Author's response to reviews

Title: Intake of partially defatted Brazil nut flour reduces serum cholesterol in hypercholesterolemic patients- a randomized controlled trial

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Version: 3 Date: 27 April 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
Rio de Janeiro, April 26th, 2015

Dear Dr. Hiromichi Kumagai

The Nutrition Journal Editorial Team

MS: 3604681181277040

Manuscript title: Intake of partially defatted Brazil nut flour reduces serum cholesterol in hypercholesterolemic patients- a randomized controlled trial

We have received the editorial requirements and the reviewers’ comments. We greatly appreciate and express our gratitude for the comments of the reviewers, which will certainly help in the improvement of our manuscript. All changes made when revising the manuscript are highlighted with a different colour. We do hope that our responses are considered appropriate and allow the acceptance of our manuscript at the Nutrition Journal.

Please contact us if further explanation is needed.

Sincerely,

Glorimar Rosa
Answers to the referee’s comments

Reviewer 1: Alejandro Fernández Montero

Comment #1: When reviewing the revised manuscript, we consider that authors have answered all the points well enough, to allow their manuscript to be published, except our comment nº2.

Our comment nº 2, (minor essential revisions) was: “Results are not clear enough. When describing table 4, the lack of any statistically significant difference in the studied variables (serum lipoprotein levels and blood pressure) between the placebo and the Brazil-nut group is not well described. This is the main result of the study, and data are not given. It is a negative result but it should be better detailed”.

We consider, that the author’s answer to this point: “We performed the repeated measurement ANOVA, but it did not change the results about the significance intragroup and between the groups” is not an answer to our concern.

We think that the fact that no differences were found, in any of the study variables, between groups (placebo vs. Brazil-nut group) should be included in the results and in the conclusions, as this is the main result of a clinical trial.

Differences between groups are the relevant data of the study, not differences intragroup. Authors should discuss why there were no differences between the two groups. In their study, there were no differences between Brazil nut and placebo group, and this fact is not well enough described. Any other effect between baseline and the end of the study may not be attributed to the intervention.

Reply #1:

Reviewer 3: Alfredo Gea

I have no further comments.