Reviewer’s report

Title: Prospective association between ultra-processed food consumption and incident depressive symptoms in the French NutriNet-Santé cohort

Version: 0 Date: 19 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Claudio Macchi

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper that explores the relationship between Ultra-processed food consumption and incident depressive symptoms.

The authors offer a rigorous methodology and the topic is of great interest, but I do have some concerns regarding the following aspects:

- Inclusion criteria are not clearly stated, except for presence of depressive symptoms and the use of antidepressants. Were those the only exclusion criteria or were there additional criteria, such as the presence of a cognitive impairment?

- How the age is distributed within the study sample should be described. Older people may experience a cognitive deficit which has been often observed to be associated with depressive symptoms. Unless subjects with reduced cognitive functions have been excluded from the analysis, cognitive status should be accounted for in the analysis, especially in an older population.

- Why the authors did not stratify their population by age instead of controlling for this factor? This would have made your study population less heterogeneous and possibly allowed different conclusions for different age groups.

- The area where the population comes from should be specified
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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

Not applicable

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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