Reviewer's report

Title: Dietary patterns are associated with type 2 diabetes mellitus among middle-aged adults in Zhejiang Province, China

Version: 0 Date: 17 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Cinthya Wibisono

Reviewer's report:

The authors have conducted a cross-sectional study investigating the associations between dietary patterns and risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus in a middle-aged Chinese population. This study revealed interesting and important outcomes relating to the dietary patterns of residents in China, particularly given the increasing prevalence of overweight/obesity incidences and type 2 diabetes mellitus. The authors utilised factor analysis to conduct the dietary patterns analysis, which is a well-documented approach for studies in dietary patterns. One of the findings from the analysis revealed no significant association between the traditional Chinese dietary pattern and risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus, attributable to certain foods within this dietary pattern.

The manuscript will benefit from revising typographical and grammatical errors which were found throughout the document. Various sentences also require re-structuring and re-wording; some specific sentences have been highlighted below, however, it is recommended that the manuscript in its entirety be reviewed.

Typographical errors include:

1) A lack of consistency in spacing between references and text.

2) A lack of consistency in spacing between punctuation marks (such as brackets) and text.

Grammatical errors include (only some examples are listed here):

1) Consistency with the phrase "...the associations between" instead of "...the association between"
2) "…evaluate the relationship between dietary patterns and the risk of T2DM"… instead of "…evaluate the relations of dietary patterns with T2DM risk"

3) "…adjusting for potential confounders" instead of "…adjustment for the potential confounders…"

4) "…risk of developing T2DM…" instead of "risk of T2DM"

5) "…logistic regression…” instead of "…logistic regression analysis model…”

Please also preface numbers describing a sample size with "n=…".

Abstract

Lines 39-41: The sentence requires re-phrasing.

Background

Line 75: Please include the relevant timeframe for the quoted statistic.

Line 80: Reference(s) required for the epidemiological studies mentioned in this statement.

Lines 82-84: This sentence is unclear and requires re-wording.

Subjects and method

Lines 97-98: Please re-phrase, or combine with lines 96-97 for a succinct description of the study population and study design.

Lines 101-102: A sentence should not begin with a number. In addition, the use of the phrase "…possible disease-related changes in diet” is unclear and should be re-worded.

Lines 108-109: Please provide a brief description of the validation method used for the FFQ.

Lines 110-114: This sentence requires re-phrasing.
Line 117: Reference(s) required for previous studies conducted in China.

Lines 134: Please include a description of the position (supine? upright?) participants were required to rest in.

Line 135: Please include a description of how multiple readings were taken, i.e. consecutively? Over a set period of time?

Line 136: Please also include the make and model of the sphygmomanometer used.

Lines 145-146: This sentence requires re-phrasing. The make and model of the scales used should also be included.

Line 149: Replace "circumstance" with "circumference.

Line 157: Replace "reliable" with "validated".

Line 162: Please add "FPG" to abbreviations list.

Results

Line 179: A summary table listing foods under each of the three dietary patterns will be useful.

Discussion:

Suggest replacing use of phrases such as "null result", "null association", "reverse causality", "temporality" and "temporal causal inference".

Line 217: This sentence requires re-phrasing.

Line 223: Replace "In a word" with alternative phrase.

Lines 227-228: This sentence requires re-phrasing.

Lines 230-231: Reference(s) required for this statement.

Line 249: Use of the word "wealth" implies multiple references however only one study has been referenced in this statement.

Lines 263-265: Elaborate on implications of this statement on findings of this study.
Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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