

Peer Review File

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Reviewer A

The study demonstrates that higher intake of salted vegetables may be possible as a risk factor for gastric cancer cases in Korea, and suggested a tendency in an association between dietary habits and gastric and colorectal cancers in Korea.

Supplementary figure 12 may be replaced with the figure in higher resolution.

Careful proofreading is required.

Comment 1: Supplementary figure 12 may be replaced with the figure in higher resolution.

Reply1: Thank you for your helpful feedback. We have updated Supplementary Figure 12 with a higher resolution figure as requested.

Comment 2: Careful proofreading is required.

Reply 2: Thank you for your comment. We have utilized the program Grammarly to conduct an additional grammar check and have corrected any typos found. Additionally, we will conduct one final review before the manuscript is published to ensure the highest quality of our work.

Changes in the supplementary Figure: Figure 12 with a higher resolution figure

Changes in the manuscript: lines 73, 93, 95-97, 99, 114, 146, 159, 169, 178, 192, 208, 212, 226, 323, 341, 351, 360, and 369

Reviewer B

It seems that a lot of effort and work has been done to put together this paper and I congratulate the authors for their work.

Overall, the topic is interesting but I find the 'discussion' section presenting only a summary of data form other countries and not a concise discussion on the results

- I think that a trained statistician should check and comment on the methodological part
- I think that this manuscript is more suitable for a korean national journal or a public health journal rather than the JGO

Comment 1: Overall, the topic is interesting but I find the 'discussion' section presenting only a summary of data form other countries and not a concise discussion on the results

Reply 1 : Thank you for your insightful comments regarding the discussion section of our manuscript. We appreciate your feedback highlighting the need for a more detailed analysis rather than a mere summary of data from other countries. To address your concerns, we have carefully revised our manuscript. Specifically, we have enriched the discussion section with additional insights and analyses, particularly between lines 309-315, where we have integrated more comprehensive discussions about the implications of our findings. Furthermore, we have made a concerted effort to compare and contrast specific dietary factors with those observed in other countries, delving into reasons for similarities or differences. These elaborations can be found in lines 317-320, 324-328, 349-352, and 355-357. We believe these revisions provide a more nuanced understanding of our results in the context of global research and hope that they meet your expectations for a thorough discussion.

Changes in the manuscript: lines 309-315

Comment 2: I think that a trained statistician should check and comment on the methodological part

Reply 2: Thank you for your suggestion regarding the involvement of a trained statistician to review the methodological aspect of our work. We appreciate the importance of robust statistical analysis and would like to assure you that our methodology for estimating the Population Attributable Fraction (PAF) involved the use of continuous variables, a method that has been increasingly employed in recent research. This approach is supported by the reference we have included in our manuscript, which outlines the method's validity and applicability in estimating PAF [1]. Furthermore, we have also cited other studies that have utilized this method for PAF estimation, demonstrating its relevance and effectiveness in similar research contexts [2-5]. Additionally, among our authors, Sohee Park is a statistician specializing in the field of biostatistics.

1. Murray CJ, Ezzati M, Lopez AD, Rodgers A, Vander Hoorn S. Comparative quantification of health risks conceptual framework and methodological issues. *Population Health Metrics*. 2003;1:1.
2. Zhang FF, Cudhea F, Shan Z, Michaud DS, Imamura F, Eom H, et al. Preventable cancer burden associated with poor diet in the United States. *JNCI Cancer Spectrum*. 2019;3:pkz034.
3. Wang ZQ, Zhang L, Guo WB, Gao Y, Li XJ, Zhao YF, et al. Burden of colorectal cancer attributable to diet low in milk in China, 1990-2017: findings from the global burden of disease study 2017. *J Hum Nutr Diet*. 2020.
4. Rezende LFM, Lee DH, Louzada M, Song M, Giovannucci E, Eluf-Neto J. Proportion of cancer cases and deaths attributable to lifestyle risk factors in Brazil. *Cancer Epidemiology*. 2019;59:148-57.
5. Soerjomataram I, Shield K, Marant-Micallef C, Vignat J, Hill C, Rogel A, et al. Cancers related to lifestyle and environmental factors in France in 2015. *Eur J Cancer*. 2018;105:103-13.

Comment 3: I think that this manuscript is more suitable for a Korean national journal or a public health journal rather than the JGO

Reply 3: Thank you for your suggestion regarding the suitability of our manuscript for a Korean national journal or a public health journal. We appreciate your perspective and

understand the concerns you have raised. However, we would like to kindly highlight that the scope of the Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology (JGO) includes the prevention of gastrointestinal cancer, among other topics. Given this, we believe our manuscript aligns well with the JGO's interests and could contribute valuable insights into the prevention and understanding of gastrointestinal cancers.