Author's response to reviews

Title: Effectiveness of the National Program of Complementary Feeding for older adults in Chile on vitamin B12 status in older adults; secondary outcome analysis from the CENEX Study (ISRCTN48153354)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Nehme

We are enclosing you the 2nd revised version of the manuscript entitled "Effectiveness of the National Program of Complementary Feeding for older adults in Chile on vitamin B12 status in older adults, secondary outcome analysis from the CENEX Study (ISRCTN48153354)" of the authors: Hugo Sánchez, Cecilia Abala, Lydia Lera, Alan D Dangour and Ricardo Uauy. The changes and observations in relation to the comments and suggestions made by the reviewer were incorporated to manuscript and available additional information asked is included.

Reviewer: Mary Rose Sweeney

A. Abstract
   All the observations were considered and the abstract was corrected

B. Introduction
   We included the phrase “providing 1.7ug/day of vitamin B12” at the end of the paragraph “Since 1999, PACAM has delivered foods to adults over the age of 69 who are beneficiaries of the National System of Health Services providing 1.7ug/day of vitamin B12”.

C. Subjects and Methods
   We replaced m o by m onths and corrected the MMSE score as exclusion criteria

C. Statistical Analysis
   SRH was included in the methods section

D. Results

   1. The diagnosis of anaemia and macrocytosis are already defined in the statistical analysis section

   "The diagnosis of anaemia was made for haemoglobin values <13 g/dL in men and <12 g/dL in women. Microcytosis and macrocytosis were considered for values <80 fL and >100 fL, respectively”.

   2. We avoided the allusion to supra-physiological levels of folate

E. Discussion

   We re-iterated the recommended intake of B12 and mentioned the need to evaluate de effectiveness of fortifying PACAM with crystalline B12
D. Additional information

We are enclosing a table with the existing data of B12 and folate status in a national representative sample of the country. In relation to typical B12 and folate intakes no information for the whole population has been gathered in Chile.

Vitamin B12 and Folate serum levels in Chile by 65 years old and more. National Health survey 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Vit B12 &lt; 221 pmol</th>
<th>Folate &lt; 48 nmol</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65y and older</td>
<td>42,7</td>
<td>0,91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yours sincerely,

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