Reviewer's report

Title: Modern dietary pattern is prospectively associated with earlier age at menarche: data from the CHNS 1997-2015

Version: 1 Date: 29 Jul 2020

Reviewer: Erica Jansen

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for responding to the comments. I just have two remaining points.

I still do not think that the analysis was handled correctly. I understand now that not all of the participants were followed every year, but this does not provide justification for why the girls who had not yet started menarche were left out of the analysis. You should include all of the girls who had baseline dietary information and who had at least one follow-up visit thereafter, using Cox regression models. If they did not experience menarche at that follow-up visit, then they should be censored at their follow-up visit date. By excluding all the girls who were followed up but who had not yet started menarche, you are running the risk of severely biasing the results. For example, there may be 13 or 14 year-olds who have not yet started menarche, and this delay in menarche could be caused by a dietary factor. By excluding these girls, you miss out on potentially valuable information (but the Cox regression will appropriately account for this). One way to restrict the age range to a more plausible menarcheal range would be to exclude girls who were

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