LETTER to the EDITOR

Key Concerns Regarding Research on the Effect of Omega-3 Fortified Oral Nutrition on Nutritional Indices and Quality of Life in Patients with Gastrointestinal Cancer

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Dear Editor

We have read this interesting paper and would like to raise two concerns.

First, the conclusion in the abstract is not based on the primary outcome results. The abstract states, “These results suggest that oral nutrition supplement (ONS) intervention for 8 weeks improves Patient-Generated Subjective Global Assessment (PG-SGA) scores and quality of life (QOL) scores in patients undergoing cancer therapy” (Sim et al 2022). However, in the results, PG-SGA and QOL scores are listed only with significant differences in baseline within-group comparisons and no significant differences between the intervention and control groups. Therefore, the results indicated that the ONS intervention did not significantly improve the PG-SGA and QOL scores compared with the control. Such a notation, known as spin could distort the mutual interpretation of the results and mislead the reader (Boutron et al., 2010).

Second, the authors did not adhere to standard reporting guidelines, such as the Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) statement (Schulz et al., 2010). For example, CONSORT recommends stating “How sample size was determined” or “where the full trial protocol can be accessed, if available.” However, the authors did not describe the methods of calculating the sample size and the accessibility of the protocol. We feel that improving transparency would help readers assess the validity of this study.

Author Contribution Statement

Conceptualization, methodology, writing-original draft preparation, writing-review and editing S.N and Y.T and T.H.; supervision, S.M.; All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Ethical Declaration
Yes.

Conflict of Interest
No.

References


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