

Nutrients Editors-in-Chief

Professor Dr. Lluís Serra-Majem and Professor Dr. Maria Luz Fernandez

August 1, 2020

Dear Professors Serra-Majem and Fernandez

Please find enclosed our manuscript entitled “Milk intake and stroke mortality in the Japan Collaborative Cohort Study - a Bayesian survival analysis” submitted for publication as a Research Article in “*Nutrients*” for special issue: “Nutrition, Exercise, and End-of-Life Discussion in the Cardiovascular Field.”

Studies have suggested that dairy foods, particularly milk intake would be beneficial in reducing stroke risk. However, the per capita intake of these food groups is still much lower and less frequent among Japanese than that in Western populations. Whether people with such a lower level intake of milk can still benefit against stroke would need more solid observational evidence.

In this analysis, we carefully compared how much lower hazard of stroke mortality and whether these events were slowed down or delayed from happening among individuals who consumed milk with different frequencies against those who never had milk. Furthermore, we have simplified the study questions and provided direct estimates of exact probabilities that milk consumers could have relatively lower hazard of dying from stroke.

Our findings would interest your readership and the wider nutritional scientific community since we applied time-to-event data analysis within a Bayesian statistic framework. We believe through this thorough and extensive computer simulation among a large scale study population in Japan we have shown convincing evidence that daily milk intake among Japanese men was associated with lower

hazard of stroke mortality especially cerebral infarction.

This paper has not been published or submitted for publication elsewhere in any language. All authors have read and approved submission of the manuscript.

Thank your for considering reviewing our paper for publication on your esteemed journal.

Sincerely yours,

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