my coauthors, would like to thank the reviewers for their professional and constructive comments on our paper, which have been a great help for us to improve our manuscript. As suggested by reviewers, we have made a carefully revision. The reply was noted in RED

Thank you again for your time on our manuscript. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

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Response to editor:

Q1. The author has responded correctly to the queries excepted that they didn’t included P for moderator in the table 2. (Therefore we do not know if the differences of RR between strata are significant.). Could author complete table 2 with statistical test.

R1. It is pleasing to have acknowledged our diligence in revised this manuscript. We appreciated this good suggestion and conducted the calculation of P value for interaction between the subgroups, we added one sentence in “Statistical analysis” section: “Interaction tests were performed to compare differences between estimates of the 2 subsets, which were based on Student $t$ distribution rather than on normal distribution because the number of inclusive studies was small” and “No other significant differences were identified in pre-defined factors between those who took omega-3 fatty acid or placebo. Furthermore, there was no other significant difference in the effects of omega-3 fatty acid between the 2 subgroups by factors that could affect the treatment effects (Table 2)” in the “Results” section. Furthermore, we also added this information in Table 2 and marked “RED”.

Response to reviewer 1:

Q1. Revised version has addressed all the questions, language improved, I have no more further comments.

R1. We thank the reviewer for this kind comment.

Response to reviewer 2:

Q1. In this revised paper the authors have responded adequately to my comments.
Overall, the paper has improved and the results are of interest, as they focus on the effect of omega-3 fatty acids on the risk of cancer incidence, nonvascular death, and total mortality. I have no further comments.

R1. We appreciated this kind comment.