Reviewer's report

Title: Tracking of eating patterns and overweight - a follow-up study of Norwegian school children from middle childhood to early adolescence

Version: 2 Date: 6 September 2011

Reviewer: Valeria Hirschler

Reviewer's report:

Dear Authors. Most of the suggestions were corrected, accordingly. However, I have some concerns that I have described below.

Revisions

Results:

“We included the underweight children in the normal weight group at both time points, due to the small number of individuals concerned (n=5/n=1). The overweight and obese children were also combined into one group, denoted ‘overweight’ in the analysis.”

This sentence should be removed from the results section as it was included in the methods section.

“At the 7th-grade stage (n=800), the “varied Norwegian” pattern scores were negatively associated with maternal overweight and positively associated with physical activity and with maternal and paternal educational level. The “snacking pattern” scores were positively associated with sedentary behaviour and negatively associated with family income and maternal and paternal educational level. The dieting pattern scores were positively associated with maternal educational level and were significantly higher for girls than boys, while the “junk/convenient” pattern scores were significantly higher for boys than girls (data not shown).”

Correlation numbers and p values should be included. If these correlations were not significant, it should be clarified in the text

Discussion:

“Studying the association between single foods and meals and overweight at
both time points showed a lower intake of vegetables and less regular breakfast eating among overweight compared to normal weight children at the 7th grade stage."

This sentence should be included in the results section and removed from the discussion section.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests