Reviewer’s report

Title: Associations between fruit and vegetable, and antioxidant nutrient intake and age-related macular degeneration by smoking status in elderly Korean men

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Reviewer: Jiajie Zang

Reviewer's report:

Article of "Associations between fruit, vegetable, and antioxidant nutrient intake and age-related macular degeneration by smoking status in elderly Korean men" (NUTJ-D-17-00161).

This article investigated the associations between fruit, vegetable, and antioxidant nutrient intake and age-related macular degeneration by smoking status in elderly Korean men because age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is one of the major causes of irreversible blindness. Korea's age-related health complications are becoming more important. Several studies have been carried out in an attempt to investigate the risk factors for AMD in the Korean population. However, the association between diet and AMD has never been studied.

The article found that intake of fruits and vegetables, vitamin C, vitamin A, and β-carotene may protect against AMD in elderly smokers. Future studies are warranted to explore the mechanisms related to the beneficial role of fruits and vegetables and antioxidant nutrients against AMD in smokers. The current results also suggest that public health interventions for elderly smokers should focus on improving dietary habits, including increasing fruit and vegetable consumption, as well as on smoking cessation.

These findings provide evidence for policy making of public health and awareness of general population. We suggest editor to accept this article with major revision. The questions need to be clarified were listed below:

Q1: In this study, the author mentioned "former smokers were categorized as nonsmokers, because their general characteristics and did not differ from those of nonsmokers". Whether there is difference in the diet intake is not addressed clearly in the manuscript. What's the proportion of former smokers were also not mentioned. If there is a large proportion of people who were former smokers, it is should be analyzed separately.

Q2: Please give a note which population did the author assessed using the models a and b (Table 2).

Q3: Why did not the author consider the length of the smoking? The average smoking years is 49, it is a long duration.
Q4: Table 3, please explain why model 2 adjusted for "smoking status"?

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