Reviewer’s report

Title: Examining the correlates of meal skipping in Australian young adults

Version: 0 Date: 09 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Gerda Pot

Reviewer’s report:

This paper studies the correlates of meal skipping in young Australian adults. The topic of meal skipping fits in well with recent trends in nutritional research to study the impact of the timing of eating (chrono-nutrition, a key word to be added). Generally it was well written and it provides novel and interesting data. Please find below some suggestions to further improve the paper. Overall, the paper was quite lengthy and could be condensed in several places to enhance the readability.

Specific remarks for author

Title: suggestion to add the word Australian to young adults?

Abstract

Line 19-20: diet-related chronic disease risk factors - remove the word 'factors'?

line 22: this eating behavior -> meal skipping?

line 23: add the number/percentage of males and females? (NB 76% female!)

Results: Would it be possible to add more numbers to the Abstract?

Introduction:

First line: definition of meal skipping is not a very strong opening sentence. Omit this sentence and start with the problem (as described in the second sentence?)?

line 51-52 lower intakes of total energy, vitamins and minerals -> throughout the rest of the day? please clarify.

Though the Introduction provides a general good background on the topic of meal skipping, it could be enhanced by condensing the information and being a little more succinct. E.g. line 98-101 begin with 'in summary' and the next paragraph with 'in conclusion'.


Methods:

Statistical analysis: how did the researchers deal with missing data?

Statistical analysis: Did the researchers test for any effect modifiers?

Results:

Table 1: perhaps add two columns per gender?

Discussion:

One point that may warrant further attention is that originally this study included more subjects, which could not be included for several reasons. How could this have affected the outcomes of this study? And does this potentially impact on the external validity?

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

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?
6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal