Reviewer’s report

Title: Cooking Frequency and Hypertension with Gender as a Modifier

Version: 0 Date: 22 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Tony Benson

Reviewer's report:

This submitted manuscript examines the association between cooking frequency and hypertension, with a focus on gender. The topic merits investigation and the study is concise and well written. However, there are some areas that require further explanation or clarification. These are outlined below.

Major revisions

Methods. Line 90. It is noted that the inclusion age for the survey is 30 to 79 years old, yet the sample is presented as representative of the population. Indeed, the survey is presented as representative throughout the manuscript yet there are no details on this. How is the survey representative of the population?

Results. Table 1. In the results, there are several comparisons and statements made such as "Among women, compared with those who cooked monthly or weekly or those who never cooked, those who cooked daily tended to be older, have a lower education level, live in rural areas with a household income of less than 5,000 Yuan, and work in agriculture and related fields". However, I see no statistical comparisons that show that these results are significantly different. I believe that appropriate analysis should be conducted and displayed to show any significant differences.

Minor essential revisions

Please revise the second half of the title. I feel that 'Evidence from a large representative Chinese survey' or 'evidence from a representative Chinese sample' would be more accurate.

Introduction. Lines 71-73. Please explain further what is meant by the sentence 'However, socio-economic status might influence men's or women's attitudes towards cooking, thus generating different outcomes'.

Methods. Include in the methods section the average length of time for a respondent to complete their questionnaire/interview.

Methods. Line 106. Please provide more details on how 'cooking' was defined to participants. Cooking has a variety of meanings and this would help to place some of the results in a wider
context. If cooking was not specifically defined then this may have affected the results and should be mentioned in the discussion section. For example, men typically over report cooking and may view heating convenience meals as cooking and this would help to explain their association between higher cooking frequency and higher prevalence of hypertension.

Methods. Outcome variable. Please provide more details on how the outcome variable of hypertension was coded i.e. 0 = no hypertension, 1 = hypertension?

Methods. Line 125. Individuals were classified as having hypertension if they reported a diagnosis of hypertension. Was this 'ever' had a diagnosis of hypertension or how long ago? For example, it would be redundant to classify someone as having hypertension if they were diagnosed 10 years ago and now have blood pressure within the normal range.

The quality of Figure 1 should be improved prior to any publication.

There are some very minor grammatical improvements required throughout.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?
6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal