Author’s response to reviews

Title: Ramen restaurant prevalence is associated with stroke mortality in Japan: An ecological study

Authors:

Kosuke Matsuzono (kmatsuzono51@jichi.ac.jp)

Makiko Mieno (mnaka@jichi.ac.jp)

Shigeru Fujimoto (shigeruf830@jichi.ac.jp)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Rachel Engler-Stringer, PhD
Editor
Nutrition Journal

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Dear Professor Engler-Stringer,

Thank you very much for your letter of July 17, 2019, regarding our manuscript (NUTJ-D-19-00075R3) and for including the comments of the reviewer. I am submitting two versions of our revised manuscript (highlighted and not highlighted). This manuscript has been revised as a Research article.

On the following pages, we have described our incorporation of the suggested changes.

Reviewer:

Hello,

Thank you for your revision. There are still a few comments on your paper left to address.

Bottom of page 6 - Can you tell us what proportion of total restaurants these categories are?

We appreciate your important suggestions, which are appropriate and helped us to improve our manuscript.
As suggested in this comment, we have clarified the meaning of our measures of restaurant prevalence. We have revised the manuscript to clarify that these figures are the proportion of the total number of restaurants of each type to the total number of residents in each prefecture (“the number of restaurants divided by the number of people living in each prefecture”; page 6, lines 16–17 in the highlighted manuscript). Our responses to your other suggestions are shown below.

In your discussion can you tell us anything else about what might different about the Kanto and Kinki regions that could have influenced your results? Is one more urbanized? Any other reasons?

We appreciate this important suggestion. In the revised manuscript, we have added our speculation regarding three factors that differentiate these regions (page 8, lines 12–18 and page 9, line 1 in the highlighted manuscript).

Your statement about Rutin at the bottom of page 8 needs to be contextualized. It comes out of nowhere and is therefore confusing.

We appreciate this important suggestion. Reviewing the originally submitted manuscript, we agree that the sentences you indicate here were confusing. We have revised the manuscript to clarify (page 9, lines 4–5 and line 7 in the highlighted manuscript).

We believe the manuscript has been adequately improved and hope that it will now be accepted for publication in Nutrition Journal.

Sincerely yours,

Kosuke Matsuzono, MD, PhD

Division of Neurology, Department of Internal Medicine, Jichi Medical University School of Medicine, Yakushiji 3311-1, Shimotsuke, Tochigi, 329-0498, Japan
E-mail: kmatsuzono51@jichi.ac.jp