Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Evaluation of Diet Pattern Related to the Symptoms of Mexican Patients with Ulcerative Colitis (UC): Through the validity of a questionnaire.

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 22 December 2014

**Reviewer:** Beng San Yeoh

**Reviewer’s report:**

This paper examines the effect of certain foods on the development of symptoms associated with ulcerative colitis among Mexican patients. However, several flaws have to be addressed before the manuscript can be accepted for publication.

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

1. The number of study participants were inconsistently stated throughout the manuscript: 233 in abstract section, 185 in Methods section, 132 in Result section. Please correct this inconsistency and clarify if these three sample sizes represent three separate experiments or it was just a single large study.

2. The grouping of the type of food is quite confusing. First, the authors mentioned 7 food groups being evaluated. Next, the authors mentioned eighty-one food components divided into 5 groups. Lastly, the authors discussed foods that are re-assigned into three groups. I suggest the authors to include a table that clarifies what foods are in which group. Alternatively, the authors can also add more clarifying sentences that help readers to transition from one group system to another group system.

3. Table 1 and 2 are not included in my manuscript copy. Please include those missing data.

4. The sentence "questionnaire that evaluates the relationship of each food with every one of the symptoms of ulcerative colitis" is misleading in the manuscript. The authors did not separately show what foods is associated with diarrhea, what food is associated with rectal bleeding and etc. Please provide data for each symptoms associated with the foods. Alternatively, please rephrase the sentence to reflect the data presented.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

5. It is inaccurate to state that intolerance to fat and spicy foods increase with age because Figure 4 did not show much change among the different age group for fats and spicy foods (only dairy product showed increased food intolerance).

**Discretionary Revisions**

6. Please re-define Group 1, 2 and 3. The 'active vs remission' observation
should not be used as a basis to define the groups. Instead, I suggest that the authors define Group 1, 2 and 3 as high, medium, low respectively in their frequency in causing/associating with colitic symptoms. After that, the authors can describe the 'active vs remission' observations in each groups.

7. The authors mentioned that vegetable oils did not produce symptoms in UC patient. Perhaps, the authors can consider to make Group 4 that consist of foods not associated with colitic symptoms.

8. Figure 5 depict interesting data about Group 1 food aggravate the severity of colitis. What about group 2 and 3?

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests