Author's response to reviews

Title: Association between dietary patterns and metabolic syndrome in a sample of Portuguese adults.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor of Nutrition Journal,

Please, find enclosed the revised manuscript entitled “Association between Dietary Patterns and Metabolic Syndrome”, authored by Maria João Fonseca, Rita Gaio, Carla Lopes, and Ana Cristina Santos, for publication in Nutrition Journal. We appreciated all the comments to the manuscript and the changes made are described below.

Minor essential revision:
1. The abstract conclusion was modified according to the suggestion.
2. The keyword suggested was added.
3. It is true that a benefit in the use of finite mixture models is to consider covariates of interest in identifying dietary patterns, and we take age as well as total energy intake in consideration when constructing the dietary patterns. However, as seen in the graphics below, there was still an overlapping between the box plots of age and calories of the four different dietary patterns in each sex, which means that there was still a residual confounding. In order to minimize that residual confounding, we adjust for these covariates when modeling in table 4.
4. Food non-consumption was defined when a person did not eat any food items belonging to that specific food group. For instance, if a person did not drink any type of alcoholic beverage, was considered as food non-consumption for the group of alcoholic beverages. We agree with the Reviewer, and added a sentence to the discussion section clarifying this point.

Yours sincerely,

Maria João Fonseca