Author’s response to reviews

Title: Does the inflammatory potential of diet affect disease activity in patients with inflammatory bowel disease?

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POINT-BY-POINT RESPONSES

General response statement: Authors appreciate the reviewers because of taking the time to review the manuscript and providing us the valuable comments.

Reviewer #1: Significant changes were made according to suggestions, few minor remarks left:

- Please be consistent with the spaces before and after symbols in all the tables.

Response: The spaces before and after symbols in all the tables have been consistent.

- Also, be consistent with the number of decimal places in all tables.

Response: the number of decimals have been corrected.

Reviewer #2: Thank you for addressing the previous comments. One final point for clarification is #14, which asked for more information on how the FFQs are "known to be biased by a number of factors". The author response "This cohort of patients usually receive dietary advice on the
possibility of this knowledge of the diet-disease relationship increasing changes in dietary intakes and reporting of bias" is not clear. Please clarify if you are indicating patients may automatically adjust their diet following the IBD diagnosis and knowledge of the effect of diet on the gut, thus introducing bias into the measure.

Response: thank you for the comment. We have tried to clarify the point as you stated.

Please see a few grammatical edits below:

Response: Thank you for the following grammatical corrections.

Page 4 - "... Asia and the Middle East."
Response: It has been corrected.

Page 4 - Change to "Among dietary components, increased attention is being focused on the intake of fish and n-3 fatty acids in the etiology...."
Response: It has been corrected.

Page 5 - "Results of a study that examined the association between the DII and risk of UC..."
Response: It has been corrected.

Page 5 - "...changes in dietary intake adjustment following IBD diagnosis, only newly...."
Response: It has been corrected.

Page 6 - Rather than saying "pre-specified questionnaire", perhaps say "...history were collected using a demographic and medical history questionnaire."
Response: It has been corrected.

Page 8 - Change to "Participant characteristics across tertiles...."
Response: It has been corrected.

Page 11 - Change to "... markers in the general Iranian population."
Response: It has been corrected.

Page 12 - "In Iran, a case-control study on gastric cancer showed the validity of the DII...."

Response: It has been corrected.

Table 1 - Correct spelling: Noodle (rather than noddle), Soda (rather than Can cola), crackers (rather than cracker), Pizza (Rather than "different kinds of pizza"). Pufak may require additional description for clarification by wider audiences.

Response: All above mentioned have been corrected as your comments except for soda which we used the word of “soft drinks” instead of soda.

Table 1 - For drug consumption category, please clarify if the drugs are specific to IBD or general drug intake.

Response: We have specified that the drug is the IBD-related drug. In addition, we have explained the details of the drugs in beneath of the table.

Tables 2 & 4 - Change to "Median", not "median" in column title.

Response: It has been corrected.