Reviewer’s report

Title: Cooking Frequency and Hypertension with Gender as a Modifier

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Reviewer: Michalis Katsoulis

Reviewer's report:

This paper focuses on the relationship of cooking frequency with hypertension. The authors observed effect modification by gender and by other socioeconomic variables (within men and women).

Comments

1. The major limitation of this manuscript is the design of the study. It is challenging to assume that the association from a cross-sectional study between cooking frequency and hypertension is causal.

The authors have mentioned this limitation, but they should highlight it more.

I don't think that what they mention in lines 269-271 is correct (about the possibility of reverse causation due to the study design), i.e.

"However, we believed this possibility is low because we found that hypertension prevalence is higher in both men and women who cooked daily compared with those who cooked weekly or monthly or never cooked". I don't understand this phrase and how it is related to the findings, is that because the unadjusted ORs are higher than 1? In any case, I doubt that this strengthens the argument that the possibility of reverse causation is low.

The only argument that can be used is that hypertension was measured at baseline and cooking frequency refers to the history of cooking, prior to baseline. Nevertheless, we still don't know whether the hypertensives at baseline had also high blood pressure before baseline!

The authors should highlight the limitation of their study design and they should mention that future studies in the field should use longitudinal data to shed more light on this unexplored relationship.

2. The authors should have a second figure showing the association between weekly or monthly cooking and hypertension stratified by socioeconomic status in men and women - the same as they did with the association between daily cooking and hypertension in figure 1
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