Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 16 March 2015

Reviewer: Alejandro Fernández Montero

Reviewer’s report:

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 intra-group. 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 in not well enough described. Any other effect between baseline and the end of the study may not be attributed to the intervention.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests