Reviewer's report

Title: Ethnicity and SES are related to dietary patterns at age 5 in the Amsterdam Born Children and their Development (ABCD) cohort

Version: 0 Date: 04 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Jane Scott

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written description of a methodologically sound study. In particular, the FFQ and the statistical methodology used to derive the dietary patterns have been clearly and comprehensively described. A conservative p value of .01 was considered as statistically significant in recognition of the large number of post hoc analyses performed. It is one of few studies to date to explore ethnic variation in the dietary patterns of young children. The findings of the study are appropriately interpreted and compared with previous studies.

I have relatively few comments to make:

Minor discretionary

1. Line 104 How was the FFQ administered? For example, by post or by email with a link to an online version of the FFQ?
2. Line 122 How were the portion sizes used in the FFQ derived? Were age appropriate portion sizes used (a design strength) or were they based on adult portion sizes (a design limitation)? FFQs for this age bracket are often based on a tool originally designed for adults or older children, the portion sizes of which may be inappropriate and contribute to the common finding of overestimation when FFQs are used.
3. Lines 145 to 148. The authors state that ethnicity was based on the country of birth of the pregnant woman and her mother. However, when the country of birth of the pregnant woman and her mother were not the same the pregnant woman's self-registered ethnic origin was used. Surely then, this means that ethnic origin was based on the participant's self-registered ethnic origin as this was used when it agreed or disagreed with the woman's own mother's ethnic origin.
4. Lines 256 to 265 The description of the findings related to SES and diet pattern does not include a description of the Healthy diet pattern which was no longer significantly associated with SES after adjustment in either model 2 or 3.
Minor grammatical

5. Line 100 should this be first prenatal care visit, rather than parental?
6. Lines 136 to 138 This sentence is ambiguous and awkwardly worded.
7. Line 164 should read '..independent of its energy content.'
8. Lines 186 and 187 I recommend that it reads '.. adjusted for child's age(y), gender, maternal age,....'
9. Line 286 should read ' independently related to.'

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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