Reviewer's report

Title: A cross-sectional study of the associations between the traditional Japanese diet and nutrient intakes: The NILS-LSA project

Version: 0 Date: 14 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Anna Harton

Reviewer's report:

Comments and Suggestions for Authors:

Preparing manuscript: Abstract includes background and briefly presents methods, results as well as conclusions. Text of abstract contain explanation of abbreviations used in the abstract as well as later in the text. The abstract not cite references. The body of the article was broken into subsections such as: Background; Methods (aim, study participants, dietary assessments, Japanese diet indices, nutrient density, statistical analysis); Results (very shorts Characteristics of participants, JDI, mJDI12 and nutrient density score, Individual components of the mJDI12 and nutrient density score, wJDI9 and nutrient density score, JDI, mJDI12, wJDI9 score and nutrient intakes); Discussion; Conclusions as well as References. Manuscript additionally includes: List of abbreviations; all required Declarations (Ethics approval and consent to participate, Consent for publication, Availability of data and materials, Competing interests, Funding, Authors' contributions as well as acknowledgements) and Supplementary materials (Figure 1; Table 1-4).

Methods:

Lines 145-146 (page 8): Please explain ".... if their daily intake was equal to or over the sex-specific median" as well as "lines 147-148 (page 8): ".... if their daily intake was below the sex-specific median" - What was the „specific median”? No reference to such data. Whether these contents are linked to the data in Table 2?

Statistical analysis (page 9): Please explain - what was the data distribution?

Results:

Table 2 - the symbols placed in the table are not entirely clear (β, SE)

Discussion: The discussion includes only 8 references. In many places it contains the repetition of data contained in the results (e.g. lines: 252, 255, 259).
Line: 295 (page 14) "…. a lean diet might also contribute to undernutrition" - reference needed.

It is recommended to extend this part of the manuscript for more references of the literature with particular attention to the practical aspects of the obtained results.

Reference: 32% of the references (7 with 22 items) are older than 10 years. I suggest to enrich the introduction and discussion with a few new literature items, including studies showing the results of research from other countries (from outside Japan).

**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

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