Reviewer’s report

Title: Dairy product consumption and hypertension risk in a prospective French cohort of women

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Reviewer: Ming Ding

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In this manuscript, Villaverde et al examined associations of dairy intake with risk of hypertension in a French population, which is part of the EPIC study.
The study was followed for over 12 years, and identified 9,340 hypertension cases out of 40,526 French women.
The study found that total dairy intake was not associated with risk of hypertension, however, intake of processed cheese was associated with higher risk.

Main comments

1) What are the associations of individual dairy products of milk, yogurt, and cottage cheese with risk of hypertension?
   It would be highly interesting to look at associations of whole milk, skim milk, unsweetened yogurt, and sweetened yogurt with risk of hypertension.
   These findings can be included in supplemental files.

2) As to the positive association found for processed cheese, did the author adjust for multiple testing?

3) Did the author exclude participants with hypertension at baseline?

Did the author adjust for baseline SBP? When including baseline SBP into the model, the interpretation would be associations of dairy intake with change in hypertension outcome. However, this would provide additional evidence to the conclusion of this paper.

4) Did the author conduct stratified analysis by age, menopausal status, BMI, diet, etc?
   This could identify potential effect modifiers, and examine whether the main findings can be applied to subgroups of population.

5) Hypertension was self-reported without medical ascertainment.

6) The discussion can be more in-depth. For overall dairy intake, many observational studies from different cohorts have been published, and one Mendelian randomization has examined associations of dairy intake with SBP.
   The author needs to compare their findings with previous findings more thoroughly, and discuss the reason for the consistent and inconsistent findings.

As to processed cheese, what is the potential mechanism? Would higher salt, fat and sugar contents account for the association?
This would provide solid evidence to the findings.
Minor comments
1) In table 2, are the dairy products adjusted for each other?

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