Reviewer’s report

Title: Are dietary patterns related to acne vulgaris in Malaysian young adults?: a case control study

Version: 1 Date: 26 June 2012

Reviewer: Alan Barclay

Reviewer’s report:

Essential revisions

Move the methods section.

On page 13, lines 4-5 a validated questionnaire is mentioned, but not referenced. Please include a valid reference.

Page 13, line 5 describes the use of 3 day food records to determine individuals food and nutrient intakes. I would have thought a retrospective food frequency questionnaire would have been more appropriate as previous (rather than current) food/nutrient intake would be causing the acne. Conversely, an individual may have changed their eating habits in line with popular beliefs to help manage their condition. I think these issues need to be discussed.

Page 13, line 15. Why were the 2002 Tables of GI values used (reference 15) rather than the more recent 2008 Tables (Atkinson et al. Diabetes Care. 2008)?

Table 1, page 20. Please include results of any statistical analysis in the table results. Please indicate whether the income ranges included are weekly/monthly/yearly.

Table 5, page 23. Please indicate in the title whether the data have been adjusted or not. If so, what for?

All else minor and non-essential but desirable

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I am Head of Research at the Australian Diabetes Council and Chief Scientific Officer at the Glycemic Index Foundation.