Reviewer’s report

Title: Dietary protein and plasma total homocysteine, cysteine concentrations in coronary angiographic subjects

Version: 3 Date: 30 August 2013

Reviewer: Maree Brinkman

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have made a commendable effort to address all previous comments by the reviewers in this very interesting and important public health study. However, I still have some concerns with the revised manuscript.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. The total energy intake levels for the study population reported in Table 1 appear to be particularly (and unrealistically) low. Please refer to paper by Gao et al., 2003 (ref no. 22), check and comment.
2. Further to the above comment, the percentage contribution of protein intake from all dietary sources to total energy intake appears to be unusually low e.g. total protein ranges from <2.5% to >3.9% of total energy intake. Have the authors multiplied the protein in grams per day by MJs/gram and then converted it to a percentage of total energy intake?
3. The quartiles for total fat as a percentage of total energy intake also appear to be unrealistically low e.g. range from 2.6-3.5%. Are these values correct?

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. I could not find the correlations reported between circulating tHcy and tCys concentrations and folate and vitamin B12 in the second paragraph of the results section anywhere else in the paper. Should “data not shown” be added here?
2. Abstract – “…in health(y) population(s)…” and missing a word between “…hypercysteinemia, the participants…”
3. Introduction- is “sulf-containing” an appropriate abbreviation? “health(y) subjects”; missing “and” between “…plasma tHcy, tCys concentrations…” and “the associations of tHcy…” should be changed to associations between tHcy and dietary patterns.”
4. Methods – “square meters” could be changed to squared meters or meters squared and the authors need to revise punctuation for… “fish oil supplements; The selected food groups…”, and please change “…with adjusted for age…” to with adjustment for age.
5. Please check for changes in font size in document e.g. “caffeine” and Table 1?
6. Results – the first four sentences need to be reworded for greater clarity.
7. Discussion – please change “highly significant” to statistically significant. The sentence beginning, “Furthermore, in China diet….” is unclear and needs to be reworded. Please drop “totally” from “…dietary animal-protein and totally showed…” The second last sentence of the discussion section requires some explanation/examples. The last sentence of the discussion section prior to the conclusion as well as the final sentence of the conclusion require revision (i.e. of the sentence construction).

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

**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.