This study by Chen et al. investigates the effects of a lipid emulsion applied parenterally in gastric and colon cancer patients pre- and post-surgery in a double blinded, placebo-controlled clinical trial. They evaluated lipid profiles and blood biomarkers of inflammation. These parameters were monitored pre and post treatment, day -1, before and after surgery, and post op days: day 1, day 3, day 7.

Major compulsory revisions:

The authors need to clearly articulate how much n-3 PUFAs were provided, ie., mg/d or g/d. It is difficult to calculate these numbers from the tables. Also, the body weights pre and post 7 day should be provided, not just BMI.

Lines 175-180: The authors collected data on day -1, before and after surgery, and post op days: day 1, day 3, day 7, yet only presents data on day-1 and day 7. The rest of this data should be presented and analyzed.

A concern involves the proinflammatory biomarkers IL-6 and CRP. The CRP data is puzzling in that n-3 PUFAs are known to reduce CRP, if any effect is observed. In this study the CRP levels increased 3 fold in the n-3 group, as compared to an increase of 25% in the control treated group. The IL-6 data is also puzzling in that it is consistent with the CRP data. n-3 PUFAs are known to reduce IL-6. In this study the IL-6 levels were increased almost 5 fold in the n-3 group, but only by 50% in the control treated group. While it is recognized that differences between the groups at pre and post sampling was not statistically different, these trends are nevertheless of concern. Having the ability to review all of the data (day -1, before and after surgery, and post op days: day 1, day 3, day 7) might be helpful.

Regarding the changes in lipid profiles, the authors emphasize the fact that while n-3 PUFAs reduced HDL-C levels, these reductions were not as great as observed in the placebo control group. They should guard against putting too much weight on these kinds of results. As the study was very short (only 8 days: Day-1 to Day 7) and the fractional catabolic turnover rates of LDL and HDL are in the neighborhood of days to weeks. Lipoprotein metabolism is very complex and many factors influence their residence time. As such, their comments should be tempered give the design of the study. Data from the other study days would be.

What follow up has been done with these patients; meaning, what is the real advantage to these patients treated with the n-3 emulsion other than relative
modifications to a couple biomarkers within a 7 day window?

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript? Answer: NO. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript? Answer: NO

Do you have any other financial competing interests? Answer: NO

Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper? Answer: NO

'I declare that I have no competing interests'