Reviewer’s report

Title: Title: A systematic review on associations between dietary factors and obesity-related biomarkers - numerous limitations seem to impede current research on childhood obesity

Version: 0 Date: 11 May 2017

Reviewer: Kaitlin Dehlin

Reviewer’s report:

This literature review provides insight into a highly relevant topic that continues to perplex clinicians. As stated in the review, the association between childhood obesity and dietary patterns continues to be a strong area of interest. Although many original manuscripts have examined the role between various biomarkers in children and dietary intake, few have succeeded in providing concrete results. Although the authors of this paper were unable to find a strong association between selected childhood obesity markers and dietary patterns, they successfully described some of the shortcomings and limitations in the field. This review is well organized and easy to read. Please see my specific comments below:

Title: I think the title could be truncated to maximize spacing and readability. Also, the paper seems to be more about which specific limitations may impede current research - instead of why.

Abstract: Although the conclusion portion of the abstract is indeed true, it does not accurately summarize the results from this review.

Background: Consider revising passive voice throughout article. Example:Line 63, "have been undertaken."

The final two sentences of the Background section are awkwardly worded. Please revise (line 81-84) "If our findings will be in line with the former reviews, we will examine possible reasons for the inconclusive findings. Such an investigation may help to increase the effectiveness of future strategies against childhood obesity because inconclusive findings may impede strategy development" to past tense statements with less jargon.

Methods/Data Analyses: Robust study selection and appropriate measurements were identified for this review. Would help if the authors defined in the text the ages of the children/adolescents included in this review.

Results: Would be helpful for authors to build out the results section a bit more (just a few sentences) to include the top biomarkers noted from their analyses. Although they do mention CRP specifically, it would be nice to see a few more of the measurements in the text with respective p-values- to match the table provided. Also- a bit more of an explanation of Figure 2 would be helpful in the results section.
On line 260 it would be helpful to change the subheading title, since that title was used previously.

The text on lines 286-288 is not easy to follow. Revise to improve clarity.

The subheadings make for easy reading and separate the text appropriately.

Conclusions: Adequately describe shortcomings in the field while emphasizing the need for additional research.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

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

Acceptable

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