Author’s response to reviews

Title: Dietary patterns in relation to testosterone levels and severity of impaired kidney function among middle-aged and elderly men in Taiwan: a cross-sectional study

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RESPOND TO THE REVIEWER

1. l.139: Please provide CV as requested, not this standard statement.

REPLY: We added the coefficient of variation (CV) in the manuscript as follows: “The laboratory followed Westgard multi-rules for sample quality control and the coefficient of variation ranged from 1% to 3%” (lines 139-140).

2. l.168: Validated questionnaire: please provide reference or this statement is not informative.

REPLY: We revised it accordingly and added the references as follows: “A structured questionnaire used to collect demographic and lifestyle data in this study was validated prior to its use and has been documented elsewhere [1, 18]” (lines 168-170).

3. Please again check tenses. E.g. l.93: In addition, no study yet examines -- to our knowledge, no study has yet examined.

1.94. Therefore, this study aimed -- aims
REPLY: We revised it accordingly as follows: “In addition, no study has yet examined the relationship between dietary patterns and testosterone levels among men with impaired kidney function” (lines 93-94). “Therefore, this study aims to investigate the relationship between dietary patterns, testosterone, and severity of impaired kidney function among middle-aged and elderly men in Taiwan” (lines 94-96).