Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 14 January 2015

Reviewer: Alejandro Fernández Montero

Reviewer’s report:

In my opinion, the study described is a well-done, well designed double blind clinical trial, with an interesting hypothesis and obviously supported by a hard work. The sample size is, in my opinion, the bigger handicap, which unfortunately can’t be solved at this stage, but otherwise the study is interesting, and the effect of different types of nut consumption should be thoroughly studied.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) Inclusion criteria should be better described. Hypertensive patients are included, but hypertension criteria are not well defined. (Study patients, Paragraph one)

2) The estimation of sample size was based on the detection of significant increase in T3 levels in previous studies, but the main variable of this study is serum lipids levels, not T3 levels, therefore this should be better explained. (Statistical Analyses in paragraph one)

Minor Essential Revisions

1) The placebo (Cassava flour) should be better defined (nutritional composition, antioxidants, vitamins, or other substances that could affect the results…) (Experimental design, Paragraph one)

2) 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. Only the differences found intragroup are described.

3) Table 3 is incorrectly referred as table “2”. (Results, paragraph 5)

4) English use should be reviewed. Language corrections should be done before publishing.

5) Spelling: “dropouthe” study: ?? (First paragraph of Results)
“that evaluate” glutathione peroxidase levels: ?? (Last paragraph of Discussion)

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

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests below.