Reviewer's report

Title: Consumption of sweet foods and mammographic breast density

Version: 2 Date: 5 March 2014

Reviewer: Louiza Velentzis

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting and well-written piece of work, addressing a possible association between sugary foods.

Major compulsory revisions - None

Minor essential revisions

1. Abstract: P-trend among premenopausal women for absolute MD stated as equal to 0.01 whereas in results section it is stated as 0.007. Please correct accordingly.

2. Methods: There is no mention of any drops outs from the final 776 premenopausal women and 779 postmenopausal women. However, in the results section, in Table 2, the total numbers of women (all, preM or postM) do not add up to the numbers stated in the Methods. Clarification should be provided if any further exclusions were made. For example, were the FFQs of women with intake below or over a certain amount of daily calories removed?

3. Results (Consumption of sweets, para 1):

a. Results for beverages should be separated from results for sweet food intake to help the reader follow though all the different results.

b. Figures C and D should be clearly labelled for the menopausal status they represent. I was unable to find a figure legend; one should be provided including adjustments made.

4. Discussion:

a. The P-value for percent density in all women who had sweet beverages and more than 3 servings per week, is stated as 0.040 in the discussion and 0.046 in Figure A. Please correct accordingly.

b. Findings regarding the positive correlation between sweet foods and MD in less active women has not been adequately addressed in the discussion. Do the authors have a possible hypothesis for these findings?

Discretionary revisions:

I found the description of results in the paragraph entitled 'Consumption of sweets' a bit difficult to follow as the authors go from different types of sweet foods, to 2 different sets of data (table and figure) and menopausal status. I suggest re-write of that paragraph.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
No competing interests to declare.