Reviewer's report

Title: Diet Quality and Therapeutic Targets in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes: Evaluation of Concordance between Dietary Indexes

Version: 0 Date: 28 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Kathy Zhu

Reviewer's report:

This aims of this study were to firstly evaluate the agreement of the two dietary indexes, and secondly to study their possible associations with therapeutic targets in 148 type 2 diabetes patients. The first aim is basically achieved with the current analysis, but the manuscript needs some improvement to achieve the second aim.

Major comments

1. The analysis on the correlations of individual HEI and DHEI component scores and the clinical and laboratory parameters (pages 8-9 lines 180-196) complicates the paper and should be omitted, as the appropriate analysis for evaluating these associations needs adjustment of confounding factors such as age, sex, BMI, etc. which is probably beyond the objectives of this study. Instead, more detailed analysis for Aim 2 of the study should be performed, suggesting the authors add a new table which crosstab the categories of the two dietary indexes (poor, needed improvement, good) by the number (%) of participants meet each therapeutic target (glucose, A1c, cholesterol, etc.), with chi-square test performed for each therapeutic target between the two dietary indexes. The conclusion of the abstract and the paper should then be revised according to the findings of these new analyses.

Minor comments

2. Abstract: Please make it clear if the '5-19' for diabetes duration, and the '-18.28 to 28.28' for difference in HEI and DHEI scores referring to IQR or 95% CI. In addition, the later should be changed to 18.3 to 28.3, and the energy intake should be changed to 2114 +/- 649.

3. Page 3 line 54, 5 g of cooking salt should be one teaspoon.
4. Sample size, please explain why the calculation said 58 patients would be necessary, but 148 patients were recruited.

5. Page 8 lines 171-173, Bland-Altman method, please also comment on the trend of difference with the increase in mean (Figure 1).

6. Page 11 line 247 and line 252, consider change 'distinct' to 'different'.

7. The manuscript needs some careful edit, for example: page 3 line 52, delete 'as'; page 7 line 152, change the second 'between' to 'of'.

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Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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