Author’s response to reviews

Title: Dietary variables associated with substantial postpartum weight retention at 1-year among women with GDM pregnancy

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Author’s response to reviews:

Below is a point-by-point response to each of the reviewer’s comments. Revisions to the manuscript were identified in Red text.

The one major comment that I have is that I would like to see the results of all the logistic regressions, not just those that were statistically significant. There is much debate within epidemiology about the validity of significance testing, and I think it is not in the interests of transparency to let the relatively arbitrary threshold of 0.05 determine whether results are presented or not. I would like to see the results for eggs and processed meats added to table 3, and also to know if adjusting these analyses for the consumption of the other food types impacts the results.

We have added another table (Table 4) showing the logistic regression for both whole eggs and processed meats as suggested. The unadjusted models were both significant, but after controlling for other a priori covariates and the other food/beverage variables these results were attenuated. In addition, we included the other food/beverage variables in the models for fried foods and soda as suggested. The fried food finding remained highly significant, but the soda finding became a trend once the other food/beverage variables were included. Given these findings we have revised the abstract, methods, results and discussion to reflect these new findings.

A few more minor edits:

Page 5, around line 36 "The purpose of this study was to evaluate if specific food and beverage intake at 6-9 weeks postpartum that predict SPPWR at 1-year in women after GDM pregnancy".
Change to: "The purpose of this study was to evaluate if the intake of specific food and beverages at 6-9 weeks postpartum predicts SPPWR at 1-year in women after GDM pregnancy"

This change has been made.

Page 7 Clinical perinatal maternal and infant data - are all these variables (e.g. Apgar scores etc) used in the analysis? If not, you don't need to mention them.

We have removed any variables not used in this analysis as recommended.

Page 7, around lines 41-44: "Height was measured in bare feet to the nearest centimetre using a stadiometer (Seca, Model 69072) to the nearest 0.1 in.[14]"Which is it? Nearest cm or 0.1 inch (they aren't the same!)

We apologize for this oversight; height was measured to the nearest centimeter. We have corrected this in the manuscript.

Page 9 around lines 18-22: "At 6-9 weeks, women completed the 18-item PrimeScreen to assess dietary intake, such as total energy intake (kcal/d), total and animal fat (% of kcals), dietary fiber (% of kcals),…"Change to:"At 6-9 weeks, women completed the 18-item PrimeScreen to assess dietary intake of total energy (kcal/d), total and animal fat (% of kcals), dietary fiber (% of kcals),…"

This change has been made.

Editor's comments:

Include clinical registration number, data of registration and registry in last line of the abstract.
Done.

Include acknowledgement statement:

Done