Reviewer's report

Title: Perceptions of flatulence from bean consumption among adults in 3 feeding studies

Version: 2 Date: 3 August 2011

Reviewer: Fang-Chen Wu

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Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Why did authors use different control food in Study 1&2 (canned carrot) and Study 3 (chicken soups)?
2. Sample sizes were not enough (n=30).
For example: Table 2-BEP study
In Pinto beans group, there were 50% increased flatulence in 1st week, but only 8 persons reported, actually. The data had not be representative.
3. In study 1 3x3 cross-over design, participants in three treatments (Pinto#Black eyed and control) should be the same (n=17). Every treatment phase was followed by a washout period in between. In table 2 and 3, control group n=39, It was not proper. There was same mistake in study 2.
4. P.6 Line 126# What was “normal diet”?
Did participants get the same “ normal diet”, breakfast, lunch or dinner? Those contained potential variables.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. P.7 Line 158# “The weekly report for flatulence, stool change were examined and classified as 0#1#2 or 3 symptoms.”
In results, we did not see symptom changes, it was only stated sample percentage who had flatulence or stool change. Show GI questionnaire results, it was better.
2. Table 9
In table 1-8, n represented sample numbers, but n meant “of days report” in table 9. It might change another characters.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.