

Author's response to reviews

Title: Development of estimates of dietary nitrates, nitrites, and nitrosamines for use with the Short Willet Food Frequency Questionnaire

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Author's response to reviews:

We are submitting our manuscript "Development of estimates of dietary nitrates, nitrites, and nitrosamines for use with the Short Willet Food Frequency Questionnaire" for consideration of publication in the Nutrition Journal. Studies have suggested that nitrates, nitrites, and nitrosamines have an etiologic role in adverse pregnancy outcomes and chronic diseases such as cancer. Although an extensive body of literature exists on estimates of these compounds in foods, the extant data varies in quality, quantified estimates, and relevance to the U.S. population. This paper summarized methods used to generate estimates of nitrates, nitrites, and nitrosamines in food items listed on the Short Willet Food Frequency Questionnaire as adapted for the National Birth Defects Prevention Study. Nitrate and nitrite composition in food has likely changed over time because of changes in preservation methods and regulatory limits. Our estimates attempt to account for these changes with respect to region through the selection and ranking of published values based on their relevance to the U.S. population. To our knowledge, these are the only estimates specifically designed for use with the adapted Willet Food Frequency Questionnaire and generated to represent food items available to the U.S. population. These estimates are not only useful for our current study but may also be useful in other research studies, specifically in those exploring the relation between exposure to these compounds in foods and adverse health outcomes.

Please contact me regarding further questions.

This manuscript has not be submitted elsewhere. The authors have no possible conflicts of interest to disclose regarding the content of this manuscript. We appreciate your consideration of this manuscript for publication in the Nutrition Journal.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Sharkey, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.D.