Author’s response to reviews

Title: Diet and endometrial cancer: a focus on the role of fruit and vegetable intake, Mediterranean Diet and Dietary Inflammatory Index in the endometrial cancer risk

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Author’s response to reviews:

Response to reviewer 1:

Anne Lanceley (Reviewer 1): This is an important area of research and one which is receiving considerable attention with a number of large case control studies reporting.

This study aimed to investigate the relationship to endometrial cancer risk of fruit and vegetable intake, adherence to the Mediterranean diet and the dietary inflammatory index.

Overall the methods are appropriate though the study is weakened by the limitations highlighted by the authors.

The results need a more thorough grounding in other recent relevant studies to distinguish the work for BMC Cancer publication. For example I was surprised not to find referenced work by other groups:
Mediterranean diet and risk of endometrial cancer: a pooled analysis of three Italian case-control studies.


Food groups and endometrial cancer risk: a case-control study from Italy.


Nutrient-based dietary patterns and endometrial cancer risk: an Italian case-control study.


Endometrial cancer risk prediction including serum-based biomarkers: results from the EPIC cohort.


Dietary glycemic index, glycemic load, and the risk of endometrial cancer: a case-control study and meta-analysis.


Answer:

We thank the reviewer for suggesting these references to add in our manuscript.

We added reference 14 and 15 (Filomeno et al 2015 and Bravi et al 2009), that are in agreement with our results. We also included Fortner et al 2017(ref 21) in the discussion that was not yet published when we submitted the manuscript to BMC cancer. We decided not to include the
paper from Galeone et coll 2013 because it was about GI and GL, that is a little bit out of the topic of our manuscript, as well as the paper from Bravi et al 2015 because no “Mediterranean dietary patter” was included in that manuscript.

Response to reviewer 2:

Catherine Carpenter (Reviewer 2): This was a well measured and analyzed manuscript reporting results of dietary patterns and influence on endometrial cancer risk. A couple of comments below:

1. Introductory paragraph.

The last sentence of the first paragraph in Introduction needed a reference (line #10)

Answer:

Reference for the last sentence is again Kaaks et al, CEBP 2002 and we added the reference as requested.

2. Role of adiposity and potential mediating effect of BMI

Authors correctly adjusted their models for BMI and describe effects independent of obesity. However authors did not report results stratified by BMI. The effects may be stronger or weaker depending on level of BMI. A paragraph and analyses of main dietary patterns (MD and DII) stratified by BMI would suffice.

Answer:
We thank the reviewer for this suggestion. We performed the analyses stratified by BMI and there is no evidence of modification effect. In fact, the differences are due to the chance and to the fact that numbers decreased when stratifying by BMI. No evidence of interaction is present. Anyway, we added the stratified analyses as “Supplementary Table 1” and presented them in the text.