Author’s response to reviews

Title: Maternal Dietary Patterns and Risk of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus in Twin Pregnancies: A Longitudinal Twin Pregnancies Birth Cohort Study

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Response to the reviewers:
Reviewer reports:
Reviewer #1: Thank you for addressing each of my queries in your revised manuscript. I believe the manuscript is significantly enhanced by the added scriptand discussion. I appreciate the problem of including perinatal outcomes if they are being presented in a separate publication. However, I wonder if you could provide a table with perinatal outcomes based on the 4 dietary patterns rather than GDM versus non GDM. I remain convinced that this is vital data for the manuscript.

Response: Happy New Year! Thank you very much again for your time and patience. Your comments are extremely helpful for us improving this work. We have added a new Table (Table 4 in the Revision 2) to analyze the correlations between 4 dietary patterns and perinatal outcomes. We found no correlations between dietary patterns and the other pregnancy outcomes, except birth weight. The larger
co-twin birth weight of women with the highest score in vegetable-based pattern is significantly lower than that of women with the lowest score in vegetable-based pattern. Similar trend has also been observed in the smaller co-twin, although statistical significance wasn’t achieved. These facts indicate that women with vegetable-based pattern during the second trimester are more likely to deliver lighter offspring.

In another word, although the vegetable dietary pattern during the second trimester has no effect on the incidence of GDM, it may affect the birth weight of fetus, doesn’t matter the pregnant women develop GDM or not. However, the maternal nutrition status during the third trimester also has profound impact on fetal birth weight, further trimester-based nutritional investigations are warranted to decipher the correlation between vegetable dietary pattern and fetal birth weight of twin pregnancy.