Author’s response to reviews

Title: Dietary restriction during the treatment of cancer: results of a systematic scoping review

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BMC Cancer

Reviewer comments:

Dedong Cao, M.D. (Reviewer 1): In this review, Ellie Shingler and other researchers reviewed the impact of dietary restrictions on toxicities during chemotherapy or other anti-tumor therapies in various cancer patients. Indeed, previous evidence showed some favorable results of dietary restrictions, but lacking of support from further large scale RCT studies. There are numerous factors influencing the outcomes of dietary restrictions, such as BMI, age, disease stage, et al. 
Nevertheless, this review provided some perspectives with regard to dietary restrictions. It is recommended to perform a meta-analysis if possible.

RESPONSE: Thank-you for your comments. As discussed on page 6, lines 112-115 the purpose of a scoping review is to provide a description of current evidence, regardless of quality. Scoping reviews tend to have a broader scope than ‘traditional’ systematic reviews and meta-analyses and often include evidence from different study designs. Given the heterogeneity between studies and lack of quality assessment, it is not appropriate to conduct a meta-analysis in this situation.

Patrick Mun Yew Chan (Reviewer 2): Good review of a difficult but important subject to study. Agree that more studies are needed before recommendations of dietary advice be made to patients

RESPONSE: Thank you for your comments.