Online Supporting Material

Supplemental Text

Search terms in PubMed


Search terms in Cochrane

(palm oil OR palm olein OR palmolein OR palmitic acid) AND (cholesterol OR lipoprotein OR LDL OR HDL OR triglycer* OR triacylglycer* OR tg OR TAG OR lipid) in Trials

Methods to impute for missing standard deviations for changes in blood lipids

If SDs were not reported, they were calculated from standard errors (SEs) and confidence intervals (CIs) if possible using standard formulae, or estimated from the reported p-values for difference in means (1). If only levels of significance were reported instead of exact p-values, a conservative approach was used to take the p-value as the upper limit (e.g. take p=0.05 if p<0.05 is reported). Estimates were obtained from figures if no numbers were reported. If none of the above information was available to estimate the SD of changes in blood lipids, we imputed the missing SDs by using the SDs of baseline and final measurements and an estimated correlation coefficient between baseline and final measurements. These correlation coefficients were estimated using the pooled correlation coefficient from each trial that reported sufficient information (1, 2) in a meta-analysis of transformed z scores (±SEs) (3). To investigate the effect of the imputed within-person correlation coefficients, sensitivity analysis was performed using a range of correlation coefficients (0, 0.25, 0.5, and 0.75) (4). This sensitivity analysis did not result in a substantial effect on the pooled results for any of the studied outcomes.

Supplemental references