

Response to: systematic review of dietary, nutritional, and physical activity interventions for the prevention of prostate cancer progression and mortality by Hackshaw-McGeagh and Colleagues

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We applaud the systematic review of Hackshaw-McGeagh et al. [1] on dietary, nutritional, and physical activity interventions for the prevention of prostate cancer progression and mortality. The paper makes a notable contribution to the literature and is thorough, well designed, and well written. However, there is one correction that we would like to bring to the attention of the authors. Though rated highly according to the vast majority of criteria, our randomized controlled trial (RCT) was cited as being ineffectively blinded either with respect to study participants or personnel. While true that we were unable to blind our study participants to either the low fat diet or flaxseed supplementation, the two experimental conditions in our NIH-funded presurgical trial among 161 men who were awaiting prostatectomy, our study staff were indeed blinded [2, 3]. The primary endpoint for this trial was proliferation rate in the tumor, for which the two study pathologists, each blinded to arm assignment, rendered independent assessments. Moreover, all biochemical assays, whether for serum levels of prostate specific antigen, testosterone, sex hormone binding globulin, insulin-like growth factor (IGF)-1, IGF binding protein-3, c-reactive protein, or total and LDL-cholesterol, or for the lipid composition of prostatic tissue or erythrocyte membranes, or the urinary and seminal fluid lignans were all performed

by laboratory personnel who were blinded with regard to arm assignment. Thus, while ours is a single-blinded investigation and is subject to some bias, the threat is relatively small. Again, we appreciate this well done systematic review, but thought we needed to bring this misclassification to the attention of both the authors and the readers.

Thank you.

References

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