Reviewer’s report

Title: The association between adherence to the Mediterranean diet and hepatic steatosis: cross-sectional analysis of two independent studies, the United Kingdom Fenland Study and the Swiss CoLaus Study

Version: 0 Date: 10 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Ludovico Abenavoli

Reviewer’s report:

- Introduction section: The Author report that obesity is the main driver of hepatic steatosis, particularly NAFLD. This is a correct sentence, however I suggest to improve it, and to report that: NAFLD is the hepatic border of metabolic syndrome. Several scientific advances in understanding the association between NAFLD and metabolic syndrome have identified insulin resistance as the key aspect in the pathophysiology of both diseases (Abenavoli et al. World J Gastroenterol 2016)

- Methods section: I suggest to describe briefly the dietetic profile of both the studied population. This is important to help the reader to better understand the founded data. In fact MD is efficacy in England and Swiss people, to population not include in the Mediterranean area.

- Discussion section: I suggest the Author to stress the importance of non-invasive tools to detect NAFLD in a large population study.

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

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

1. 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?

2. 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?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. 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?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

no

**Statement on potential review bias**
Please complete a statement on potential review bias, considering the following questions:

1. Did you co-author any publication with an author of this manuscript in the last 5 years?

2. Are you currently or recently affiliated at the same institution as an author of this manuscript?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I did not publish with these authors in the last 5 years and also meet the affiliation criteria". If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

1. no
2. no

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal