Reviewer's report

Title: Ethnic differences in grains consumption and their contribution to intake of B-vitamins: Results of the Multiethnic Cohort (MEC) Study

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Reviewer: Rikard Landberg

Reviewer's report:

This paper describes the main foods contributing to whole grain and B vitamin intakes among different ethnic groups from the Multiethnic cohort (MEC) study. The data is valuable as much of existing litterature is based on caucasians and the results from the present study clearly show a difference in sources of intakes among non-caucasians. One main concern is that the data is old and whole grain intake has changed dramatically in many populations over the passed 10-15 years as well as the number of available whole grain products. This puts a large questionmark to the usefulness of the findings in the context of guiding dietary recommendations. The number of tables is large and the style may be changed a bit to facilitate reading and interpretation (see suggestions below).

Major compulsory revisions:

Please state the purpose of describing dietary sources of grains and their contribution to B-vitamins (the objective). Why is this needed?

The first sentence in the discussion (page 7): "In particular, JpAm... (men or women or both??)

Tables:

- Is it relevant to report "main contributors" with less than 5% contribution? Please consider to put a cut-off (eg 3-5%) in stead of reporting the 10 most common contributors. This will clear the tables from some "unstable estimates" (those items with a very low contribution) and facilitate reading of the tables

- Consider to put all foods in one column and then report % for the separate strata. This will of course "destroy" the order from highest to lowest contribution within each column, but if putting a higher cut-off value, less items will be presented and then it doesn't matter if the contributors are not ordered from highest to lowest.

- For refined grains and B-vitamins, the total contribution of the "top 10" items is low. This needs to be discussed in the paper. How come? Implications? I think this is another another argument for changing the reporting criteria to a cur-off value insted of top 10 food items (as many of these items contribute to a very minor extent).
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have not competing interests