Reviewer's report

Title: Dietary patterns and colorectal cancer: results from a Canadian population-based study

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Reviewer: Zongjian Zhu

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The manuscript titled “Dietary patterns and colorectal cancer: results from a Canadian population-based study” by Zhi Chen, Peizhong Wang, Jennifer Woodrow, Yun Zhu, Barbara Roebothan, John R Mclaughlin and Patrick S Parfrey focus on identify the association between dietary patterns and colorectal cancer (CRC) in a Canadian population, from the province Newfoundland and Labrador. This is an interesting report that can be aware by the following main strength:

• Using diet pattern approach instead of signal food or nutrient approach is novel
• It was demonstrated that diets characterized by a high consumption of red meat, processed meat, fish and processed fish (the Meat-diet pattern) or of fruit pies, tarts, desserts and sweets (the Sugary-diet pattern) are associated with an increased risk of CRC in a Canadian population. However, the Plant-based diet pattern of fruits, vegetables and whole grains has a protective effect against CRC
• It is the first time to report the association of dietary pattern and CRC risk in the province Newfoundland and Labrador of Canada

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.