Reviewer's report

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

Version: 0 Date: 01 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Miguel Martinez-Gonzalez

Reviewer's report:

Nice manuscript. Very interesting results and good methodology.

Abstract: please mention the number of repeated 24 recalls and the proportion of men and women in the cohort.

Methods: a simple table with the list of UPF is needed

References: please add PMID: 29031185 (perhaps it can replace one of the older meta-analyses)

You can consider also the pro-inflammatory aspects. Please check: PMID: 30319085

Results:

Please correct the typo "were was" in lines 271-272
Lines 294-298 should be considerably expanded (see below) with further sensitivity analyses

Discussion

Please consider PMID: 21835082

Table 1,

please specify the units of measurement for "UPF, range"

please correct the typo separated // separated

Please clarify the superscript "3" used for physical activity, what is low / moderate or high physical activity? Please include cut-offs

please include the cut-off points for BMI

Table 2
Please clarify the meaning of the last row "Fats"

Table 3

Please include the number of persons-years follow-up in each category

Sensitivity analyses, you may include a forest plot with sensitivity analyses (highest vs. lowest quintiles of UPF) including the following analyses:

Please repeat the main fully-adjusted analysis but additionally adjusting for baseline CES-D scores

Please include subgroup analyses of the association UPF-depression within dichotomous subgroups of sex, age, baseline levels of CES-D and baseline adherence to a high-quality dietary pattern

Please repeat the analyses after excluding cases occurring during a short follow-up period (those that occurred in the first 1-2 years) because they may have been subclinical cases at inception (to exclude reverse causality bias).

Please repeat the analyses but considering as cases only those who (according to CES-D) had depressive symptoms during follow-up AND also used antidepressant treatment during follow-up (the number of cases will be substantially reduced) but the increased specificity will reinforce your conclusions.

You can accommodate here the sensitivity analyses that you did: using other CES-D cut-offs (a) 16 or b) 19).

Please add a spline figure to graphically represent the dose-response pattern, the HRs and the 95% confidence intervals across the full range of values of UPF intake

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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