Reviewer’s report

Title: The effect of protein supplementation on body muscle mass and fat mass in post-bariatric surgery: A randomized controlled trial (RCT) study protocol

Version: 0 Date: 08 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Charlotte Beaudart

Reviewer's report:

- Please indicate in the title that this paper is a protocol.
- Authors sometimes used the past tense instead of the future tense. Please revise it.
- Please revise the English throughout the manuscript.
- Instead of presenting research questions, it is preferred to present the main objective and the secondary objectives of the study.
- Placebo contains 100kcal and protein contains 250kcal. Authors wrote that the difference is not significant. How can they be sure about that?
- Sample size should be removed after the “inclusion and exclusion criteria” part.
- Has the Tanita's body composition analyser been validated against gold standard such as DXA scan?
- Is the Tanita's body composition valid in regards of inter-rater reliability?
- Authors should explain the mechanism of action of Tanita's body composition.
- Authors should precise than non-parametric tests will be used in case of non-normal distributions of variables (e.g. median (P25-P75; Mann Whitney U test, etc.).
- In the statistical analysis, authors should revise their paragraph from "baseline data for the two groups will be compared……" to "……independent t-test with a p-value of the difference". Indeed this part contains a lot of redundancies.
- How do they authors plan to check differences between groups for qualitative and categorical variables?
- How they authors planned to assess a "change" in weight, body fat percentage, etc. Which method do they plan to use? Statistical mean difference for instance?
Authors wrote that they will check, through a linear regression, if some variables "such as" age and sex could confound the results. It is not clear enough and, if they plan to enter other variables in the logistic regression, they should write the full name of variables here.

How do the authors plan to take the compliance into account in their statistical analyses?

Level of interest
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An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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