Author’s response to reviews

Title: Association of kidney function-related dietary pattern, weight status, and cardiovascular risk factors with severity of impaired kidney function in middle-aged and older adults with chronic kidney disease: a cross-sectional population study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Authors responded broadly satisfactorily to the reviewers’ comments and the manuscript has improved but language remains an issue. The authors need to perform a thorough copy editing before this article is considered suitable for publication. Issues include wrongful use of "the" or "a", inaccurate vocabulary ("we retrieved participants" should be "we included", "cardiovascular status" should be "high cardiovascular risk profile" for example, "who were more adherent" should be "who showed highest adherence"), etc.

Reply: We have asked someone who is fluent in English to review our manuscript. Moreover, we have changed the inaccurate vocabulary mentioned above accordingly.

Other comments:
1. p.2 Abstract: why round up 1.5 million to 2 million? Also, prevalence refers to a relative measure in %, so either give the percentage, or use another wording such as "CKD affects over 1.5 million individuals in Taiwan".

Reply: We have changed the sentence accordingly as follows: Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), characterized by impaired kidney function, affects over 1.5 million individuals in Taiwan (p2, l.27-28).

2. Abstract methods do not mention the analysis linking the dietary pattern with CVD risk factors.

Reply: We have mentioned the analysis for dietary pattern with CVD risk factors (p2, l.42-43).

3. p.3 Change Background to Introduction

Reply: We have changed the title accordingly (p3, l.61).
4. p.3 l.62 Please give year of prevalence estimates
   Reply: We have given the year of prevalence estimates (p3, l.62).

5. p. 5 l.108. Replace "mostly" by "on average"
   Reply: We have replaced the word accordingly.

6. Title of Table 1: remove "from the database" and give the study name, it is a standard
   convention in epidemiological articles
   Reply: We have removed the words “from the database” and replaced with the study name “obtained
   from MJ Heath Institute” (p24, l.569).

7. Table 4. Title: remove "across tertiles". The reference category does not appear. Please add a
   column Tertile 1 with OR of 1.00 (reference).
   Reply: We have removed the words “across tertiles” and added a column for Tertile 1 as a reference
   (p28).