Reviewer's report

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

Version: Date: 10 October 2014

Reviewer: Guowei Huang

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1) The authors described the response rates were 54% and 43%, respectively (608 cases and 687 controls). How did the author determine the sample size of this case-control design?
2) It is also important to determine if quintiles cut-offs were based on the factor scores of the controls?

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Please add a space between 2 words and check them in the full manuscript. For example:
   Abstract
   1) Page 2, line 13: “patternswere”
   2) Page 2, line 14: “wassignificantly”; “areduced”
   Introduction
   1) Page 3, line 36: couldcapture
   2) Page 4, line 56:ina
   3) Page 4, line 62:designhave beenpublished
   4) Page 4, line 66:theNFCCR
   Methods
   1) Page 5, line 77:includefoods
   2) Page 5, line 82:andmiscellaneous
   3) Page 7, line 123:thestatus
   Result
   1) Page 8, line 146: asMeat-diet pattern
   2) Page 8, line 150: asPlant-based
   3) Page 8, line 151:ofpies
   Discussion
   1) Page 9, line 174: patternswere
   Method
The criteria used for the selection of cases and controls should be more clearly described.

Discussion
1# Page 10, line 184: delete the “a” in a US population.

Table 1
Please add the unit of body mass index.

Table 2
The distribution of some food intake were abnormal distribution, please check the distribution of the data.

2. Please unify the et al’s or et al in the full manuscript.

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.