Author’s response to reviews

Title: Adherence to “Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension” eating plan in relation to gastric cancer

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor-in-chief,

We are grateful to the editors and reviewer for their time and constructive comments on our manuscript. We have implemented his comments and suggestions and submitted a revised version of the manuscript for further consideration in the journal. Changes in the initial version of the manuscript are either highlighted. Below, we also provide a point-by-point response explaining how we have addressed each of the comments. We look forward to the outcome of your assessment.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of the co-authors

Kazem Zendehdel

Abstract:
Lines 38-39: ‘we are aware of no study examining the association between the DASH dietary pattern and risk of gastric cancer.’ Please revise to: ‘to our knowledge no studies have examined the association between the DASH dietary pattern and risk of gastric cancer.’
Our answer: done

Introduction
Line 70: the word cancer is missing
Line 75: remove the word suggestive
Line 83: CVD- have you defined this abbreviation earlier? Sorry if I have missed it.
Our answer: all this changes has been done
Moreover, studies on diet-disease associations, including cancer, mostly came from western countries and few data have been reported from the understudied region of Middle East. Can you cite a systematic review which supports this?

These two sentences need supporting references. Our answer: we add some references in these sentences.

Discussion:
Line 219: Should be health outcomes rather than health outcome
Our answer: done
Lines 220-222: Although no prior information are available about the link between this dietary pattern as a whole and gastric cancer, several studies reported significant associations between components of the DASH dietary pattern and risk of gastric cancer. Supporting references are needed here.
Our answer: we add reference.
Lines 226-227: 'Consumption of fruit in this report has been classified as limited suggestive protective factors for gastric cancer.' Please revise to: 'Based on this report, there is limited evidence to suggest that fruit consumption is protective against gastric cancer.
Our answer: done.
Lines 233-234: However, some studies did not suggest any significant association. Supporting references needed here.
Our answer: we had mentioned references in fallowing sentences. Where, we explained it in details.

Analyzing data from National Institutes of Health-AARP Diet and Health Study, the investigators found no significant association between adherence to healthy diet, as measured by Healthy Eating Index, or Mediterranean diet and risk of gastric cancer(26).
Lines 236-237: Therefore, it seems that further studies are required to shed light on this issue in the future. Is this due to the conflicting findings? This sentence needs further explanation.
Our answer: we corrected as follow: Therefore, it seems that there are unanswered questions about association between dash or other dietary patterns and risk of gastric cancer; hence further studies are required to shed light on this issue in the future.