

Revisión

## Physical exercises on glycemic control in type 1 diabetes mellitus

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### Abstract

Type 1 diabetes is a metabolic diseases characterized by hyperglycemia, results from the destruction of insulin-producing pancreatic beta cells. Diabetes management usually by insulin, dietary and physical activity.

**Aim:** Assess the relationship between physical activity and glycemic control in type 1 diabetes subjects.

**Methods:** The literature search conducted in Pubmed and ScienceDirect databases and was initially identified 24 articles and we applied the inclusion criteria that considered original, full-text, remaining thirteen articles published between 1992 and 2009.

**Results and discussion:** Two studies found a positive association between physical exercises and adequacy of glycemic control on long-term, determining by glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c) and increase the insulin sensitivity, whereas three articles didn't found relations between exercises and glucose, insulin sensitivity and formation of ketone bodies.

**Conclusion:** There are positive influences of exercise of long-term glycemic control in type 1 diabetes, however results are contradictory with respect to insulin sensitivity and fasting glucose. Glycemic control in diabetes should be based on HbA1c values, self-monitoring of blood glucose and reduction of insulin requirement, such as have been demonstrated in several studies. Thus physical exercise, along with dietary therapy and medication, are important to control diabetes.

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Key words: *Diabetes mellitus. Physical exercises. Glucose. Insulin resistance.*

### EJERCICIOS FÍSICOS SOBRE EL CONTROL GLUCÉMICO EN LA DIABETES MELLITUS TIPO 1

### Resumen

La diabetes tipo 1 es una enfermedad metabólica caracterizada por hiperglucemia, resultante de la destrucción autoinmune de las células beta productoras de insulina del páncreas. El tratamiento de la diabetes se basa en la insulina, dieta y actividad física.

**Métodos:** La búsqueda bibliográfica se realizó sobre la base de Pubmed y ScienceDirect, que se identificaron inicialmente 24 artículos y aplicarse teniendo en cuenta los criterios de inclusión artículos originales en texto completo, la obtención de trece artículos publicados entre 1992 y 2009.

**Resultados:** Dos estudios encontraron una asociación positiva entre el ejercicio y la adecuación de control de la glucemia en el largo plazo, para la determinación de la hemoglobina glucosilada (HbA1c) y mayor sensibilidad a la insulina, mientras que tres artículos no encontraron ninguna relación entre el ejercicio, la glucosa sanguínea, la sensibilidad a la insulina y la formación de cuerpos cetona.

**Conclusión:** Hay influencia positiva del ejercicio sobre el control glucémico en DM1 a largo plazo, sin embargo los resultados son contradictorios con respecto a la sensibilidad a la insulina y la glucosa en ayunas. El control glucémico de la diabetes debe basarse en los valores de HbA1c, autocontrol de la glucosa en la sangre y disminución de las necesidades de insulina, como se ha demostrado en varios estudios. Así, el ejercicio físico, junto con la terapia nutricional y la medicación son importantes para controlar la diabetes.

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Palabras clave: *Diabetes mellitus. Ejercicios físicos. Glucosa. Resistencia a la insulina.*

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## Abbreviations

EGP: endogenous glucose production.

HbA1c: glycated; hemoglobin.

VO2max: maximum volume of oxygen.

## Introduction

Diabetes mellitus as a group of metabolic diseases characterized by hyperglycemia resulting from defects in insulin secretion, insulin action, or both. Type 1 diabetes results from the destruction of insulin-producing pancreatic beta cells. Diabetes management usually by insulin, dietary and physical activity.<sup>1</sup>

Exercises can be classified as aerobic or anaerobic. The definition of aerobic exercise as any activity that uses large muscle groups and can be maintained continuously. During anaerobic exercise, muscle fibers have to derive their contractile energy from stored substrates (glycogen, adenosine tri-phosphate and creatine phosphate).<sup>2</sup> The distinction between the two types of exercise is important because of their different effects on blood glucose concentration.

Elevated skeletal muscle blood flow and increased body temperature because of exercise can increase the rate of insulin absorption, for several hours to replenish glycogen stores.<sup>3,4</sup> As a result, an episodes of hypoglycemia can occur not only during periods of activity but up to 24 hours later.<sup>5</sup>

A high-intensity anaerobic exercise can cause excessive levels of catecholamines, nonesterified fatty acids and ketone bodies, inhibit glucose utilization in skeletal muscle, causing transient hyperglycemia (30 to 60 minutes), probably due to development of substantial counterregulatory hormone secretion.<sup>6</sup>

The aim of this systematic review was to assess the relationship between physical activity and glycemic control in type 1 diabetes subject.

## Methods

The review focused on language literature in English. The literature search was conducted in the following databases: Pubmed and ScienceDirect. The keywords used were selected from the following terms: "type 1 diabetes"; physical exercises and "glucose".

Were initially identified 24 articles and we applied the inclusion criteria that considered original, full-text, in humans articles. Were excluded two studies with animals; one article with type 2 diabetes subjects; and eight review articles, remaining thirteen articles published between 1992 and 2009.

## Results

Screening criteria previously explained resulted in fifteen studies (table I). Two studies found a positive association between physical exercises and adequacy of glycemic control on long-term, determining by glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c)<sup>7,8</sup> and increase the insulin sensitivity,<sup>9,10</sup> whereas three articles didn't found relations between exercises and glucose,<sup>7,11</sup> insulin sensitivity<sup>8</sup> and formation of ketone bodies.<sup>11</sup>

## Discussion

### *Contributions of physical exercises for reducing glycated hemoglobin*

Although physical exercises are recommended since 1990s, Salvatoni et al.<sup>8</sup> evaluated the influence of exercise to improve long-term glycemic control in 69 in type 1 diabetes subject, were divided into groups according hours per week spent on exercises: sedentary (less than 2 hours); irregularly active (2 to 4 hours); active (4 to 6 hours); or very active (more than 6 hours). As a result, lower levels of HbA1c are shown of most active group ( $p < 0.05$ ), however no significant difference was observed in need of insulin.

Assessing 19,143 type 1 diabetes adolescents, stratified according frequency refers to exercise per week and HbA1C is inversely correlated with physical exercises for both sexes ( $p < 0.001$ ), while only more-active men had significantly lower insulin doses ( $p < 0.01$ ).<sup>10</sup>

Also monitoring type 1 diabetes adolescents. Faulkner et al.,<sup>12</sup> related maximum volume of oxygen (VO2max), heart rate variability, cardiovascular endurance and HbA1c variables in 105 type 1 and 27 type 2 diabetes subjects. All volunteers reported hours of sleep per night and answered a 7-day recall activity questionnaire, being classified as sleep, light, moderate, hard and very hard according to a report of the American College of Sport Medicine.<sup>13</sup> The findings of this investigation revealed that regardless of gender or type of diabetes, the group with higher body mass index had higher levels of HbA1c and lower cardiovascular endurance. When compared the types of diabetes, were observed lower VO2max and cardiovascular endurance in type 2 diabetes subjects.

Boehncke et al.,<sup>14</sup> followed, for three years, ten type 1 diabetes subjects and five health subjects in triathlon competitions and all subjects presented hyperglycemia in beginning and glucose reduction concentration during cycling step. In conclusion, the authors suggests that diabetic subjects can practice extreme endurance exercises and physiological change affected by diabetes can be easily compensated for adjust insulin doses and nutritional modifications.

Another study assessing ten adolescents with type 1 diabetes subjects, related parameters of cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and glycemic control.

| <b>Table I</b><br><i>Studies evaluating the influence of physical exercises on glycemic control in healthy and diabetes mellitus subjects</i> |                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Reference</i>                                                                                                                              | <i>Subjects</i>                                                                                           | <i>Study design</i>                                                                                                         | <i>Significant results</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 8                                                                                                                                             | 69 children with type 1 diabetes subjects (8,98 ± 3,90 years old)                                         | Subjects were classified according type and hour a day of physical exercise                                                 | Lower levels of HbA1c in most active group (p < 0.05);<br>No difference in dosage of insulin                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 7                                                                                                                                             | 10 adolescents with type 1 diabetes subjects (17,2 ± 1,2 years old)                                       | Subjects were submitted an aerobic exercises for 12 weeks.                                                                  | Reduction in HbA1c of 0.96% (p < 0.05%);<br>No difference in fasting glucose                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 9                                                                                                                                             | 8 subjects with type 1 diabetes subjects (33 ± 3,1 years old)                                             | Subjects received 100%, 50% or 25% of lispro insulin dose usually used and different exercise intensities.                  | Hypoglycemia was observed in all exercise intensity after 100% of insulin dose;<br>Necessary 75% reduction in insulin for euglycemia at 75% of VO2max.                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 10                                                                                                                                            | 19,143 adolescents with type 1 diabetes subjects (3 to 20 years old)                                      | Subjects were classified according type and hour a day of physical exercise                                                 | HbA1c is inversely correlated with physical exercises for both sexes (p < 0.001);<br>More-active men had significantly lower insulin doses (p < 0.01)                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 11                                                                                                                                            | 15 subjects with type 1 diabetes subjects (7 females e 8 males)                                           | Subjects were submitted an aerobic exercise (80% of anaerobic threshold and 50% of VO2max) during 90 minutes                | Higher EGP in men (p < 0.05);<br>Glycerol levels were higher in women (p < 0.05);<br>No difference in glucose or insulin                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 12                                                                                                                                            | 105 adolescents with type 1 diabetes subjects and 27 adolescents with T2DM                                | Subjects were classified according hour a day of physical exercise                                                          | BMI was positively related with HbA1c and inversely related with cardiovascular endurance, regardless of type of diabetes;<br>Subjects with type 2 diabetes subjects showed lower VO2max and cardiovascular endurance                                                                                                          |
| 14                                                                                                                                            | 10 subjects with type 1 diabetes subjects and 5 health subjects                                           | All subjects were triathletes                                                                                               | All presented hyperglycemia in beginning and lower glucose concentration during cycling                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 15                                                                                                                                            | 18 subjects with type 1 diabetes subjects (42 ± 10 years old)                                             | Subjects were classified according type and hour a day of physical exercise                                                 | No difference in HbA1c and fasting glucose                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 16                                                                                                                                            | 5 subjects with type 1 diabetes subjects and 6 health subjects                                            | Subjects were submitted a rest, moderate and vigorous physical                                                              | Type 1 diabetes subjects showed 60% higher EGP during rest than health subjects (p < 0.0001);<br>EGP during moderate and vigorous physical were lower than rest in type 1 diabetes subjects (p < 0.006)                                                                                                                        |
| 17                                                                                                                                            | 8 subjects with type 1 diabetes subjects, 2 subjects with type 2 diabetes subjects and 15 health subjects | All subjects began to practice aerobic exercise for one hour a day                                                          | Type 1 diabetes subjects showed higher postmeal glucose and EGP (p < 0.001);<br>Fasting adiponectin concentration was lower in type 2 diabetes subjects (p < 0.01) and health subjects (p < 0.05)                                                                                                                              |
| 18                                                                                                                                            | 16 subjects with type 1 diabetes subjects                                                                 | Subjects were submitted a submaximal exercise after 100% or 1/3 of usual fast insulin dose                                  | BPM was positively related with VO2max (p = 0.002);<br>No difference in dosage of insulin;<br>Hypoglycemic episodes occurred when insulin wasn't reduced                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 19                                                                                                                                            | 20 subjects with type 1 diabetes subjects                                                                 | Subjects were submitted a resistance exercises for 3 months                                                                 | Increased insulin sensitivity, heart ratio and VO2max;<br>Reduction in severe hypoglycemic episodes                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 20                                                                                                                                            | 44 subjects with type 1 diabetes subjects and 44 health subjects                                          | Subjects were assessed by neuropsychological test                                                                           | Muscle strength was lower in type 1 diabetes subjects, compared to healthy volunteers (p < 0.01).<br>Muscle strength was not related to neuropathy or glycemic control for any muscle groups                                                                                                                                   |
| 21                                                                                                                                            | 23 subjects with type 1 diabetes subjects and 21 health subjects                                          | Subjects ingested dextrosol solutions (1 g/kg) or placebo (saccharin) 30 minutes before aerobic exercises until exhaustion. | Ingestion of dextrose increased muscle strength in health (p < 0.05) and subjects with type 1 diabetes subjects who had hypoglycemia during exercise (p < 0.05);<br>Hyperglycemia induced by dextrose was normalized after fifteen minutes of exercise in health subjects and after sixty minutes in type 1 diabetes subjects. |

*Note:* BMI: body mass index; BPM: beats per minute; EGP: endogenous glucose production; HbA1c: glycated hemoglobin; T12M: type 2 diabetes mellitus; T1DM: type 1 diabetes mellitus; VO2max: maximum volume of oxygen.

After twelve weeks in anaerobic exercise program, observed reduction in HbA1c of 0.96% ( $p < 0.05\%$ ), however was no change in fasting glucose.<sup>7</sup>

In contrast to previous works, longitudinal study conducted by Haider et al.,<sup>15</sup> didn't observe changes in HbA1c and fasting glucose in eighteen type 1 diabetes subjects who practice aerobic exercise for one hour a day.

#### *Stimulation of glucose production during exercise*

Galassetti et al.<sup>11</sup> investigated the effects of glycemic control and gender on neuroendocrine and metabolic variables in fifteen type 1 diabetes subjects (7 females and 8 males), matched for age, duration of diabetes and physical exercises. The clinical trial consisted of 90-minute in cycle ergometer (considering 80% of anaerobic threshold and 50% of VO2max for each individual). Results showed higher endogenous glucose production (EGP) in men ( $p < 0.05$ ) and glycerol levels were higher in women ( $p < 0.05$ ). Other variables measured did not differ in both sexes. In conclusion, there are sex differences also in type 1 diabetes subjects in response to exercise and EGP is the main determinant of sexual dimorphism.

Were also evaluated contribution of glycogenolysis and gluconeogenesis to hepatic glucose production during rest, moderate and vigorous physical exercises in five type 1 diabetes subjects and six health subjects matched for age, weight and VO2max. The experimental consisted of 200 minutes of rest, 50 minutes treadmill measuring 35% of VO2max (moderate physical) and 50 minutes treadmill measuring 70% of VO2max (vigorous physical). After the tests, type 1 diabetes subjects showed 60% higher EGP during rest than health subjects ( $p < 0.0001$ ), however EGP during moderate and vigorous physical were lower than rest in type 1 diabetes subjects ( $p < 0.006$ ).<sup>16</sup>

Perseghin et al.<sup>17</sup> compared concentrations of insulin, glucose, HbA1c and adiponectin and physical exercises between forty subjects (eight with type 1 diabetes subjects, two with type 2 diabetes subjects, fifteen pre-diabetic and fifteen health subjects). As a result, type 1 diabetes subjects showed higher postmeal glucose and EGP ( $p < 0.001$ ), however fasting serum adiponectin concentration was lower in type 2 diabetes subjects ( $p < 0.01$ ) and health subjects ( $p < 0.05$ ), proving a relationship between adiponectin and insulin resistance.

#### *Adjusting insulin dose before, during and after physical exercises*

A randomized crossover study was conducted in eight twentieth type 1 diabetes subjects in the presence of good glycemic control ( $HbA1c = 6 \pm 0.002\%$ ) assessed the requirements insulin dose reduction after exercise at different intensities and durations, to mini-

mize the risk of severe hypoglycaemic episodes. Each volunteer served as his own control, with changes in insulin lispro dosage (100%, 50% or 25% of insulin dose usually used) and different VO2max (determined by indirect calorimetry). After tests, 100% of insulin dose was associated with an increased risk of hypoglycemia for all exercise intensity and 75% reduction of the insulin dose was required for adequate glucose concentration at 75% of VO2max. Thus, the authors suggested insulin dose adjustment to minimizing hypoglycemia.<sup>9</sup>

Another crossover study related the aerobic capacity with insulin dose in sixteen subjects with type 1 diabetes subjects submitted to exhaustion during submaximal exercise (170 beats per minute) after usual dose or one-third usual fast insulin dose. As a result, beats per minute was correlated positively with VO2max ( $p = 0.002$ ) and aerobic fitness no changes with the dosage of insulin, however hypoglycemic episodes occurred when insulin wasn't reduced.<sup>18</sup>

Confirming that regular exercise promotes long-term benefits, twenty type 1 diabetes subjects were followed by three months and submitted to resistance training for 135 minutes per week. Results showed increased insulin sensitivity, heart ratio and VO2max, besides a reduction in severe hypoglycemic episodes.<sup>19</sup>

#### *Influence of exercises on resistance and muscular strength in diabetics*

Anderson em 1998,<sup>20</sup> conducted a study comparing muscle strength with neuropathic complications and glycemic control in forty four subjects with type 1 diabetes subjects and forty four health subjects. All participants were assessment of muscle strength, neuropsychological test (including nerve conduction and sensory nerve conduction tests) and blood samples were collected for glucose, HbA1c and creatine analysis. Results show that the muscle strength was lower in type 1 diabetes subjects, compared to healthy volunteers ( $p < 0.01$ ) and muscle strength was not related to neuropathy or glycemic control for any muscle groups.

Ramires et al.,<sup>21</sup> conducted a double-blind, controlled, crossover study also assessing the influence of resistance exercise and glucose ingestion in twenty one type 1 diabetes and twenty three health subjects, using each subject as his own control. All ingested dextrosol solutions (1 g/kg) and placebo (saccharin) thirty minutes before exercises on ergometer (55 to 60% of VO2max) until exhaustion. End of tests, performed on different days, ingestion of dextrose increased muscle strength in health subjects ( $p < 0.05$ ) and subjects with type 1 diabetes subjects who had hypoglycemia during exercise ( $p < 0.05$ ). Another important fact is hyperglycemia induced by dextrose was normalized after fifteen minutes of exercise in health subjects and after sixty minutes in type 1 diabetes subjects.

## Conclusion

This systematic review concluded that there are positive influences of exercise of long-term glycemic control in type 1 diabetes, however results are contradictory with respect to insulin sensitivity and fasting glucose.

Glycemic control in diabetes should be based on HbA<sub>2c</sub> values, self-monitoring of blood glucose and reduction of insulin requirement, such as have been demonstrated in several studies. Thus physical exercise, along with dietary therapy and medication, are important to control diabetes.

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## Revisión

# Energy expenditure: components and evaluation methods

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## Abstract

**Introduction:** The determination of energy expenditure, considering the physical activity level and health status, is very important to adjust the individuals' nutritional supply. Energy expenditure can be determined by using indirect calorimetry, bioelectrical impedance, doubly labeled water, predictive equations, among others. All these methods have been used in clinical and research areas. However, considering the inconsistency in several research results, there is no consensus yet about the applicability of many of these methods.

**Objectives:** The aim of this review is to describe the components of energy expenditure and the methods for its determination and estimation, summarizing their main advantages and limitations.

**Results and discussion:** Indirect calorimetry and doubly labeled water are considered more accurate methods, but expensive. On the other hand, even though other methods present limitations, they are convenient and less expensive, and can be used with some caution.

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Key words: Energy metabolism. Energy expenditure. Caloric intake. Methods. Equations.

## GASTO ENERGÉTICO: COMPONENTES Y MÉTODOS DE EVALUACIÓN

## Resumen

**Introducción:** Determinar el gasto energético (GE), considerando la actividad física y el estado de salud, es muy importante para ajustar el cálculo de la necesidad nutricional para cada individuo. Para eso, se pueden utilizar técnicas como la calorimetría indirecta, la bioimpedancia eléctrica, el agua doblemente marcada, las ecuaciones predictivas, entre otras. Estos métodos son utilizados en la práctica clínica y en estudios científicos. Sin embargo, debido a la inconsistencia de los resultados de estas investigaciones, todavía no hay un consenso respecto a su aplicabilidad.

**Objetivos:** De esa forma, esta revisión tiene como objetivo discutir los componentes del gasto energético, así como las técnicas para su determinación y estimativa, señalando sus ventajas y limitaciones.

**Resultados y discusión:** La calorimetría indirecta y el agua doblemente marcada son métodos considerados más acurados, sin embargo onerosos. Los otros métodos presentan limitaciones, pero por su practicidad y bajo coste, algunos de ellos pueden ser usados con cautela.

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Palabras clave: Metabolismo energético. Gasto energético. Ingesta calórica. Métodos. Ecuaciones.

## Abbreviations

%: Percentage.

A: Age (years).

ATP: Adenosine triphosphate.

BEE: Basal energy expenditure.

BIA: Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis.

BMI: Body Mass Index.

BW: Body weight (kg).

CIC: Circulatory indirect calorimetry.

CO<sub>2</sub>: Carbon dioxide.

DC: Direct calorimetry.

DIT: Diet-induced thermogenesis.

DLW: Doubly labeled water.

EE: Energy expenditure.

EER: Estimated Energy Requirement.

H: Height (m).

h: Hours.

H<sup>2</sup>: Deuterium.

IC: Indirect calorimetry.

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ICU: Intensive care unit.  
 kcal: Kilocalories.  
 kg: Kilograms.  
 kJ: Kilojoules.  
 M<sup>2</sup>: Square meters.  
 METs: Metabolic equivalents.  
 Min: Minutes.  
 mL: Milliliters.  
 O<sup>18</sup>: Oxygen-18.  
 O<sub>2</sub>: Oxygen.  
 PA: Physical activity.  
 PAL: Physical activity level.  
 REE: Resting energy expenditure.  
 IC: Indirect calorimetry.  
 TEE: Total energy expenditure.  
 W: Weight (m).

## Introduction

The energy that human body requires to maintain its organic and vital functions is obtained by the oxidation of macronutrients from foods.<sup>1</sup> Energy expenditure (EE) can be considered a process of energy production from energy substrates (carbohydrates, lipids, proteins and alcohol) combustion, in which there is an oxygen consumption (O<sub>2</sub>) and carbon dioxide production (CO<sub>2</sub>). Part of this chemical energy is lost as heat and in urine, and the remain energy is stored in high-energy molecules known as adenosine triphosphates (ATPs).<sup>2</sup>

Total energy expenditure (TEE) is the energy required by the organism daily and it is determined by the sum of 3 components: basal energy expenditure (BEE), diet-induced thermogenesis (DIT) and physical activity (PA).<sup>3</sup>

There are several methods for EE measurements such as indirect calorimetry (IC) and direct calorimetry (DC), bioelectrical impedance (BIA), doubly labeled water (DLW), predictive equations, and others.<sup>4,5</sup> The EE determination is important to adjust the individuals' nutritional offer, and must consider the demand of energy for physical activity and specific health conditions. Most of these methods have been widely used in human studies for different clinical applications (enteral and parenteral nutrition, obesity and others). However, there is no consensus about the applicability of some of them due to different results from literature. Therefore, this review describes the energy expenditure components as well as discusses several methods for energy expenditure estimation, emphasizing their advantages and limitations.

## Methods

This review was performed using a variety of medical and scientific databases including Medline, PubMed, Scielo, and *Lilacs* to identify relevant articles focused on energy expenditure measurement methods. The following key words, in English, Spanish and Portuguese were used: indirect calorimetry, energy expenditure, bioelec-

trical impedance, doubly labeled water, predictive equations, circulatory indirect calorimetry, food intake measurement, portable *Armand* and physical activity questionnaire. Articles were selected after an abstract pre-reading and independently of their publication year, since we were interested in articles which described original methodologies for measuring energy expenditure.

## Components of Total Energy Expenditure (TEE)

### *Basal Energy Expenditure (BEE)*

The BEE is the amount of calories spent per minute or per hour which can be extrapolated to 24 hours, it also represents the minimal energy required for body vital function maintenance.<sup>6</sup> The BEE is one of the most important physiological information in clinical and epidemiological nutritional studies, since it is used to determine the energy requirement of an individual or population.<sup>7</sup>

The BEE contributes for 60% to 70% of daily energy requirement for most sedentary individuals and nearly 50% for those physically active. Its determination is useful to compare the energy metabolism between individuals.<sup>6,8</sup>

This component of TEE must be measured under standardized ambient conditions such as controlled temperature and humidity. Subject must be at complete rest after at least 8 hours of sleep and after a 12-14 hour overnight fast. Also, during the measurement, subject must be kept fully awake, lied down quietly, completely relaxed and breathing normally.<sup>3,9</sup> The value obtained is extrapolated to the 24 hours of the day and, therefore, is referred to basal with minimal influence of DIT and PA in the TEE.<sup>3</sup> However, the measurement of BEE requires the subject to sleep overnight in the metabolic unit. Thus, instead of BEE, the resting energy expenditure (REE) is usually measured, since there is little difference between them.<sup>10</sup>

Many individual factors may affect BEE, such as ethnicity, weight, lean body mass, age, smoking habits, PA, diet, menstrual period and fasting. Room's conditions (temperature, noise and time of resting) and technical factors related to the equipments used may also affect the BEE measurement. For example, the metabolic monitor must be heated and stabilized 30 minutes before each determination and the gas analyzers must be calibrated with a known gas concentration and periodically validated with the use of methanol flame.<sup>1,7,11</sup> Other factors which may also affect BEE at different levels would be thyroid and sexual hormones; growth; fever; sleep; metabolic stress; diseases; and others.<sup>11</sup>

### *Resting Energy Expenditure (REE)*

The REE is a component of EE that is also measured by indirect calorimetry (IC). It can be 3-10% higher than BEE due to DIT and the influence of most recent PA.<sup>10</sup>

The procedures for measuring REE are very similar to those for BEE. The greatest difference between them is that in REE estimation the subjects have to be resting and fasting for shorter time, at least 30-minute rest and 3-hour fasting.<sup>12</sup>

#### *Thermic effect of food or Diet-Induced Thermogenesis (DIT)*

Diet-induced thermogenesis (DIT) is the EE component related to the energy required for the digestion, absorption, usage and storage of nutrients after food intake.<sup>13,14</sup> The DIT represents 5% to 15% of the TEE, and plays an important role in the regulation of energy balance and of body weight.<sup>9,13</sup> The thermic effect of food on TEE varies according to the type of macronutrient intake: 0-3% for lipids, 5-10% for carbohydrates and 20-30% for proteins.<sup>13</sup>

DIT is higher for proteins because their synthesis requires at least four high-energy phosphate bonds (ATP) per amino acid incorporated into a protein molecule, with the dispend of 0,75 kcal/g of synthesized protein, and the high metabolic cost of ureogenesis and gluconeogenesis.<sup>9,15</sup>

DIT can be divided into two distinct phases: the cephalic and the gastrointestinal phases. The first one is related to sympathetic nervous system action which is activated by food sensory properties, while the second is characterized by ATP consumption during the absorption and utilization of nutrients.<sup>16</sup>

There are some factors that may influence and modulate DIT, such as the stimulus to the autonomic nervous system,<sup>13</sup> hormones, diet palatability, PA, body composition, adiposity,<sup>17</sup> and the most important, diet composition.<sup>18,19</sup>

#### *Physical activity (PA)*

Physical activity (PA) represents the thermic effect of any movement that exceeds BEE,<sup>10</sup> which have a great variability inter and intra individual. In active individuals, the energy required for PA can corresponds as one to two times the basal energy expenditure while in sedentary individuals it can represent less than half of the BEE.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Available methods for determination of energy expenditure**

There are many methods for determining EE, but there is no consensus about which is the most accurate one for specific individuals or populations. The table I summarizes the advantages and limitations of each method for assessing energy expenditure.

#### *Direct calorimetry (DC)*

The directly determination of EE represents the measurement of heat exchange between body and envi-

ronment. This method measures the sensible heat released by the body, as well as the water steam released through respiration and skin. It requires an isolation chamber, hermetically sealed, highly sophisticated and large enough to allow some degree of activity.<sup>4,20</sup> Although it is considered a gold standard method, it is not widely used due to its high complexity and cost, moreover, it requires the individual a confinement of 24 hours or more.<sup>21</sup>

#### *Respiratory indirect calorimetry*

Respiratory indirect calorimetry, or only indirect calorimetry (IC) as it is often known by most authors, is a noninvasive and very accurate method which has an error lower than 1%. It has high reproducibility and has being considered a gold standard method. This method allows estimating BEE and REE, and also allows identifying which energy substrates is predominantly being metabolized by body in a specific moment. It is based on the indirect measure of the heat expended by nutrients oxidation, which is estimated by monitoring oxygen consumption (O<sub>2</sub>) and carbon dioxide production (CO<sub>2</sub>) for a certain period of time.<sup>12,22</sup>

The calorimeter has a gas collector that adapts to subject, a canopy and a system that measures the volume and concentrations of O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> minute by minute.<sup>1,20,23,24</sup> Through a unidirectional valve located in the ventilated canopy, the calorimeter collect and quantify the volume and concentration of O<sub>2</sub> inspired and of CO<sub>2</sub> expired by the subject.<sup>20,23,24</sup> After meeting the volumes, EE is calculated by the Weir formula and results are displayed in a *software* attached to the system.<sup>1,20,23,24</sup>

The procedures for using IC requires the same standardized protocol for determining BEE and REE, which includes environmental, individual, and technical aspects.<sup>1</sup> One advantage of using this method is the fact that it allows a short term measurement due to the scarce O<sub>2</sub> body reservoirs and the limited capacity of body of anaerobic ATP synthesis.<sup>2,20</sup> However, it is costly, relatively complex and requires trained personnel for its correct use.

#### *Circulatory Indirect Calorimetry (CIC) or Fick Principle*

REE can also be measured by CIC which is a practical and simple method. The CIC is commonly used to monitor O<sub>2</sub> consumption and EE when an intensive care unit (ICU) does not have IC and patients' nutritional support must be done with caution.<sup>22,25</sup>

This method is based on a thermo dilution technique that requires the insertion of a catheter (Swan-Ganz catheter) into the pulmonary artery for estimating cardiac output.<sup>25</sup> Besides, the use of this catheter allows analyzing the arterial and venous blood gasometry

| <b>Table I</b><br><i>Advantages and limitations of assessment methods of energy expenditure</i> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Method</i>                                                                                   | <i>Advantages</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <i>Limitations</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <i>Direct calorimetry</i> <sup>4,20,21</sup>                                                    | Highly sophisticated method, considered a gold standard for measuring the total energy expenditure, allows the subject some degree of activity.                                                                                                                                                                                                               | High complexity method, high cost and requires the confinement of the subject for 24 hours or more.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <i>Indirect calorimetry</i> <sup>2,12,20,22</sup>                                               | This method is considered a gold standard for measuring REE and BEE. It is a non-invasive method, reasonably accurate and has a high reproducibility. It also allows to quantify and to identify energy substrates oxidation. Allows short-term measurements of EE.                                                                                           | High cost, relatively complex. Requires trained personnel for its correct use.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <i>Circulatory indirect calorimetry</i> <sup>9,22,25</sup>                                      | Practical and simple method. It can be used with caution when there is no other way to assess EE in critically ill patients who have already have a thermo-dilution catheter inserted.                                                                                                                                                                        | It is Invasive. The use of the catheter may contribute to metabolic complications. It is based on instantaneous measurements. It is not equivalent to CI because it underestimates the REE.                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <i>Double labeled water</i> <sup>29,36</sup>                                                    | This is a gold standard method which accuracy is 97-99% compared to CI. It measures precisely the TEE in free living subjects and because it uses deuterium (H2) and oxygen-18 (O18), it is a safe method.                                                                                                                                                    | It is costly and requires sophisticated equipments as well as trained personnel. It does not provide the information of energy expended on physical activity neither it gives the information about the substrates oxidation.                                                                                                                                                 |
| <i>Bioelectrical impedance analysis</i> <sup>37,38</sup>                                        | This is an affordable and non-invasive method. It quickly estimates the REE based on its estimation of body compartments including the body fluid distribution considering intra and extracellular spaces.                                                                                                                                                    | Several factors may influence its results such as hydration state of the subject, prandial/fasting state, exercises, diuretics use, menstrual period, age, ethnicity, body shape or healthy and nutritional condition.                                                                                                                                                        |
| <i>Sensor of heat and movement</i> <sup>41,42,43</sup>                                          | Easy and practical use device that estimates EE.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Studies indicate that the device needs adjusts, especially the equations for obese subjects.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <i>Physical activities records</i> <sup>45,46</sup>                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low cost method that estimates EE from an extremely detailed registry off all physical activity perform daily.</li> <li>• Wide variety of types of activities listed. The list is frequently updated which allows the inclusion or the correction of typical activities from specific regions or country.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The comparison of results between different studies is limited due to various existing codes for activities.</li> <li>• The estimated EE does not take into account inter-individual differences which may affect the energetic cost of a movement.</li> </ul>                                                                       |
| <i>Dietary questionnaires</i> <sup>49,50</sup>                                                  | Simple and affordable method. It can be viable if properly used.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subjects can underreport their food intake, which will reduce de accuracy of the method.</li> <li>• This method is valid only for subjects with stable weight, so in a energy balance equilibrium.</li> <li>• Bias can occur because of interferences from the interviewer as well as bias inherent in the chosen method.</li> </ul> |
| <i>Predictive equations</i> <sup>52,53</sup>                                                    | Simple, fast and affordable method. It can be viable if properly used.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | It can overestimate or underestimate the GEB GET of subjects of the same population.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

which is based on the measurement of the serum hemoglobin concentration and its O<sub>2</sub> saturation. It is possible to calculate O<sub>2</sub> consumption through the artero-venous difference of the O<sub>2</sub> content multiplied by the cardiac output.<sup>22</sup> Thus, REE can be estimated based on the Fick equation. However CIC requires a surgical procedure to insert the catheter, so that this method should only be used when critical patients has already had a catheter inserted in their artery for hemodynamic control.<sup>26</sup>

Similarly to other method, CIC also has some limitations as it is invasive and the usage of catheters may contribute for complications. Furthermore, it is based on instantaneous measures<sup>22</sup>, thus extreme values of cardiac output decrease the specificity of thermo dilution, as well as the omission of the O<sub>2</sub> dissolved in the plasma and exclusion of the pulmonary O<sub>2</sub> mixed to the O<sub>2</sub> coming from other organs can decrease its specificity.<sup>9,25</sup>

Raurish and Ibanez<sup>27</sup> evaluated the EE of 15 critically ill patients on mechanical ventilation through the IC and CIC, and they found no significant difference between these two methods. Despite the lower reproducibility of Fick compared to IC, they concluded that both methods can be used considering the clinical point of view. However, Ogawa et al.<sup>28</sup> evaluated the EE of 40 critically ill patients in ICU and although they did not find a significant difference between IC and CIC, the use of Fick equation on CIC underestimated the absolute values. Similarly, in another study with 36 patients on mechanical ventilation and parenteral nutrition, the Fick equation underestimated significantly REE compared to IC, and these methods had a poor correlation ( $r = 0.31$ ).<sup>25</sup>

The CIC can be a useful tool if used with caution when there is no other way to assess the EE of critically ill patients who already have a thermo dilution catheter inserted. However, it is important to emphasize that this method is not equivalent to IC, because it underestimates REE values.

#### *Doubly Labeled Water (DLW)*

The DLW is an accurate and precise method for measuring TEE of subjects who are not in confinement, and with no change their routine, it also useful for measuring TEE over some days or weeks. It is considered safe because uses deuterium ( $H^2$ ) and oxygen-18 ( $O^{18}$ ), non-radioactive elements which are naturally found in human body. The DLW accuracy is 97-99% compared to IC, and it is also considered a gold standard.<sup>29</sup>

This method is based on the principle of isotope dilution. Subject ingests those elements at a known concentration and volume ( $C1$  and  $V1$ ) that diffuses throughout the body fluid (which has a different volume ( $V2$ ), and the new concentration ( $C2$ ) can be calculated by the formula  $C1 \times V1 = C2 \times V2$ .<sup>30</sup> Thus, the DLW method considers that the  $O_2$  turnover is determined by the body water flow and the inspired  $O_2$  and expired  $CO_2$ , while the  $H_2$  turnover is determined exclusively by the water flow through the body.<sup>31</sup>

To measure the total body water, a pre-established volume and concentration of the  $H^2$  and  $O^{18}$  isotope is orally administered, which diffuses throughout the body over 2 to 6 hours. As the energy is spent by the body,  $CO_2$  and water<sup>30,32</sup> are produced. The  $CO_2$  is eliminated by the lungs, and the water, by lungs, skin and urine.<sup>33</sup> The  $H^2$  and  $O^{18}$  disappearance rate is determined by measuring repeatedly their concentrations in the body fluids (saliva, urine or blood). The difference between the disappearance rate of the two isotopes is used to estimate the  $CO_2$  production rate and, thus, determine the EE, based on the equation of Weir.<sup>30,32</sup>

Many studies have used DLW to validate other methods.<sup>34,35</sup> However, this method is expensive, requires sophisticated equipments and trained person-

nel. Besides, it does not provide information of performed physical activity and substrate oxidation.<sup>36</sup>

#### *Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis (BIA)*

BIA is a fast and noninvasive method that estimates body composition, including the distribution of body fluids of intra and extracellular spaces. It also estimates REE by predictive equations based on the lean body mass.

This method can be performed by devices with 2, 4 or 8 electrodes. It is based on the principle that tissues have different electrical proprieties such as large at small opposition to the flow of an electric current. Lean tissues have a high conductivity of electric current, due to the large amount of water and electrolytes. On the other hand, adipose tissue (fat body mass), bones and skin have low conductivity.<sup>37</sup> This method measures the level of resistance (measure of pure opposition to the electric current flow through the body) and reactance (opposition to the electric current flow caused by the capacitance produced by the cell membrane) of the body to a low intensity electric current. By doing so, the analyzer evaluates the total body water, assuming a constant hydration, predicts the amount of lean body mass and estimates REE based on this value.

The usage of BIA has some limitations related to individuals' hydration status. In case of hyperhydration or fluid retention, both lean body mass and REE will be overestimated.<sup>38</sup> Besides, other factors may affect the results of BIA, such as diet, physical activity, use of diuretics, menstrual period, age, ethnic group, body shape or clinical and nutritional status.<sup>37,38</sup>

Korth et al.<sup>39</sup> reported that EE estimation through equations based on the lean body mass may be more accurate than those that the estimation is mainly based on body weight, assuming that the lean body mass is the responsible for 60-70% of the REE variation.

Strain et al.<sup>40</sup> studied severe obese adults and evaluated body composition by BIA and DLW, and EE by BIA and IC. The BIA and DLW methods showed high correlation ( $r = 0.92$ ) for estimation of total body water and lean body mass, as well as equivalence by the Bland and Altman analysis. The REE values obtained by BIA and IC did not differ significantly, and showed high correlation ( $r = 0.88$ ). Therefore, those authors suggested the use of bipolar BIA to estimate the body composition and REE of obese individuals.<sup>40</sup> However, for normal weight and overweight individuals, Oliveira et al.<sup>8</sup> found that comparing to IC, tetrapolar BIA significantly underestimated the BEE of healthy women, but the same did not occur to men.

Korth et al.<sup>39</sup> evaluated lean body mass of 104 normal weight adults by different methods, and the EE by IC and equations which consider body composition. Lean body mass estimated by those several methods did not differ significantly, and all methods were highly correlated ( $r = 0.95-0.99$ ). The variations

observed for REE estimated by equations were better explained by the differences on their mathematical model and data that used in their determination than the method for body composition itself. Those authors conclude that there is no advantage in using a more accurate method for body composition<sup>39</sup> when the objective is to estimate the EE based on the lean body mass. But it is important to use the appropriate equation for a specific population.

The REE estimation by BIA is valid for clinical practice, when the right protocol for this method is respected, mainly because it is a noninvasive and less expensive when compared to IC.

#### *Sensor of heat and movement*

The heat and movement sensor *SenseWear Pro 2 Armband* (SWA; BodyMedia, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA) is a practical device recently developed.<sup>41</sup> This device estimates the EE through equations developed by the manufacturer which considers several parameters (heat flow, accelerometer, galvanic skin response, skin temperature, temperature close to the body) and characteristics of each subject (sex, age, height, body weight, right-handed or left-handed and smoker and non-smoker).<sup>42,43</sup>

St-Onge et al.<sup>43</sup> measured the TEE and EE considering physical activity of individuals in free-living conditions, by using *Armband* and compared the results with the DLW technique. The authors observed a slight underestimation in the TEE (117 kcal/day) compared to the DLW, and a good correlation between these methods ( $r = 0.81$ ;  $P < 0.01$ ). On the other hand, the EE considering physical activity estimated by *Armband*, were less accurate, showing a 218 kcal/day underestimation compared to the DLW and both had a correlation of 46% ( $P < 0.01$ ). However, it is well known that EE considering physical activity measured by DLW is obtained from a derived value. So that there is a potential error associated with the addition or subtraction of other components (BEE and DIT). Therefore, it is unclear if the lower accuracy in the determination of the EE considering physical activity is due to a limitation of *Armband* to capture different types of physical activity, or the inaccuracy of DLW for physical activity.<sup>43</sup>

Papazoglou et al.<sup>41</sup> tested the reliability and validity of the *SenseWear Pro 2 Armband*, during rest and exercise compared to the IC in obese people. They found poor accuracy of *Armband* in the measurement of the EE, both at rest and in exercise, mainly in obese with higher EE values. According to those authors, it is necessary to incorporate new algorithms specific for obesity to the software in order to improve its accuracy. Similarly, a low concordance between these two methods to estimate the REE was found by Bertoli et al.<sup>44</sup> in a study carried out in 169 adults of which 48% were obese. The device significantly overestimated the REE

compared to IC for both gender. Through the Bland Altman analysis, the authors concluded that these methods are not equivalent. Thus, until this moment, studies showed that the sensor of heat and movement device needs adjustments for estimating more accurately the EE.

#### *Physical Activity Records*

Physical activity records estimates EE from a very detailed report of all physical activities (PA) performed daily. Most of the times, it is considered a complementary method, due to its subjectivity.<sup>45</sup>

The PA data are encoded according to its type and intensity and is used to describe a population physical activity pattern and to study its determinants. Moreover, through these records it is possible to investigate the relationships between PA, health and disease. It also can be used to evaluate the contribution of several types of PA to TEE, providing additional categories for the type of activities routinely performed.<sup>46</sup>

Among the lists of codes that exist, there is The Compendium of Physical Activity, published in 1993.<sup>47</sup> The compendium consists of five-digit codes that represent specific activities carried out in several situations with their respective levels of intensity expressed in metabolic equivalent units (METs).<sup>45</sup>

The EE is expressed in  $\text{kcal.kg}^{-1}$  of body weight. $\text{h}^{-1}$ ;  $\text{kcal.min}^{-1}$ ;  $\text{kcal.h}^{-1}$  or  $\text{kcal.24 h}^{-1}$ . It is possible to estimate individual EE (kcal) by multiplying body weight (kg) by the duration of the PA (minutes) and by MET value obtained in the compendium.<sup>45</sup>

Generally, it is assumed that the REE of any individual is equal to 1 MET. Therefore, in this case, the EE with physical activities must be expressed in resting METs. The steps for calculating EE is showed below:

1,000 ml  $\text{O}_2 = 5 \text{ kcal}$ .  
 200 ml  $\text{O}_2 = 1 \text{ kcal}$ .  
 1 MET = 3.5 mL  $\text{O}_2/\text{kg}/\text{min}$  ( $\text{VO}_2$  at rest).  
 3.5 mL  $\text{O}_2/\text{kg}/\text{min} : 200 \text{ ml } \text{O}_2 = 0.0175/\text{kg}/\text{min}$  or  
 Equation:  $0.0175 \times \text{weight (kg)} \times \text{METs} = \text{kcal}/\text{min}$ .

The  $\text{O}_2$  consumption varies with age resulting in different values of METs. For example, for teenagers between 16 and 17 years, 1 MET corresponds to 4.0 mL  $\text{O}_2/\text{kg}/\text{min}$ . For individuals between 12 and 13 years of age, 1 MET corresponds to 4.58 mL  $\text{O}_2/\text{kg}/\text{min}$  and for children below 5 years of age is 7.0 mL  $\text{O}_2/\text{kg}/\text{min}$ .<sup>48</sup>

Conway et al.<sup>35</sup> in a study with 24 adult men with Body Mass Index (BMI) of  $25.1 \pm 0.5 \text{ kg/m}^2$ , compared the TEE measured by DLW, with 7-day physical activity records and with a 7-day physical activity recalls. They found a good correlation between the physical activity records and the DLW, while the physical activity recalls had a limited application in estimating daily energy due to its overestimation of 30.6%.<sup>35</sup>

However, the major problem of this method is that different authors use different codes for the same type and intensity of physical activities. Although there are similarities in some publications, the comparison of results among the several studies is limited.<sup>45</sup> Another important limitation is that EE estimated through this method does not consider the individuals' differences that can influence the energy cost of the movement. Therefore, a correction factor would be necessary for individual adjustments considering gender, age, physiological status, body composition, and others, which does not exist yet.<sup>45</sup>

On the other hand, the major advantage of using this method is the wide variety of activities listed that have constant updates because of studies that include this method, which allow the inclusion or correction of specific activities to a particular region or country. When using this method, it is recommended to record physical activity instead of a recall.

#### *Food Intake Questionnaires*

The use of food intake questionnaires to estimate TEE has been widely discussed, mainly because people usually under-report their intake.<sup>49,50</sup> Furthermore, the use of these methods would only be valid for individuals with stable weight which means in an energy balance.

A study carried out by Tooze et al.<sup>34</sup> compared the TEE obtained by DLW and by evaluating caloric intake by a food frequency questionnaire and 24-hour recalls. This study involved 484 subjects between 40 and 69 years old. Authors notice that, for men the TEE was underestimated in 11% by 24-hour recalls and 30% by food frequency questionnaire and for women, these underestimated in 17% and 34%, respectively, when compared to the TEE measured by DLW.<sup>34</sup> The use of a 7-day food record to estimate EE was tested in elderly people by Goris et al.<sup>51</sup> by comparing the EE estimated through the food records with the results of DLW and with EE estimated by IC associated with an accelerometer. The results showed that food records underestimated the EE in 18%.

Therefore, the methods of dietary intake may provide an estimate of the calorie intake and indirectly from the TEE when subject is in an energy balance state. However, it should be interpreted with caution, due to the underestimation or overestimation of food intakes reported by individuals, as well as errors inherent to the interviewers. The estimation of EE by a food intake questionnaire must be used in conjunction with other methods of assessing the TEE in order to obtain a more reliable result.

#### *Predictive Equations*

Several predictive equations for EE determination can be found in literature.<sup>52</sup> Most of them were devel-

oped from groups of healthy individuals by using regression analysis involving weight, height, gender and age as independent variables, and the measurement of EE by IC as dependent variable.<sup>52,53</sup>

The first ones were published in 1919 by Harris and Benedict (table II) and they are based on data from a normal weight population.<sup>54</sup> Therefore, these equations have shown an underestimation of the REE of obese individuals when using the ideal body weight and an overestimation when using the actual body weight.<sup>55,56</sup> On the other hand, when adjusted weight is used it can reduce the risk of overestimation, but it increases the maximum error of underestimation. Carrasco et al.<sup>55</sup> notice that the Harris and Benedict equation using actual body weight has a 64% of agreement with the IC, while using the adjusted weight it dropped to 26%, considering severe and morbid obese women.

Based on a compilation of BEE data of 114 studies, Schofield<sup>57</sup> developed predictive equations (table II), that were considered appropriate for international use. These were later adopted by FAO/WHO/ UNU (1985)<sup>58</sup> after few modifications based on an expanded database. These equations were mainly based on information from Europeans and north Americans.<sup>12,57</sup>

According to the study of Oliveira et al.,<sup>8</sup> which evaluated healthy men and women, a significant underestimation among the predictive equation of FAO/WHO/UNU of 1985 and 2001 compared to IC was observed for both genders. However, in Cuerda-Compés et al. study<sup>59</sup> it was verified an overestimation of 18% of BEE by the use of FAO/1985 equations compared to IC, consequently leading to an overestimation of TEE.

Henry and Rees<sup>60</sup> proposed new equations (table II), based on the evidences that Schofield's equations overestimated BEE of subjects who live in tropics region. Although Henry and Rees equations provide lower values of estimated BEE compared to those obtained from FAO/WHO/UNU (1985), the values estimated by them still seem to overestimate BEE in tropical regions.<sup>12</sup> Cruz et al.<sup>61</sup> evaluated the BEE of female university students of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and found an overestimation of 7.2% in BEE obtained from Henry & Rees' equation compared to the results of IC. However, the superestimation observed for Henry & Rees' equation was lower than those 12.5% of superestimation for equation from FAO/WHO/UNU compared to IC.

In 1989, Ireton-Jones et al., developed an equation (table II) to estimate the energy requirements of obese patients. Alves et al.,<sup>62</sup> in a study with overweight and obese individuals (using or not mechanic ventilation), found correlation between EE estimated by Ireton-Jones' equation and the EE measured by IC. However, it was observed a wide variability for maximum and minimum values. Therefore, these authors did not recommend the use of these equations for hospitalized obese patients.

Another existing equation is the one developed by Mifflin-st Jeor<sup>63</sup> (table II), which was derived from a

| <b>Table II</b><br><i>Predictive equations for basal energy expenditure</i> |                    |            |                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Author</i>                                                               | <i>Age (years)</i> | <i>Sex</i> | <i>Equation</i>                                                |
| <i>Harris and Benedict (1919)<sup>54</sup> in kcal/day</i>                  | 15-74              | Male       | $66.4730 + 13.7516(W) + 5.0033(H) - 6.7550(A)$                 |
|                                                                             | 15-74              | Female     | $655.0955 + 9.5634(W) + 1.8496(H) - 4.6756(A)$                 |
| <i>Schofield (1985)<sup>57</sup> in MJ/day</i>                              | 10-17              | Male       | $0.074(W) + 2.754$                                             |
|                                                                             |                    | Female     | $0.056(W) + 2.898$                                             |
|                                                                             | 18-29              | Male       | $0.063(W) + 2.896$                                             |
|                                                                             |                    | Female     | $0.062(W) + 2.036$                                             |
|                                                                             | 30-59              | Male       | $0.048(W) + 3.653$                                             |
|                                                                             |                    | Female     | $0.034(W) + 3.538$                                             |
|                                                                             | >= 60              | Male       | $0.049(W) + 2.459$                                             |
|                                                                             |                    | Female     | $0.038(W) + 2.755$                                             |
| <i>FAO/WHO/UNU (1985)<sup>58</sup> in MJ/day</i>                            | 10-17              | Male       | $0.0732(W) + 2.72$                                             |
|                                                                             |                    | Female     | $0.0510(W) + 3.12$                                             |
|                                                                             | 18-29              | Male       | $0.0640(W) + 2.84$                                             |
|                                                                             |                    | Female     | $0.0615(W) + 2.08$                                             |
|                                                                             | 30-60              | Male       | $0.0485(W) + 3.67$                                             |
|                                                                             |                    | Female     | $0.0364(W) + 3.47$                                             |
|                                                                             | >= 60              | Male       | $0.0565(W) + 2.04$                                             |
|                                                                             |                    | Female     | $0.0439(W) + 2.49$                                             |
| <i>Henry and Rees (1991)<sup>60</sup> in MJ/day</i>                         | 10-17              | Male       | $0.084(W) + 2.122$                                             |
|                                                                             |                    | Female     | $0.047(W) + 2.951$                                             |
|                                                                             | 18-29              | Male       | $0.056(W) + 2.800$                                             |
|                                                                             |                    | Female     | $0.048(W) + 2.562$                                             |
|                                                                             | 30-59              | Male       | $0.046(W) + 3.160$                                             |
|                                                                             |                    | Female     | $0.048(W) + 2.448$                                             |
| <i>*Ireton-Jones (1989)<sup>68</sup> in kcal/day</i>                        |                    |            | <i>Spontaneous Breathing</i>                                   |
|                                                                             |                    | Male       | $629 - (11 \times H) + (25 \times W) - 609 \times O$           |
|                                                                             |                    | Female     | $629 - (11 \times H) + (25 \times W) - 609 \times O$           |
|                                                                             |                    |            | <i>Mechanical Ventilation</i>                                  |
|                                                                             |                    | Male       | $606 + (9 \times W) - (12 \times H) + (400 \times MV) + 1,444$ |
|                                                                             |                    | Female     | $(9 \times W) - (12 \times H) + (400 \times MV) + 1,444$       |
| <i>Mifflin-St Jeor (1990)<sup>63</sup> in kcal/day</i>                      | 19-78              | Male       | $10 \times W + 6,25 \times H - 5 \times A + 5$                 |
|                                                                             | 19-78              | Female     | $10 \times W + 6,25 \times H - 5 \times A - 161$               |
| <i>Owen (1986)<sup>66</sup> and Owen (1987)<sup>65</sup></i>                | 18-65              | Female     | $795 + 7.18 \times W$ (kcal/day)                               |
|                                                                             | 18-65              | Male       | $879 + 10.2 \times W$ (kcal/day)                               |

Adapted from Oliveira et al. (2010)<sup>62</sup>. Abbreviations: W= body weight (kg); H= Height (cm); A= Age (years); O = obesity; O absent = 0; O present = 1; MV = Mechanical Ventilation; MV absent = 0; MV present = 1. \* Age group is not available. NOTE: to convert MJ into kcal, multiply the result by 239.

sample of normal weight, overweight, obese and very obese individuals. The study does not specify the ethnicity of the individuals and a limitation is that the representation of elderly people was small.<sup>63</sup>

In a validation study of 27 equations for overweight and obese people from the United States and The Netherlands, it was showed that the Mifflin's equation have the best accuracy in the estimation of REE (79%) for men and women from the United States compared to the values obtained by IC.<sup>64</sup> Thus, it seems that the geographic location, the body composition and the ethnicity of individuals are factors that must always be considered while choosing the method for REE estimation.

Owen et al.<sup>65</sup> and Owen et al.<sup>66</sup> developed REE equations based on women and men data (table II). The sample included whites, blacks and Asian men, with BMI ranged from normal weight to obesity. Again, the elderly were not well represented. The female sample included extremely obese, obese, normal weight and malnourished women. Data from athletes and elderly women were excluded. Additionally, there is no information about the ethnicity of these women.

Fett et al.<sup>4</sup> evaluated REE measured by IC compared to that estimated by equations of sedentary women, most of them with overweight. They showed that the Owen equation was inadequate for obese women because this equation underestimated REE in approximately 16%. Similarly, Wilms et al.,<sup>67</sup> evaluated the accuracy of 11 predictive equations for REE in obese women. It was

**Table III**  
Predictive equations for total energy expenditure for adults older than 19 years old according to nutritional status

|                                             | Men                                                                                                                                                         | Women                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Normal weight (a)</i>                    | EER = 662 – 9.53 x A + PA x (15.91 x W + 539.6 x H)<br>PA = 1.00 if sedentary<br>PA = 1.11 if low active<br>PA = 1.25 if active<br>PA = 1.48 if very active | EER = 354 – 6.91 x A + PA x (9.36 x W + 726 x H)<br>PA = 1.00 if sedentary<br>PA = 1.12 if low active<br>PA = 1.27 if active<br>PA = 1.45 if very active   |
| <i>Overweight obesity (b)</i>               | EER = 1086 – 10.1 x A + PA x (13.7 x W + 416 x H)<br>PA = 1.00 if sedentary<br>PA = 1.12 if low active<br>PA = 1.29 if active<br>PA = 1.59 if very active   | EER = 448 – 7.95 x A + PA x (11.4 x W + 619 x H)<br>PA = 1.00 if sedentary<br>PA = 1.16 if low active<br>PA = 1.27 if active<br>PA = 1.44 if very active   |
| <i>Normal Weight Overweight Obesity (c)</i> | EER = 864 – 9.72 x A + PA x (14.2 x W + 503 x H)<br>PA = 1.00 if sedentary<br>PA = 1.12 if low active<br>PA = 1.27 if active<br>PA = 1.54 if very active    | EER = 387 – 7.31 x A + PA x (10.9 x W + 660.7 x H)<br>PA = 1.00 if sedentary<br>PA = 1.14 if low active<br>PA = 1.27 if active<br>PA = 1.45 if very active |

Source: Oliveira et al. (2010) and IOM (2002)<sup>35</sup>. Abbreviations: EER = *estimated energy requirement*; W= body weight (kg); H = height (m); A = age (years); PA = physical activity; Sedentary if the category physical activity level (PAL) is estimated to be  $1.0 < 1.4$ ; low active if PAL is estimated to be  $1.4 < 1.6$ ; Active if PAL is estimated to be  $1.6 < 1.9$ ; Very active if PAL is estimated to be  $1.9 < 2.5$ .  
if PAL is estimated to be  $\geq 1.0 < 1.4$ .

observed that the Owen equation showed one of the highest underestimation of REE ( $-317.6 \pm 221.0$  kcal/day) compared to values obtained by using IC.

In 2002, new equations for estimated energy requirement (EER) were published by the *Institute of Medicine* (IOM),<sup>3</sup> in which authors developed equations for normal weight individuals (BMI from 18.5 to 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>), from 0 to 100 years of age based on EE data measured by the DLW method (table III (a)). Considering that EERs were defined to maintain the health state for a long period they are not applicable to overweight or obese people so that, new equations were developed (table III (b)). Moreover, combined equations for normal weight, overweight or obese individuals were proposed (table III (c)).

According to the results of Oliveira et al.,<sup>8</sup> the EER has a lower overestimation compared to the 1985 and 2001 FAO/WHO/UNU's predictive equations. This results are probably due to the fact that IOM's equations had been based in the DLW method, and also because FAO equations were based on data from mainly North American and European individuals with different pattern of food intake, physical activity level, physical characteristics and climatic conditions from other populations.

## Conclusion

After reviewing the components of the energy metabolism, as well as their assessment methods for humans, it is possible to verify the existence of several factors that may affect its determination. Yet, even the most sophisticated methods can not accurately reproduce the number and the complexity of the activities performed by individuals daily.

Methods to estimate the energy expenditure, such as respiratory indirect calorimetry and doubly labeled water have a higher accuracy, but they are more expensive and require trained personnel. Bioelectrical impedance is a practical and noninvasive method that provides good results when the right protocol is followed. The use of predictive equations, a simple, fast and low cost method, can be viable if correctly used. These equations have some limitations, but are also the starting point to determining individual energy requirements. It is important to point out that the average values of the BEE estimated by equations can be overestimated or underestimated in individuals of the same population.

The evaluation of the energy expenditure of critically ill patients hospitalized is still a challenge when the institution does not have the equipment for IC. The suitability of using the circulatory indirect calorimetry method should be discussed case by case. Measuring TEE and the energy used during a physical activity is also a challenging, since heat and movement sensor devices are not yet validated. The use of questionnaires to evaluate the EE, based on the daily activities or on food intake is not reliable, due to over or under-reports.

Therefore, analysis of a sample of people from a particular country or region, when extrapolated for other populations, should be evaluated with caution in order to reduce bias since individuals from the same population may have different energy expenditure due to the complexity of multiple factors that affect it. Thereby, studies for the mayor countries population are necessary, with specific equations focused on the context and needs of the different regions of the country.

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Revisión

## Molecular mechanisms of steatosis in nonalcoholic fatty liver disease

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Abstract

Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) is the most important cause of chronic liver disease and is considered the hepatic manifestation of the metabolic syndrome associated with diabetes mellitus type 2. The prevalence of NAFLD in the general population reaches 15-20%. It is also estimated that nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) affects 3% of the population. NAFLD refers to a wide spectrum of liver damage, which ranges from simple steatosis or intracellular triglyceride accumulation, to inflammation (NASH), fibrosis and cirrhosis. The mechanisms involved in the accumulation of triglycerides in the liver and subsequent hepatocellular damage are multifactorial and are not completely understood. However, metabolic changes such as insulin resistance (IR) are developed, being a common factor in the retention of fatty acids (FA) within the hepatocytes with oxidation and production of free radicals at the mitochondrial level, which are capable of causing lipid peroxidation, cytokine production, and necrosis. In addition, there are alterations in the hepatic bioavailability of long chain n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids, conditions that alter the expression of a series of transcriptional factors involved in lipolytic and lipogenic processes in the liver. A greater knowledge of the etiopathogenic mechanisms of NAFLD is fundamental for the development of future effective therapeutic strategies. The pathophysiological fundamentals of liver steatosis are analyzed in this study.

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Key words: *Fatty liver. Obesity. PPAR-alfa. SREBP-1c. n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids.*

### MECANISMOS MOLECULARES DE LA ESTEATOSIS EN LA PATOLOGÍA DE HÍGADO GRASO NO ALCOHÓLICO

Resumen

La enfermedad de Hígado graso no alcohólico (HGNA) es la causa más importante de enfermedad hepática crónica y es considerado la manifestación hepática del síndrome metabólico asociado a obesidad y diabetes mellitus tipo 2. La prevalencia de la enfermedad de HGNA en la población general alcanza el 15-20%, estimándose además que la esteatohepatitis no-alcohólica (EHNA) afecta al 3%. El HGNA se refiere a un amplio espectro de daño hepático, que va desde esteatosis simple o acumulación intracelular de triacilglicéridos (TAGs), a inflamación (EHNA), fibrosis y cirrosis. Los mecanismos implicados en la acumulación de TAGs a nivel hepático y subsecuente daño hepatocelular son de carácter multifactorial y no se conocen completamente. Sin embargo, es reconocido que existen alteraciones metabólicas, siendo la resistencia a la insulina (RI) un factor común que genera retención de ácidos grasos y TAGs dentro de los hepatocitos, con la producción de radicales libres a nivel mitocondrial capaces de inducir lipoperoxidación, producción de citoquinas y necrosis. Además, existen alteraciones en la biodisponibilidad hepática de ácidos grasos poli-insaturados de cadena larga de la serie n-3, condiciones que alterarían la expresión de una serie de factores de transcripción involucrados en el proceso de lipólisis y lipogénesis a nivel hepático. Un mayor conocimiento de los mecanismos etiopatogénicos de la enfermedad de HGNA es fundamental para el desarrollo de estrategias terapéuticas eficaces a futuro. Los fundamentos fisiopatológicos de la esteatosis son analizados a continuación.

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Palabras clave: *Hígado graso. Obesidad. PPAR-alfa. SREBP-1c. Ácidos grasos poli-insaturados n-3.*

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## Introduction

Non alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) has emerged as the most important cause of chronic liver disease related to the increase in incidence of obesity and diabetes mellitus type 2 in the population.<sup>1</sup> There are secondary, less common, causes of NAFLD including the use of different medicines, antiretroviral drugs, and nutritional causes such as rapid weight loss or total parenteral nutrition.<sup>2</sup> NAFLD refers to a wide spectrum of liver damage, which ranges from simple steatosis or intracellular triglyceride accumulation to inflammation (non alcoholic steatohepatitis, NASH) fibrosis and cirrhosis.<sup>3</sup> The characteristics of liver biopsies include steatosis, when it is more than 5% of the liver weight, mixed inflammatory cellular infiltration, degeneration and hepatocyte necrosis, nuclear glycogen, Mallory bodies and fibrosis.<sup>4,5</sup> Its clinical implications are mainly derived from its occurrence in the population and its potential to progress to cirrhosis and liver failure, steatosis being comparatively benign with a 0-4% risk of developing cirrhosis in a period of one to two decades, in contrast to the 5-8% of patients with NASH that could develop cirrhosis in a period of approximately 5 years.<sup>4,6</sup>

Liver biopsy is the gold standard for the diagnosis of NAFLD, considering that it is the only method that can distinguish between simple steatosis, NASH and the degree of fibrosis.<sup>6,7</sup> However, there are many techniques, such as ultrasound, computed tomography, or magnetic resonance, which can confirm the presence of liver steatosis with a high degree of precision. In addition, alcohol consumption is an important factor, which is restricted to less than 20 and 30 g of alcohol per day in women and men, respectively. Furthermore, it is also necessary to rule out other possible causes such as viral diseases, autoimmune responses, hereditary or metabolic factors, drugs, and toxins.<sup>5,8</sup>

NAFLD is considered the hepatic manifestation of metabolic syndrome, with a prevalence of 15-20% in the general population, whereas that of NASH affects 3% of the population.<sup>4,9</sup> In patients with diabetes mellitus type 2 the incidence of steatosis is close to 50% and it goes up to 76 to 90% in the obese population. NASH is developed in almost 35% of the cases in obese subjects<sup>10</sup> and in all patients who exhibit morbid obesity and diabetes.<sup>5</sup> This means that many patients with NAFLD have multiple components of metabolic syndrome, IR being an important predicting factor of NAFLD and NASH.<sup>11,12</sup>

An important issue in the management strategy for these patients is the use of diets promoting a decrease in body weight and improve control over blood sugar, insulinemia, dyslipidemia, and cardiovascular risk. There are a variety of diets that have been recommended for the prevention and treatment of all of the components of metabolic syndrome,<sup>13</sup> however, their use in the treatment of NAFLD is still unknown.

## Pathophysiology of NAFLD

The mechanisms associated with the accumulation of TAGs in the liver and the subsequent hepatocellular damage are multifactorial and not fully understood.<sup>2</sup> The first metabolic abnormality that leads to liver steatosis, involving a lipotoxic reaction with a component of oxidative stress, includes nutritional factors and changes in liver lipid metabolism, which is mainly the result of IR.<sup>1,10,14,15</sup>

### *Oxidative Stress and Insulin Resistance Associated with Obesity*

Experimental studies indicate that the excess of FAs induces high levels of  $\beta$ -oxidation, with the production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) such as superoxide radical [ $O_2^{\cdot-}$ ] and hydrogen peroxide [ $H_2O_2$ ] at a mitochondrial respiratory chain level, simultaneously with the induction of necrosis.<sup>16</sup> These results suggest that overeating can cause the excess of FAs in the liver, inducing high rates of  $\beta$ -oxidation and ROS production, which is in accordance with changes in the parameters related to oxidative stress observed in the liver of obese patients with steatosis<sup>17-20</sup> (fig. 1). In fact, relative to the control values, the liver of obese patients presents (i) a decrease in the antioxidant potential (a decreased superoxide dismutase activity and glutathione content), (ii) an increase in pro-oxidant activity (an increased lipid peroxidation, hydroperoxide content, and protein oxidation), and (iii) Kupffer cell activation (enhanced rates of  $O_2^{\cdot-}$  production and lipid peroxidation). These parameters are associated with decreased plasma antioxidant capacity and increased levels of serum  $F_2$ -isoprostanes, the products of arachidonic acid peroxidation.<sup>1,3</sup>

The imbalance of redox status observed in the liver of obese patients represents a nutritional oxidative stress phenomenon, which is caused by excessive and prolonged consumption of metabolic fuels (carbohydrates and lipids) and/or inadequate supply of dietary antioxidants.<sup>21</sup> In conditions of liver oxidative stress, obese patients exhibit two important alterations associated with this redox imbalance, namely, (i) development of IR,<sup>22</sup> shown by the increase in the HOMA index, which exceeds its normal value by 100%,<sup>1</sup> and (ii) substantial decreased of liver content of long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acids n-3 (LCPUFA n-3)<sup>20</sup> (fig. 1).

Under most conditions, FAs are the main liver fuel, however, in pathologies such as obesity, the large influx of carbohydrates and lipids cause significant changes in the intermediary metabolism of the liver.<sup>23</sup> Under these conditions, hyperinsulinemia and hyperglycemia promote the synthesis of FAs from glucose and inhibit  $\beta$ -oxidation of FA, and the excess of FAs is redirected to the formation of TAGs<sup>2,23</sup> (fig. 2).

IR causes an increase in peripheral lipolysis, leading to enhancement in free fatty acids (FFA) levels in the

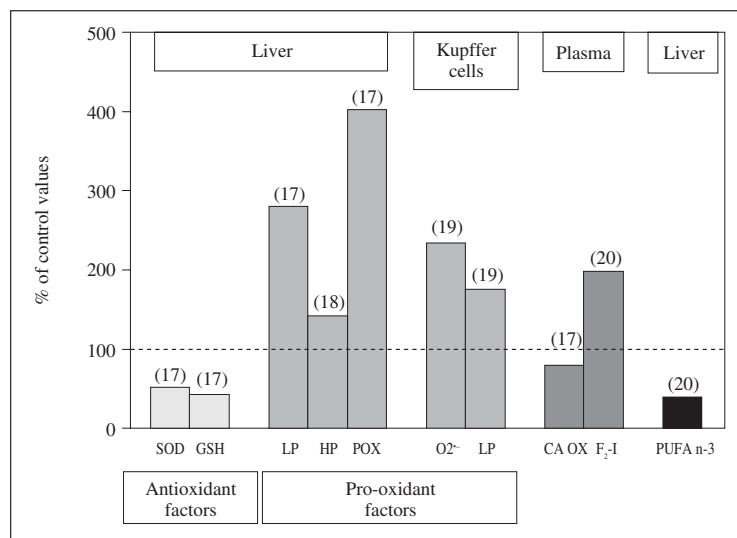


Fig. 1.—Parameters associated with oxidative stress in obese patients with non alcoholic fatty liver disease, expressed as a percentage of the control values. The numbers in parentheses correspond to the specific references cited. Abbreviations: SOD, superoxide dismutase; GSH, reduced glutathione; LP, lipid peroxidation, measured as production of malondialdehyde; HP, hydroperoxide products of the LP; POX, oxidized proteins; O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, superoxide radical; CAOX, plasma antioxidant capacity; F<sub>2</sub>-I, F<sub>2</sub>-isoprostane products of arachidonic acid peroxidation; PUFA n-3, polyunsaturated fatty acid n-3 (eicosapentaenoic acid [EPA] and docosahexaenoic acid [DHA]).

liver, which is potentially toxic for the organ. Although IR causes an alteration in the insulin glucoregulatory pathway, the insulin lipogenic effects are maintained<sup>24</sup>, and the hepatocytes protect themselves by transforming, catabolizing, and exporting the excess FFA.<sup>24,25</sup> These changes appear to play a key role in the appear-

ance of fatty liver by IR, promoting the mobilization of peripheral FA towards the liver.<sup>26</sup>

The retention of FA and TAGs within the hepatocytes that depends on IR and hyperinsulinemia leads to the production of free radicals at a mitochondrial level, capable of inducing lypoperoxidation, cytokine pro-

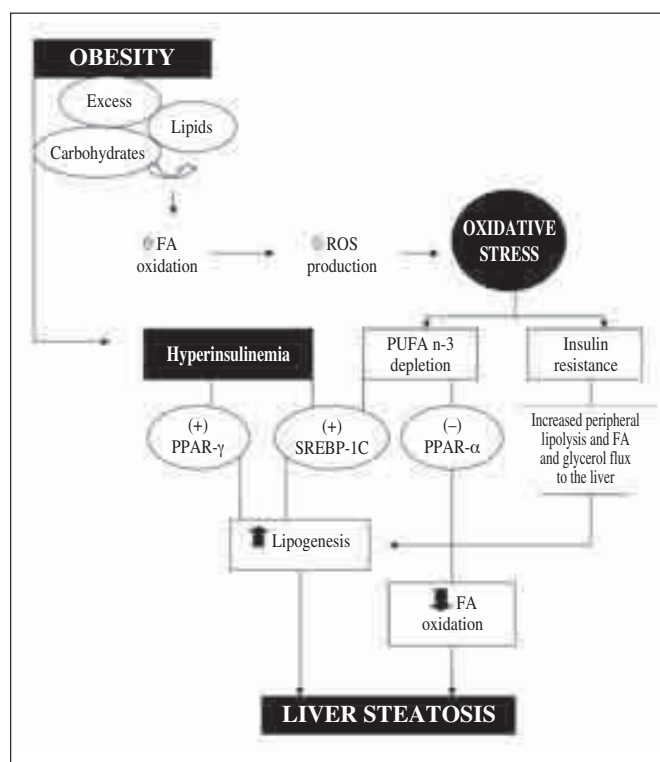


Fig. 2.—Induction of oxidative stress and its relationship with insulin resistance (IR) and steatosis in non alcoholic fatty liver associated with obesity. Abbreviations: FA, fatty acids; ROS, reactive oxygen species; PUFA n-3, polyunsaturated fatty acids n-3; PPAR-α (γ), peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor-α (gamma); SREBP-1c, sterol regulatory element binding protein 1-c.

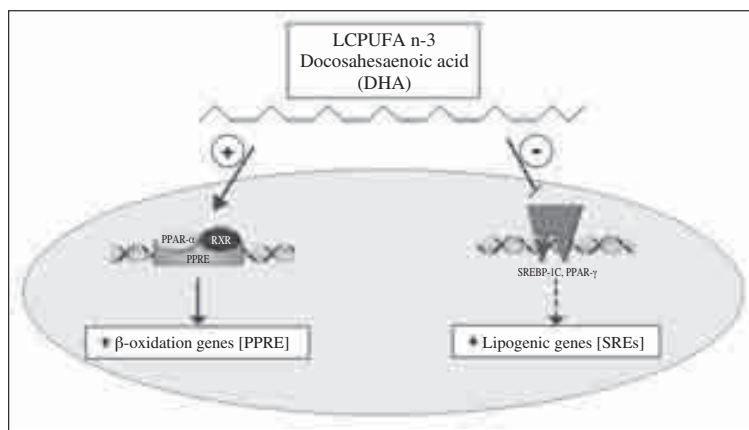


Fig. 3.—Nuclear mechanism of regulation of gene expression by long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids n-3 (LCPUFA n-3). Abbreviations: PPAR- $\alpha$  ( $\gamma$ ), peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor - $\alpha$  ( $\gamma$ ); PPRE, PPAR response element; SREBP-1c, sterol regulatory element binding protein; SREs, response elements to sterols.

duction and hepatocyte necrosis,<sup>16</sup> which may trigger NAFLD progression to the more severe state of NASH.<sup>1,27</sup>

Therefore, from a temporary point of view, fatty liver develops when *de novo* synthesis exceeds the oxidation and re-secretion of TAGs.<sup>15</sup> The sources of FAs that potentially may contribute to fatty liver are (i) peripheral lipids stored in the adipose tissue that reach the liver via plasma FFA, considering that in patients with NAFLD lipolysis in adipose tissue is not totally suppressed,<sup>14</sup> (ii) increased *de novo* lipogenesis (DNL),<sup>28</sup> (iii) alteration in the synthesis or secretion of lipoproteins,<sup>29</sup> and/or; (iv) reduction in FA oxidation.<sup>10,14,15</sup>

The effects of hyperglycaemia and hyperinsulinemia on hepatic glycolysis and lipogenesis are mediated by the activation of different transcription factors such as sterol regulatory element binding protein 1c (SREBP-1c) and peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor  $\gamma$  (PPAR- $\gamma$ ), which transcriptionally activate the expression of a machinery of genes necessary for lipogenesis.<sup>3,30,31</sup> In addition, high concentrations of glucose in the liver, independently of insulin levels, activate carbohydrate responsive element-binding protein (ChREBP) up-regulating the transcription of both pyruvate kinase and lipogenic genes.<sup>10,12,32</sup>

#### *Alterations in the hepatic bioavailability of long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acids n-3 (LCPUFA n-3), as mediators of the control of metabolic distribution of FAs and glucose in the liver*

LCPUFA n-3, mainly EPA (C20:5n3, eicosapentaenoic acid) and DHA (C22:6n3, docosahexaenoic acid) exert their effects by regulating the metabolism of the lipids in the liver through modifications in the gene transcription.<sup>30,33</sup> This is carried out by means of (i) inhibition of the expression and processing of SREBP-

1c (fig. 3) though a reduced trans-activation of the liver receptor X- $\alpha$  (LXR- $\alpha$ ), an agonist of SREBP-1c,<sup>34-36</sup> with the consequent inhibition of the transcription of the lipogenic and glycolytic genes, and (ii) activation of the transcription of genes involved in FA oxidation acting as a ligand of the peroxisome proliferators-activated receptor  $\alpha$  (PPAR- $\alpha$ ), which directly influences the distribution of the metabolic fuel (fig. 3).<sup>3</sup> Several studies have shown that the liver of patients with NAFLD shows altered LCPUFA n-3 content, reaching 50% decrease in EPA and DHA levels both in steatosis and steatohepatitis,<sup>37-40</sup> which can cause down-regulation in signal transduction associated with PPAR- $\alpha$  and a decrease in membrane fluidity and in the number of GLUT4 receptors in insulin-dependent tissues, critical factors of IR.<sup>41</sup> Additionally, one of the factors involved with the depletion of these LCPUFA n-3 is a diminution in the activity by delta-5 and delta-6 desaturases, responsible for the biosynthesis of highly unsaturated FAs.<sup>42</sup>

In an animal model, LCPUFA n-3 supplementation was associated with an improvement of liver steatosis and insulin sensitivity, as well as a decrease in the concentration of fasting FFA and TAGs levels.<sup>43</sup> In obese patients with NAFLD, LCPUFA n-3 supplementation for 12 months decreased the degree of steatosis measured by ultrasonography and ECO-Doppler, in comparison with non supplemented patients; however, the LCPUFA n3 levels in liver phospholipids and the presence or absence of IR were not evaluated.<sup>44</sup> Recently, it has been shown that the administration of LCPUFA n3 in obese patients with NAFLD improve IR, as well as reduce the content of hepatic lipids and the serum levels of alanine aminotransferase and TNF- $\alpha$ .<sup>45</sup>

#### **Transcription Factors in NAFLD**

The regulation of lipogenesis and hepatic lipoxidation is under the strict control of a network of nuclear

receptors, which regulate the expression of enzymes that participate in the lipid metabolism in a coordinated manner.<sup>15</sup> While in healthy subjects in a postprandial state, DNL increases by 20-30%, in subjects with NAFLD this process is increased in fasting conditions, without an elevation in postprandial states.<sup>28</sup> These observations support the concept of a sustained increase of DNL in the liver of patients with NAFLD.

Regarding hepatic lipogenesis, it has been shown that the transcription factors SREBP-1c, PPAR- $\gamma$ , and ChREBP play an essential role in the regulation of genes involved with the synthesis of lipids, glycolysis and lipogenesis, respectively.<sup>46-48</sup> In addition, factor XBP-1 has recently been identified as a possible factor involved with the accumulation of TAGs in the liver of animal models.<sup>49</sup> The participation of these factors as mechanisms involved in liver steatosis in obesity will be analyzed in the following sections.

#### *SREBP (Sterol Regulatory Element Binding Protein)*

The protein SREBP is represented by SREBP-1a, SREBP-1c and SREBP-2, key factors in the control of various genes involved in the homeostatic regulation of cholesterol and lipid metabolism. SREBP-1a, SREBP-1c are encoded in a single gene through the use of alternative transcription start sites, differing in the terminal amino sequence, whereas SREBP-2 is encoded in a different gene.<sup>30,50,51</sup> SREBP-1a is a potent activator of all SREBP-responsive genes that the synthesis of cholesterol, fatty acids, and TAGs. SREBP-2 activates genes involved in cholesterol synthesis, while SREBP-1c increases the transcription of genes involved in FA synthesis (fig. 3)<sup>30</sup>.

The distribution pattern of the SREBPs also differs, being SREBP-1c the major (90%) isoform that controls FA synthesis in the liver.<sup>51-53</sup> The SREBPs are synthesized as inactive precursors attached to the membrane of the endoplasmic reticulum (ER), where they are associated to two membrane proteins, SCAP (activating protein anchored to the SREBP) and Insig-1 (Insulin-induced gene 1) or Insig-2 (Insulin-induced gene 2), the latter being selectively associated to SREBP-1c.<sup>54</sup> In order to be activated, they are transported through vesicles (COP II) to the Golgi apparatus where, through proteolytic processing by SP1 and SP2, they are freed in order to fulfill their function at a nuclear level. In this way, they reach the nucleus and join the sterol response elements (SREs) of multiple genes, activating their transcription.<sup>30,34,52,54</sup>

SREBP-1c is regulated in response to a series of nutritional and hormonal stimulus both by transcriptional and post-transcriptional mechanisms. Multiple lines of research suggest that insulin has a stimulating effect on FA synthesis through an increase in SREBP-1c, even under IR conditions,<sup>34,53</sup> whose underlying mechanisms have been recently reviewed.<sup>51,54</sup>

#### *Activation of the pro-lipogenic factor SREBP-1c in obesity*

Over a decade ago, it was shown that the genetically obese, insulin resistant, and hyperinsulinemic mouse (*ob/ob*) had elevated hepatic levels of SREBP-1c,<sup>52</sup> together with an increased expression of synthase fatty acid (FAS), acetyl-CoA carboxylase 1 (ACC-1) and PPAR- $\gamma$ .<sup>48</sup> In relation to transgenic models, knockout SREBP-1c *ob/ob* mice presented a significant reduction in the hepatic expression of lipogenic genes preventing liver steatosis,<sup>55</sup> and in mice with overexpressed SREBP-1c, an increase in the content of TAGs in the liver as well as an increase in the enzyme mRNA levels involved with FA synthesis are observed, without an increase in the enzymes that controls cholesterol synthesis.<sup>30</sup>

Among the genes that are regulated by SREBP-1c constituting the main regulators of DNL are ACC-1 (located in lipogenic tissues such as adipose tissue and liver), ACC-2 (located in non-lipogenic tissues such as heart, muscle, and skeletal, and to a lesser extent in the liver), and FAS. In the liver, the FAS gene can be transcriptionally activated by a stimulating factor and by LXR ligands, as it has LXR response elements, therefore maintaining the FA synthesis.<sup>56</sup>

The malonil-CoA formed by ACC-1 is used by FAS to synthesize palmitic acid (C16:0), and through successive elongation and desaturation steps it is possible to form oleic acid (C18:1).<sup>30,32,57</sup> One study showed that obese patients with NAFLD presented a significant increase of C18:1 (final product of DNL) in hepatic phospholipids when compared to eutrophic subjects without NAFLD,<sup>37</sup> which suggests that under the condition of IR, the DNL is increased. The malonil-CoA made by the ACC-2 in lipid consuming tissues allosterically inhibits carnitine-palmitoyl transferase-I (CPT-I).<sup>57</sup>

HIV patients present lipodystrophy, NAFLD, and steatohepatitis related to the adverse effects of anti-retroviral therapy. One study determined that patients with HIV and IR had higher hepatic expression of both transcription factors compared with non-obese NAFLD patients.<sup>58</sup> Studies in humans have shown that there are many differences between obese and non-obese patients with NAFLD concerning the expression of hepatic genes related to lipid metabolism, regeneration, apoptosis, and detoxification.<sup>59</sup> When the expression of LXR- $\alpha$ , ChREBP, SREBP-1c, ACC-1, and FAS is studied in non-obese patients with NAFLD and control subjects, increases in the expression LXR- $\alpha$ , SREBP-1c, ACC-1 and FAS are shown, as well as a decrease in the expression of ChREBP in the group of eutrophic patients with NAFLD in comparison with controls. These findings suggest that SREBP-1c may be the dominating factor involved in the regulation of the lipid metabolism, activating the expression of lipogenic genes.<sup>60</sup>

Recently, it was shown that the liver of obese patients had higher level of expression of the pro-

lipogenic factor SREBP-1c in comparison with control subjects,<sup>39</sup> with concomitant 107% increase in the expression of FAS, results that are concurrent with the increase in the DNL process observed in obesity.<sup>28,61,62</sup> The previously mentioned decrease of the LCPUFA n3 may constitute a mechanism contributing to the increase in the hepatic DNL in obese patients with NAFLD, favoring the proteolytic release of SREBP-1c attached to the ER membrane and its nuclear abundance, and/or altering the composition of membrane phospholipids, which is associated with IR.<sup>39</sup>

#### *Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor or PPARs*

PPARs are proteins of approximately 56 kD that belong to the super family of steroid nuclear receptors. There are three known isoforms of PPAR, namely,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\gamma$ , which are similarly encoded by individual genes.<sup>24</sup> PPARs act by modulating different cellular functions, including adipocyte differentiation, glucose metabolism, FA oxidation, and inhibition of the expression of inflammatory genes.<sup>24,63</sup> They present different tissue distribution patterns. For example, PPAR- $\alpha$  is mainly expressed in those tissues involved with the metabolism of FA such as liver, heart, and brown adipose tissue. PPAR- $\beta$  function has been less characterized. It may have a role in the metabolism of FA with a ubiquitous expression pattern, with greater comparative levels in skeletal and cardiac muscles, as well as nervous tissue. PPAR- $\gamma$  has a restricted expression pattern, with a prominent expression in the white and brown adipose tissues, with lower levels in spleen, intestine, liver, and lymph nodes.<sup>35,63-65</sup> Binding of ligands to PPAR induces a conformational change and the receptor dimerizes forming a heterodimer with 9-cis retinoic acid receptor (RXR), which causes its activation. The activated receptor interacts with specific sequences in the DNA or peroxisome proliferator response elements (PPRE), present in the target gene promoter. The initial PPAR activation process involves degradation of a co-repressor complex and recruitment of co-activating complexes, leading to up-regulation of the expression of the target genes.<sup>24,31,65,66</sup>

Several studies have identified a series of ligands for PPARs such as unsaturated fats, oxidized low density lipoproteins (LDL-ox), VLDL, derived metabolites of linoleic acid, and pharmaceuticals such as fibrates and thiazolidinediones (TZD).<sup>65</sup>

#### *Increase of the expression of the pro-lipogenic factor PPAR- $\gamma$ in obesity*

The *Pparg* gene, located in the chromosome 3p25, with a highly conserved structure in rats and humans,

produces 2 proteins, namely, PPAR- $\gamma$ 1 and PPAR- $\gamma$ 2 has 30 additional amino acids in its extreme amino-terminal, allowing a greater capability of stimulating transcription.<sup>66</sup> PPAR- $\gamma$  plays a fundamental part in the control of genes involved in lipogenic pathways of adipocytes, promoting the uptake of FA and the differentiation of the adipocyte, with the consequent increase in the content of TAGs in the adipocytes and reduction in the delivery of FA to the liver.<sup>31,35</sup> It also confers sensitization to insulin through the transcriptional activation of the adiponectin gene in adipocytes, up-regulating its expression. PPAR- $\gamma$  is the molecular target of TZDs, which increase sensibility to insulin by increasing the plasmatic levels of adiponectin in humans. Because of this action, TZDs are used for their anti-diabetic effects on the liver, skeletal muscle, and adipose tissue.<sup>67,68</sup>

In animal models of obesity, IR, and diabetes mellitus, increased hepatic PPAR- $\gamma$  mRNA and protein levels have been found as potential mechanisms of steatosis (fig. 2).<sup>69,70</sup> In some infections, such as the hepatitis B and C viruses, multiple observations suggest that liver steatosis is a common histological characteristic in which an increase in the expression and/or activity of PPAR- $\gamma$  could contribute to the regulation of lipid synthesis, causing the development of liver steatosis.<sup>71-73</sup> Recent findings indicate that hepatic PPAR- $\gamma$  mRNA levels are significantly increased in obese NAFLD patients with either steatosis or NASH, over lean controls,<sup>74</sup> in agreement with data assessing the PPAR- $\gamma$ 2 isoform.<sup>75</sup>

Similar to SREBP-1c factor, PPAR- $\gamma$  is regulated by insulin in normal conditions,<sup>76</sup> which probably persists under the condition of IR. Furthermore, a factor that may be related to the expression of PPAR- $\gamma$  is the presence of polymorphisms in the *Pparg* gene, a condition that causes susceptibility of developing NAFLD through the adiponectin pathway.<sup>77</sup>

#### *PPAR- $\alpha$*

PPAR- $\alpha$  is expressed in high concentrations in liver tissue in rats and humans.<sup>35,65</sup> It plays a crucial role in controlling the oxidation of FA by modulating the expression of genes that encode enzymes involved in mitochondrial, peroxisomal, and microsomal FA oxidation. It also regulates the expression of proteins involved in FA binding and esterification and export of FA in VLDL.<sup>64,78</sup>

There are numerous proteins induced by PPAR- $\alpha$ , among them, Acyl-CoA synthetase (ACS), Acyl-CoA oxidase (AOX), and the CPT system, which have PPREs in their promoting region.<sup>36,79</sup> The CPT system consists of multiple components, namely, (i) CPT-1, an integral transmembrane protein located in the mitochondrial external membrane that catalyzes the transfer of acyl-CoA to carnitine to generate acyl-carnitine, being the limiting enzyme in mitochondrial FA  $\beta$ -oxidation; in addition to having a PPRE region, CPT-1 has

a regulating sequence that responds to LCPUFA;<sup>80</sup> (ii) carnitine-acylcarnitine translocase (CACT), a transporter located in the mitochondrial internal membrane, and (iii) CPT-2, a membrane protein of the mitochondrial internal membrane facing the matrix that reverts the reaction catalyzed by the CPT-1.<sup>35,81</sup> Three tissue specific CPT-1 isoforms have been reported, L-CPT-1 that is mainly expressed in the liver, M-CPT-1 expressed in skeletal muscle and other tissues, and B-CPT-1 located in brain, whereas CPT-2 exists as a unique protein.<sup>5,25,80</sup> Factors such as FAs, insulin, and thyroid hormone regulate L-CPT-1.<sup>80</sup>

#### *Inhibition of the lipoxidative factor PPAR- $\alpha$ in obesity*

In hepatocytes, FAs are oxidized to acetyl-CoA by mitochondrial and peroxisomal  $\beta$ -oxidation. Under normal circumstances, peroxisomal  $\beta$ -oxidation is a less important pathway in FA oxidation compared with mitochondrial  $\beta$ -oxidation, however, in conditions of high fat diets and other metabolic alterations, PPAR- $\alpha$  is activated.<sup>25,64</sup> PPAR- $\alpha$  activation causes an increase in FA uptake at a mitochondrial and peroxisomal level.<sup>15</sup> Several animal and cellular models indicate that the activation of PPAR- $\alpha$  prevents the infiltration of TAGs in the liver under conditions of increased inflow. Animal models of hepatic steatosis have shown a lower expression of this lipoxidative factor and enzymes with PPARE.<sup>64,82</sup> knockout animals for PPAR- $\alpha$  present minimal hepatic steatosis under normal conditions, which is drastically enhanced when they are subjected to fasting. In knockout animals for both AOX and PPAR- $\alpha$ , a marked alteration in the FA oxidation is observed after 48-72 hours, higher than that in only PPAR $\alpha$  -/- rats, which caused a slight increase in the expression of PPAR- $\alpha$ . These data suggest that PPAR- $\alpha$  plays a critical role in FA oxidation, determining the degree of hepatic steatosis (fig. 2).<sup>83</sup> One of the difficulties with some of the animal models of obesity and IR to study the expression of PPAR- $\alpha$  is the genetic background, considering the involvement of other genetic factors and/or interactions that may contribute to PPAR- $\alpha$  function in the metabolism of FA in these models.<sup>84</sup>

Studies in humans have evaluated the expression of PPAR- $\alpha$  in patients with hepatitis C, a pathology that coexists with steatosis. In these studies, the expression of hepatic mRNA and protein levels of CPT-1 are decreased in patients with untreated hepatitis C in comparison with control patients, suggesting that the hepatitis C virus could alter PPAR- $\alpha$  expression and activation, playing a role in the development of steatosis.<sup>85,86</sup>

Recently, a significant decrease in the levels of PPAR- $\alpha$  mRNA with a reduction in the expression of CPT-1a have been reported in NAFLD obese patients with steatosis and steatohepatitis, associated with depletion of LCPUFA n-3.<sup>39</sup> Considering that PPAR- $\alpha$  is activated by a direct interaction of LCPUFA n-3 to

its ligand binding domain,<sup>87</sup> hepatic PPAR- $\alpha$  function could be compromised by a deficient activation due to decreased binding of LCPUFA n-3<sup>39</sup> (fig. 3). Similarly, an inhibition in the expression of hepatic PPAR- $\alpha$ , without significant alterations in the expression of hepatic SREBP-1c has been reported in patients with NAFLD.<sup>88</sup> The discrepancy observed in the hepatic expression of SREBP-1c in these studies could be caused by the fact that the patients did not exhibit the same nutritional status, as those with SREBP-1c up-regulation were morbidly obese,<sup>39</sup> while those with normal SREBP-1c levels were not.<sup>88</sup> A relevant finding recently published by our research group is the significant increase in the hepatic SREBP-1c/PPAR- $\alpha$  ratio in obese patients with NAFLD in comparison with the control group.<sup>39</sup> This implies a metabolic imbalance between the DNL and the oxidation of FAs in favor of the lipogenic process, a central and determining factor of steatosis in the liver of obese patients. In addition, the SREBP-1c/PPAR- $\alpha$  relationship is associated with plasma insulin levels and the HOMA-IR index, pro-lipogenic factors that determine the increase in peripheral lipolysis and the onset of non-esterified FA flux to the liver.<sup>39</sup>

The inverse correlation established between the hepatic SREBP-1c/PPAR- $\alpha$  ratio and the content of LCPUFA n3 in the control group and obese patients with NAFLD is of particular interest<sup>39</sup>, as it supports the fundamental role of LCPUFA n-3 depletion as a mechanism that directs FAs away from oxidation towards triglyceride storage (fig. 3).<sup>89</sup>

Besides the key regulating action of the hepatic metabolism of lipids, the activation of PPAR- $\alpha$  plays an important role in the control of inflammatory processes, an action that is carried out by the interference in the activation of the transcriptional factors nuclear factor- $\kappa$ B (NF- $\kappa$ B) and activating protein 1 (AP-1).<sup>24</sup> Recently, obese patients with steatohepatitis showed (i) inverse and significant correlations between NF- $\kappa$ B or AP-1 with levels of PPAR- $\alpha$  mRNA, and (ii) increases of 7.8 times and 15.1 times in the NF- $\kappa$ B/PPAR- $\alpha$  and AP-1/PPAR- $\alpha$  ratios over control values, respectively.<sup>90</sup> These findings suggest that, in addition to the pro-lipogenic role that hepatic PPAR- $\alpha$  down-regulation implies, it may represent an important factor in the progression of steatosis to the steatohepatitis associated with obesity.

#### **Conclusions**

In healthy human beings, saturated FAs are the main metabolic fuel of the liver under most circumstances, whereas the contribution of DNL to the hepatic content of TAGs is rather low (1.6-4.7%).<sup>61,62</sup> However, under the conditions of insulin resistance, as occurs in hyperinsulemic obese patients with NAFLD, fasting DNL is substantially increased, a response that probably involves the induction of enzymes that participate in

the hepatic DNL process.<sup>61,62</sup> Although liver DNL is mainly controlled by SREBP-1c signaling, other factors such as LXR- $\alpha$  and/or activation of ChREBP could also play an important role in the induction of SREBP-1c;<sup>60,91-93</sup> however, additional studies are required to verify this assertion in morbid obesity in humans.

Based on relevant data obtained in humans, rather than in animal models that often present characteristics not observed in man,<sup>94</sup> it is concluded that the expression of the transcriptional factors that control lipid metabolism is markedly altered in the liver of obese NAFLD patients with steatosis. This alteration in the liver signaling pathways is associated with several metabolic alterations that take place within the context involving overnutrition, and the appearance of oxidative stress and IR.

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## Revisión

# Systematic review of the clinical efficacy of sibutramine and orlistat in weight loss, quality of life and its adverse effects in obese adolescents

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## Abstract

**Introduction:** The prevalence of obesity, a serious public health problem, is increasing among teenagers and thus also increases cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in adulthood.

**Objective:** To provide a systematic review of the best evidence about the effect of sibutramine and orlistat in weight loss, quality of life and its adverse effects in adolescents diagnosed with obesity.

**Methods:** We searched electronic databases and bibliographies of selected articles were inspected for any further reference. We included only randomized controlled trials that met a set of predefined criteria. The studies were reviewed by a narrative synthesis.

**Results:** We included 6 randomized controlled trials of sibutramine and 3 of orlistat. The majority reached a moderate to high methodological quality. Sibutramine and orlistat showed a reduction in body mass index (BMI) that was significantly higher compared with the placebo group. We also found a variation of weight with these drugs significantly better than placebo. Only one trial evaluated the quality of life. The incidence of adverse effects was similar for sibutramine and placebo, except for tachycardia. The most common adverse reactions associated with orlistat were gastrointestinal, mild to moderate.

**Conclusions:** Sibutramine and orlistat in combination with a hypocaloric diet and changes in lifestyle in obese adolescents achieve a short-term loss of weight greater than that achieved through the dietary-behavioral therapy alone.

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Key words: *Obesity. Adolescent. Sibutramine. Orlistat. Quality of life.*

## REVISIÓN SISTEMÁTICA SOBRE LA EFICACIA CLÍNICA DE LA SIBUTRAMINA Y EL ORLISTAT EN LA PÉRDIDA DE PESO, CALIDAD DE VIDA Y SUS EFECTOS ADVERSOS EN OBESOS ADOLESCENTES

## Resumen

**Introducción:** La prevalencia de la obesidad, un grave problema de salud pública, está aumentando entre los adolescentes y con ello también se incrementa la morbilidad cardiovascular en la edad adulta.

**Objetivo:** Proporcionar una revisión sistemática de la mejor evidencia posible sobre el efecto de sibutramina y orlistat en la pérdida de peso, calidad de vida y sus efectos adversos en adolescentes diagnosticados de obesidad.

**Método:** Se ha buscado en bases de datos electrónicas, las bibliografías de los artículos seleccionados se han inspeccionado en busca de alguna referencia adicional. Sólo se incluyeron ensayos clínicos aleatorizados y controlados que cumplieran una serie de criterios predefinidos. Los estudios se han revisado mediante una síntesis narrativa.

**Resultados:** Se incluyeron 6 ensayos clínicos aleatorizados y controlados sobre la sibutramina y 3 sobre el orlistat. En su mayoría alcanzaron una calidad metodológica moderada-alta. Sibutramina y orlistat demostraron una reducción en el índice de masa corporal (IMC) significativamente mayor en comparación con el grupo placebo. También se encontró una variación del peso significativamente mejor con estos fármacos que con placebo. Únicamente un ensayo evaluó la calidad de vida. La incidencia de efectos adversos resultó similar para sibutramina y placebo, salvo la taquicardia. Las reacciones adversas más comunes asociadas con el orlistat fueron las gastrointestinales, de intensidad leve a moderada.

**Conclusiones:** La sibutramina o el orlistat en combinación con una dieta hipocalórica y modificaciones en el estilo de vida propician en adolescentes obesos una pérdida de peso a corto plazo mayor que la que se conseguiría con el tratamiento dietético-conductual solo.

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Palabras clave: *Obesidad. Adolescentes. Sibutramina. Orlistat. Calidad de vida.*

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## Introduction

Obesity has reached epidemic proportions in most industrialized countries, to the point of becoming a public health problem of first order. Its prevalence in population segments such as teenagers, around 23% in southern European countries<sup>1</sup> and increasingly high numbers also in developing countries,<sup>2</sup> is particularly striking, both for the novelty and for the associated risk of developing early type 2 diabetes mellitus, hypertension, hyperlipidemia and atherosclerosis, which ultimately translates into increased rates of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in adulthood. The probability of adult overweight is multiplied up to 15 times with a history of overweight in adolescence,<sup>3</sup> which can also lead to sleep apnea, depression and social exclusion. Against this background, an effective approach of obesity from the earliest ages is necessary.

The best strategy is prevention, but once patients suffer overweight or obesity, conventional treatment, consisting of a low calorie diet, physical exercise and a change in lifestyle, offers modest results.<sup>4</sup> Drugs such as sibutramine, a centrally acting anorectic, or orlistat, a gastrointestinal lipase inhibitor, may play a role in the management of overweight, as it has been demonstrated in adults. To examine this possibility, investigators have conducted several controlled clinical trials in recent years. This paper reviews current evidence regarding the efficacy of sibutramine and orlistat on weight reduction in obese adolescents, and also assesses its safety profile and its impact on quality of life of patients.

There have been several meta-analysis of the pharmacologic treatment of obesity in adults<sup>5-7</sup> and reviews about all non-surgical interventions to treat obesity in children.<sup>8-9</sup> The systematic review presented incorporates the advantage of analyzing specifically the efficacy of these anti-obesity drugs in the adolescent group.

## Methods

### *Search strategy*

Studies in English language published in last 10 years have been consulted in electronic databases such as Medline (OVID), Cochrane or Trip Database. The bibliographies of selected articles were inspected for any further reference.

### *Inclusion criteria*

We included only randomized controlled clinical trials about the efficacy in reducing weight of sibutramine versus placebo or orlistat versus placebo, assuming that drug and placebo were combined with dietary treatment during the trial. Participants must be teenagers aged between 12 and 18, diagnosed obesity

based on body mass index (BMI, calculated as weight in kilograms divided by the square of height in meters) that was at least 2 units above the percentile 95 for age and sex or, in the absence of this indicator, with a BMI between 30 and 44 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. It also required that the studies used the absolute change in initial BMI or, failing that, the percentage change in initial BMI as the primary measure for expressing the results

### *Selection of included studies, assessment of study quality and data extraction*

We studied the title and abstract of all articles with potential interest offered by the databases when we introduced these key words: "obesity", "adolescent", "sibutramine", "orlistat". The text of the 9 trials that met the criteria previously mentioned and were finally included, was examined in its entirety, and we extracted from them the data in the tables of the following pages. To avoid attrition bias, the extracted data are related to intention to treat analysis. We used the Jadad criteria for assessing the quality of included trials.

### *Data Synthesis*

The studies were reviewed by means of a narrative synthesis; we dealt with the results of sibutramine and orlistat separately. A meta-analysis has been ruled out because of the heterogeneity found (from works with 24 participants followed for 6 months to multicenter studies with 539 patients evaluated for 12 months).

## Results

A total of nine published randomized controlled trials were included in the review: 6 about sibutramine and 3 about orlistat. The details of these trials are shown in table I.

### *Quantity and quality of research*

Of the 6 studies with sibutramine, 2 were multicentric and each drew together 498 patients, while in the remaining studies a smaller number of patients (24, 46, 60, 82) were managed. The usual dose of sibutramine was 10 mg/day; in the pioneering essay of Berkowitz 2003,<sup>10</sup> doses evolved (5 mg/day in week 2, 10 mg/day from week 3 to 6, 15 mg/day from week 7) and, if blood pressure and heart rate increased in 2 consecutive visits, the dose was decreased by 5 mg/day. Berkowitz, in his new work in 2006,<sup>11</sup> increases the dose from 10-15 mg/day if the BMI did not decrease at least 10% after 6 months (this happened in 47.9% of the group). Equally, in the study of Daniels 2007,<sup>12</sup> 47.9% of the group increased the dose by 10-15 mg/day after the 6<sup>th</sup>

**Table I**  
*Included studies*

| <i>Trial</i>                      |   | <i>Interventions</i>                 | <i>n</i> | <i>Months</i> | <i>1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> efficiency measures about the reduction of obesity</i> |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|----------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Berkowitz et al. (April 2003)     | 1 | Diet + Sibutramine. 10-15 mg/d       | 43       | 12            | %* initial BMI (p)                                                                         |
|                                   | 2 | Diet + Placebo                       | 39       | 1-6           | A † initial weight (p)                                                                     |
|                                   |   | Diet + Sibutramine                   |          | 6-12          | A waist circumf ‡ (p)                                                                      |
| Berkowitz et al. (July 2006)      | 1 | Diet + Sibutramine. 10 mg/d          | 368      | 12            | A initial BMI (p)                                                                          |
|                                   |   |                                      |          |               | % initial BMI (s)                                                                          |
|                                   | 2 | Diet + Placebo                       | 130      |               | A initial weight (s)                                                                       |
| Daniels et al. (June 2007)        | 1 | Diet + Sibutramine. 10 mg/d          | 368      | 12            | % initial weight (s)                                                                       |
|                                   | 2 | Diet + Placebo                       | 130      |               | A waist circumf (s)                                                                        |
|                                   |   |                                      |          |               | A initial BMI (p)                                                                          |
| García Morales et al. (July 2006) | 1 | Sibutramine 10 mg/d                  | 23       | 6             | A initial BMI (p)                                                                          |
|                                   |   |                                      |          |               | % initial BMI (p)                                                                          |
|                                   | 2 | Placebo                              | 23       |               | A initial weight (p)                                                                       |
| Godoy-Matos et al. (March 2005)   | 1 | Sibutramine 10 mg/d                  | 30       | 6             | A waist circumf (s)                                                                        |
|                                   |   |                                      |          |               | % waist circumf (s)                                                                        |
|                                   | 2 | Placebo                              | 30       |               | A initial BMI (p)                                                                          |
| Van Mil et al. (April 2007)       | 1 | Diet + Sibutramine . 10 mg/d         | 12       | 1-3           | % initial BMI (s)                                                                          |
|                                   |   | Only diet                            |          | 3-6           | A initial weight (p)                                                                       |
|                                   | 2 | Diet + Placebo                       | 12       | 1-3           | % initial weight (s)                                                                       |
| Chanoine et al. (June 2005)       | 1 | Orlistat 120 mg 3 times daily        | 357      | 12            | A waist circumf (s)                                                                        |
|                                   |   |                                      |          |               | A hip circumf (s)                                                                          |
|                                   | 2 | Placebo                              | 182      |               | A initial BMI (p)                                                                          |
| Maahs et al. (January 2006)       | 1 | Orlistat 120 mg 3 times daily        | 20       | 6             | % initial weight (p)                                                                       |
|                                   |   |                                      |          |               | A initial BMI (p)                                                                          |
|                                   | 2 | Placebo                              | 20       |               | A initial weight (p)                                                                       |
| Ozkan et al. (December 2004)      | 1 | Diet + Orlistat 120 mg 3 times daily | 22       | 12            | % initial weight (p)                                                                       |
|                                   |   |                                      |          |               | A initial BMI (p)                                                                          |
|                                   | 2 | Diet                                 | 20       |               | A initial weight (p)                                                                       |

\*% = Porcentaje change in . . . , †A = Absolute change in . . . , ‡ Circumf = Circumference

month. Regarding the duration of the trials with sibutramine, some lasted 6 months and others 12 months. In connection with orlistat, sample sizes ranged from 539 patients of multicenter study of Chanoine 2005,<sup>13</sup> to 40 and 42 teenagers in the other two publications included.<sup>14-15</sup> In the 3 cases the dose was 120 mg 3 times daily and ranged between 6 and 12 months.

The trials were funded by pharmaceutical companies manufacturing the drugs under investigation. The majority reached a moderate to high methodological quality according to Jadad endpoints, as can be seen in table II. All studies mentioned randomization, and in

most baseline characteristics of the groups were tabulated and homogeneous. Also multicenter studies of Berkowitz 2006, Daniels 2007 and Chanoine 2005 stratified randomization, to minimize any selection bias. These three, like the work of Berkowitz in 2003, detailed correctly the mechanisms of blinding, which limits detection bias and gives them a bonus point in the chosen rating scale. All trials described the loss of follow up; the above, as well as Garcia-Morales 2006<sup>16</sup> and Godoy-Matos 2005,<sup>17</sup> analyzed by intention to treat, thus sheltering from attrition bias. In general, the results were expressed properly.

| <div>Table II</div> <div>Assessment of the quality of included studies (Jadad criteria)</div> |                                        |                  |        |                                          |                  |        |                                     |                  |                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------|--------|------------------------------------------|------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Trial                                                                                         | Do mention if the study is randomized? |                  |        | Do mention if the study is double-blind? |                  |        | It describes the loss to follow up? |                  | Final score<br>(Minimum 0 maximum 5) |
|                                                                                               | Yes<br>(1 point)                       | No<br>(0 points) | Bonus* | Yes<br>(1 point)                         | No<br>(0 points) | Bonus* | Yes<br>(1 point)                    | No<br>(0 points) |                                      |
| Berkowitz 2003                                                                                | X                                      |                  | X      | X                                        |                  | X      | X                                   |                  | 5                                    |
| Berkowitz 2006                                                                                | X                                      |                  | X      | X                                        |                  | X      | X                                   |                  | 5                                    |
| Daniels et al.                                                                                | X                                      |                  | X      | X                                        |                  | X      | X                                   |                  | 5                                    |
| García Morales                                                                                | X                                      |                  |        | X                                        |                  |        | X                                   |                  | 3                                    |
| Godoy-Matos et al.                                                                            | X                                      |                  | X      | X                                        |                  |        | X                                   |                  | 4                                    |
| Van Mil et al.                                                                                | X                                      |                  | X      | X                                        |                  |        | X                                   |                  | 4                                    |
| Chanoine et al.                                                                               | X                                      |                  | X      | X                                        |                  | X      | X                                   |                  | 5                                    |
| Maahs et al.                                                                                  | X                                      |                  |        | X                                        |                  |        | X                                   |                  | 3                                    |
| Oskan et al.                                                                                  | X                                      |                  |        |                                          | X                |        | X                                   |                  | 2                                    |

\*Bonus = 1 point.

### Measure results

The changes in participants in the trials were recorded using multiple measures, which can be grouped into 4 categories: efficiency measures about the reduction of obesity; analytical parameters (lipids, glucose, insulin levels and sensitivity to it); indicators of sexual maturation (Tanner scale), body composition or energy expenditure; values of blood pressure, heart rate and echocardiography. Only measures of effectiveness in the reduction of obesity are discussed in detail here, with a reference of one study that measured changes in quality of life of adolescents. The values of blood pressure and heart rate are discussed in the section about adverse effects of drugs.

### Efficiency measures about the reduction of obesity

Trials used mostly the absolute change or percentage change in initial BMI, initial weight or initial waist circumference. Less often investigators also used a comparison between the percentage of patients in each group that achieved a decrease in BMI  $\geq 5\%$  or  $\geq 10\%$  or  $\geq 15\%$ , and a couple of studies considered the absolute change in hip circumference (see Table 1, that shows which of these variables were taken by primary and secondary). Of the 9 included trials, 7 used the absolute change in initial BMI and 7 used the absolute change initial weight; these variables were the more repeated in the studies and are discussed in depth in this review. Validity as a variable of absolute change in weight is limited by the fact that it does not take into account the increase in height normally associated with the growth of an adolescent during the course of clinical trials.

### IMC

The absolute changes in the initial BMI are shown in table III.

3 clinical trials with 10-15 mg/day of sibutramine showed a significantly higher reduction in BMI in the treatment group than in the placebo group. In one work (Van Mil 2007<sup>18</sup>), the decrease in BMI with 10 mg/day of sibutramine was not significantly greater than placebo, but this study involved few patients (24 in total) and the drug was administered only for 3 months (the other investigations, however, lasted 6-12 months); moreover it was designed not so much to assess the loss of BMI after taking sibutramine, but to assess its effect on body composition (percent body fat, free mass fat) and energy expenditure (total, basal metabolic rate, metabolic rate during sleep, physical activity level), without forgetting that the strictness of the diet in both groups of this trial could mask the benefit of sibutramine.

2 studies with 120 mg 3 times daily of orlistat showed a statistically significant reduction in BMI for the treatment group compared with the placebo group. In another publication (Maahs 2006) no statistically significant decreases were observed between groups, but intra-groups (orlistat, placebo) after 6 months of study.

### Weight

The absolute changes in initial weight are presented in table IV.

The weight reduction was greater with sibutramine than with placebo in 5 trials, of which 3 have obtained statistical significance. In the work of García Morales

**Table III**  
*Absolute change in initial BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)*

| <i>Trial</i>       | <i>Treatment group</i>                    | <i>Comparator</i>                     | <i>p-value vs placebo</i> |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Berkowitz et al.*  | Sibutramine (n = 368) - 3.1               | Placebo (n = 130) - 0.3               | p < 0.001                 |
| Daniels et al.†    | Sibutramine (n = 368) - 2.9 ± 0.15        | Placebo (n = 130) - 0.3 ± 0.24        | p < 0.001                 |
| Godoy-Matos et al. | Sibutramine (n = 30) - 3.6 ± 2.5          | Placebo (n = 30) - 0.9 ± 0.9          | p < 0.001                 |
| Van Mil et al.     | Sibutramine 3 months (n = 11) - 1.5 ± 1.1 | Placebo 3 months (n = 12) - 1.1 ± 1.6 | p > 0.05                  |
| Chanoine et al.‡   | Orlistat (n = 352) - 0.55                 | Placebo (n = 181) + 0.31              | p = 0.001                 |
| Maahs et al.       | Orlistat (n = 20) - 1.3 ± 1.6             | Placebo (n = 20) - 0.8 ± 3            | p = 0.39                  |
| Oskan et al.       | Orlistat (n = 22) - 4.09 ± 2.9            | Diet (n = 20) + 0.11 ± 2.49           | p < 0.001                 |

The results are expressed as mean change ± SD, except in those cases:

\*Mean change.

†Mean change ± SE.

‡Change least squares mean.

**Table IV**  
*Absolute change in initial weight (kg)*

| <i>Trial</i>           | <i>Treatment group</i>                      | <i>Comparator</i>                       | <i>p-value vs placebo</i> |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Berkowitz et al.       | Sibutramine (n = 43) - 7.8 ± 6.3            | Placebo (n = 39) - 3.2 ± 6.1            | p = 0.001                 |
| Berkowitz et al.*      | Sibutramine (n = 281) - 6.5 ± 0.31          | Placebo (n = 79) + 1.9 ± 0.56           | p < 0.001                 |
| García Morales et al.† | Sibutramine (n = 23) - 7.3 (4.6, 9.9)       | Placebo (n = 23) - 4.3 (1.7, 6.9)       | p > 0.05                  |
| Godoy-Matos et al.     | Sibutramine (n = 30) - 10.3 ± 6.6           | Placebo (n = 30) - 2.4 ± 2.5            | p < 0.001                 |
| Van Mil et al.         | Sibutramine 3 months (n = 11) - 2.81 ± 3.37 | Placebo 3 months (n = 12) - 2.05 ± 3.54 | p > 0.05                  |
| Chanoine et al.‡       | Orlistat (n = 352) + 0.53                   | Placebo (n = 181) + 3.14                | p < 0.001                 |
| Oskan et al.           | Orlistat (n = 22) - 6.27 ± 5.4              | Diet (n = 20) + 4.16 ± 6.45             | p < 0.001                 |

The results are expressed as mean change ± SD, except in those cases:

\*Mean change ± SE.

†Mean change (95% CI)

‡Change least squares mean.

2006, the p-value was > 0.05 between groups (sibutramine, placebo), but < 0.05 in the intra-group (initial weight, final weight) of sibutramine.

2 orlistat studies found a significantly better weight variation after 12 months with the drug than with placebo.

#### *Quality of life*

Only one clinical trial, published by García Morales in July 2006, assessed the changes in the quality of life of adolescents that treat their obesity with a drug such as sibutramine. This study used SF-36, which is aimed at people ≥ 14 years and has a route from 0 (worst health) to 100 (best health status). It showed improvement in the quality of life, with no significant difference between the sibutramine group and the placebo group: mean scores on the SF-36 in the sibutramine group increased from 78 (SD = 13.3) at baseline to 84.8 (SD = 7.4) at the end of the study, whereas the respective values in the placebo group were 82.8 (SD = 10.3) and 87.3 (SD = 7.6).

#### *Adverse effects*

Concerns about the increase in blood pressure and heart rate observed in some adults after treatment with sibutramine led to the multicenter study of Daniels 2007, which evaluated carefully the cardiovascular safety of this product in obese adolescents. Trial ended after 12 months, and small averages decreases were objectified for each variable in the sibutramine group and in the placebo group, with no significant differences between groups (systolic blood pressure: -2.1 vs -2.1 mmHg; diastolic blood pressure: -0.1 vs -1.1 mmHg; heart rate -0.2 vs -1.8 bpm). Furthermore, in both groups, these reductions in vital signs were higher among those who managed a decrease in BMI ≥ 5% compared with patients that managed a reduction in their BMI ≤ 5%. The 2 multicenter trials with sibutramine (Berkowitz 2006, Daniels 2007, 996 patients between the two) reported a similar incidence of adverse effects for sibutramine and placebo, only tachycardia differed statistically between the two groups (the 2 papers published 13% for sibutramine compared with 6% for placebo). Other side effects

were dry mouth, constipation, dizziness, insomnia and hypertension, all with a frequency of less than 12%. Overall, adverse events led to dropping out (similar figures for the two trials mentioned above) to 6% of participants in the sibutramine group and 5% in the placebo group ( $p$  value = 0.83); tachycardia-induced withdrawals were similar in both groups (2.4% for sibutramine, 1.5% for placebo, no significant difference) and only 1% of subjects taking sibutramine (none among those who were with placebo) were withdrawn from the trials because of hypertension.

The most common adverse effects associated with orlistat were gastrointestinal, mostly mild to moderate and led to a 2% loss among those taking the drug in the multicenter study with 539 adolescents of Chanoine 2005. They consisted, from high to low frequency, in steatorrhea, oily stools, abdominal pain, fecal urgency, nausea, hyper-defecation, flatulence or bowel incontinence. There were 3% serious adverse reactions, but of all of them, the researchers only considered attributable to orlistat one symptomatic cholelithiasis requiring cholecystectomy in a patient who had lost 15.8 kg at the time of the adverse event.

In general, the publications did not report the length of the side effects occurred.

## Discussion

The results of this review show that sibutramine or orlistat, when combined with a hypocaloric diet, exercise and changes in lifestyle, achieve in obese adolescents a significantly higher decrease in BMI than when using only diet, exercise and changes in lifestyle. These results are comparable to those reported by McGovern et al in their meta-analysis about the efficacy of nonsurgical interventions for pediatric obesity.<sup>9</sup>

In January 2010 the Spanish Agency for Medicines and Health Products decided to suspend marketing of sibutramine, following SCOUT study results, which showed an increased cardiovascular risk with sibutramine (561/4906, 11.4%) compared with placebo (490/4898, 10%). In our systematic review sibutramine is described as a well tolerated drug, probably because the study population, mostly obese adolescents without concomitant comorbidities, is very different from the SCOUT trial, which studied overweight/obese patients with cardiovascular disease and high cardiovascular risk.

Further studies are needed to confirm long-term safety of orlistat, which is typically associated with mild-moderate gastrointestinal adverse effects. The limited evidence about the impact on quality of life of these drugs (only 1 test of the 9 included in the review examined this parameter) also makes it difficult to reach any conclusions in this regard.

In obese adults it has been shown that moderate weight loss (5-10%) leads to improvement in morbidity and mortality linked to obesity and delays the onset of type 2 diabetes. Yet research supporting these long-

term positive effects of reducing weight in obese adolescents are not available, which would multiply the clinical relevance of the pharmacological interventions. It seems reasonable to propose as a hypothesis that metabolic syndrome and atherosclerotic complications could be prevented in this group of patients if we are successful in treating obesity since adolescence.

Clinical trials included in this systematic review reached a moderate to high quality according to Jadad endpoints. However, they suffer some problems that are typical in studies about obesity, such as relatively high dropout rates (> 20% in some cases), loss of incentive to participants who did not lose weight or "contamination" in the results that involved the forced association of the drug with diet and exercise.

We must take into account some aspects in interpreting the results of this review. For example, it is unclear whether sibutramine and orlistat facilitate the maintenance of successful weight loss in obese adolescents once suspended, nor what is the optimal duration of treatment (some trials lasted 6 months, others 12). A further question is to what extent are extrapolated to the population the presented results, because several studies excluded adolescents with diabetes, hypertension or smokers, circumstances that are becoming more frequent in this group. Also, since they are still growing and gaining muscle, bone and skin, an adequate quantification of the effects of anti-obesity therapy would require the use of BMI adjusted for age and sex (the "BMI z score"), but only 3 trials related to this variable.

Among the limitations of this systematic review is the fact of not sending the emails to the authors of the original trials requesting additional data that had not been published and may be of interest.

## Conclusion

This review shows that sibutramine or orlistat in combination with a hypocaloric diet and changes in lifestyle in obese adolescents achieve a short-term loss of weight greater than that achieved through the dietary-behavioral therapy alone.

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Original

# Comparison of bioelectrical impedance with skinfold thickness and x-ray absorptiometry to measure body composition in HIV-infected with lipodystrophy

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Abstract

**Introduction:** Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-associated lipodystrophy syndrome (LS) includes body composition and metabolic alterations. Lack of validated criteria and tools make difficult to evaluate body composition in this group.

**Objective:** The aim of the study was to compare different methods to evaluate body composition between Brazilians HIV subjects with (HIV+LIPO+) or without LS (HIV+LIPO-) and healthy subjects (Control).

**Methods:** in a cross-sectional analyses, body composition was measured by bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA), skinfold thickness (SF) and dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA) in 10 subjects from HIV+LIPO+ group; 22 subjects from HIV+LIPO- group and 12 from Control group.

**Results:** There were no differences in age and body mass index (BMI) between groups. The fat mass (FM) (%) estimated by SF did not correlate with DXA in HIV+LIPO+ group ( $r = 0,46$  /  $p > 0,05$ ) and had fair agreement in both HIV groups (HIV+LIPO+ =  $0,35$  / HIV+LIPO- =  $0,40$ ). BIA had significant correlation in all groups ( $p < 0,05$ ) and strong agreement, meanly in HIV groups, for FM (HIV+LIPO+ =  $0,79$  / HIV+LIPO- =  $0,85$  / Control =  $0,60$ ) and for fat free mass (FFM) (HIV+LIPO+ =  $0,93$  / HIV+LIPO- =  $0,92$  / Control =  $0,73$ ).

**Discussion:** Total fat mass can be measured by BIA with good precision, but not by SF in HIV-infected patients with LS. Segmental BIA, tripartal SF, circumferences of arms, waist and legs maybe alternatives that need more studies.

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## COMPARACIÓN DE IMPENDANCIA BIOELÉCTRICA CON GROSOR DE PLIEGUES CUTÁNEOS Y ABSORCIOMETRÍA DE RAYOS X PARA MENSURAR LA COMPOSICIÓN CORPORAL DE PERSONAS CON VIH CON LIPODISTROFIA

Resumen

**Introducción:** El síndrome de lipodistrofia (SL) asociado al virus de inmunodeficiencia humana (HIV) incluye alteraciones en la composición corporal y metabólica. La falta de herramientas adecuadas y criterios válidos dificultan la evaluación de la composición corporal en este grupo.

**Objetivo:** El objetivo del estudio fue comparar distintos métodos para evaluar la composición corporal entre individuos brasileños con HIV que tenían (HIV+LIPO+) o no LS (HIV+LIPO-) e individuos sanos (control).

**Métodos:** Estudio transversal en el que fue evaluada la composición corporal por análisis de impedancia bioeléctrica (BIA), pliegues cutáneos (SF) y absorciometría de rayos X de doble energía (DXA) en un grupo de 10 individuos con HIV+LIPO+, 22 individuos del grupo HIV+LIPO- y 12 individuos del grupo control.

**Resultados:** No hubo diferencias en la edad e índice de masa corporal (IMC) entre grupos. La masa grasa (MG) (%) estimada por SF no se correlacionó con DXA en pacientes del grupo HIV+LIPO+ ( $r = 0,46$  /  $p > 0,05$ ) y había leve concordancia en ambos grupos con HIV (HIV+LIPO+ =  $0,35$  / HIV+LIPO- =  $0,40$ ). BIA tuvo una correlación significativa en todos los grupos ( $p < 0,05$ ) y fuerte acuerdo, principalmente en grupos HIV para MG (HIV+LIPO+ =  $0,79$  / HIV+LIPO- =  $0,85$  / Control =  $0,60$ ) y para la masa libre de grasa (HIV+LIPO+ =  $0,93$  / HIV+LIPO- =  $0,92$  / Control =  $0,73$ ).

**Discusión:** La masa grasa total puede ser medida por BIA con precisión, pero no por SF en los individuos con HIV y LS. BIA segmentario, SF del tríceps, circunferencia de brazos, cintura y piernas, pueden ser alternativas que necesiten más estudios.

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Palabras clave: *Bioimpedancia eléctrica. Composición corporal. VIH. Lipodistrofia. Absorciometría de rayos X de energía dual.*

## Abbreviations

HIV-1: Human immunodeficiency virus 1.

LS: Lipodystrophy syndrome.

BIA: Bioelectrical impedance.

SF: Skinfold thickness.

DXA: Dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry.

BMI: Body mass index.

FM: Fat mass.

FFM: Fat free mass.

HAART: Highly active antiretroviral therapy.

WC: Waist circumference.

MAC: Mid-arm muscle circumference.

## Introduction

Aids had killed million of people since its discovery in 1981. The global percentage of people living with HIV-1 have been stabilizing.<sup>1</sup> Brazil doesn't differ from this scenario, with a prevalence of 0,6%, in 2007 and showing stabilization in various states such as São Paulo.<sup>2</sup>

The dramatic improvement on life expectancy was, in great part, due to highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART), however side effects were soon recognized, including changes in body fat distribution and metabolic disturbances.<sup>3</sup> Together, these abnormalities comprise LS.<sup>4,5</sup>

The body composition of HIV-infected patients had changed along the history, in the past it was common to observe cachectic individuals, preferentially, with lost of lean mass instead of FM and now we verify lost of fat mass with similar more than lean mass.<sup>6</sup> The LS is characterized by combinations of lipoatrophy (subcutaneous fat depletion in the face, arms, legs and buttocks) and/or lipohypertrophy (accumulation of fat in the abdomen, cervical and dorsocervical area, visceral and the breast).<sup>7</sup>

Until this moment, there is a lack of validated diagnostic criteria and tools are unsatisfactory for clinical care and for research in LS. The body fat redistribution is typically identified by physical examination and self report. A variety of techniques have been used to assess body composition such as anthropometry, BIA, DXA, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging and ultrasonography.<sup>8</sup>

DXA, computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging are considered accurate methods for estimating body FM in HIV-infected patients but cannot be used routinely, because of expenses and need for experienced technicians.<sup>9</sup> BIA and anthropometry are two inexpensive bedside techniques that are widely used in clinical practice and could be an alternative<sup>10</sup>. The aim of this study was to compare estimates of body FM and FFM by BIA and SF measurements with values obtained from DXA.

## Methods

### *Study population*

A cross-sectional study to compare body composition and metabolic abnormalities was conducted in Medical School Hospital at University of São Paulo, Brazil between august 2007 and march 2008. This study was approved by the Ethical Committee and all volunteers gave their written informed consent.

The subjects were divided into three groups: HIV-infected men undergoing HAART with LS (HIV+LIPO+); HIV-infected men undergoing HAART without LS (HIV+LIPO-) and healthy men (Control).

Patients were included if they were male, had more than 18 years of age, with stable weight (10% of variation in the last 6 months), body mass index between 18.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> and 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. Patients were excluded if they were in use of glucocorticoids in the last year and if they had serious alteration in cardiac, lung, liver, kidney or thyroid function.

Control group was recruited from Hospital employees. All HIV-infected patients were recruited from the infection disease ambulatory. They were included if they were receiving HAART for at least 6 months, free of acute AIDS-related events and with a CD4 count more than 200 copies/mm<sup>3</sup>.

### *Criteria for the lipodystrophy syndrome*

HIV-infected men were included in the group with lipodystrophy (HIV+LIPO+) if the lost of subcutaneous fat was detected (arms, legs or face) by the same investigator and self reported by the patient. The subjective definition includes only lipoatrophy and the patients could have or not lipohypertrophy together.<sup>11</sup>

### *Biochemical parameters*

CD4 count was done by flow cytometry (FacsCalibur®) and viral load determination assay with detection of 50 copies/ml plasma by branched DNA test, using Quantiplex bDNA® of Siemens.

### *Anthropometry*

Anthropometric measurements were performed in all patients by the same trained dietitian. BMI was calculated from the height and weight values. Body circumferences and SF at biceps, triceps, subscapular and suprailiac were measured to the nearest 0.2 mm in standing position using a Lang SF caliper® (Cambridge Scientific Industries, Cambridge, MA) according to the standard techniques.<sup>12</sup> Measurements were obtained by the mean of 3 determinations taken on right side of the body.

Waist circumference (WC) was measured by placing a measuring tape horizontally around the part of the trunk located midway between the lower costal margin (bottom of lower rib) and the iliac crest (top of pelvic bone) with the person standing.<sup>13</sup> Mid-arm circumference was assessed at the measured midpoint of upper right arm to the nearest 0.1 cm. Mid-arm muscle circumference (MAC) was determined using the standard equation of Frisancho, data.<sup>14</sup>

#### Body composition

The logarithm of the sum of the SF thicknesses was obtained, from which the density of the FFM was calculated according to Durnin and Womersley data, adapted for age and sex.<sup>15</sup> Percentage of body FM was then calculated using Siri's equation.<sup>16</sup>

BIA included measurements of resistance and reactance by a 4-terminal impedance analyzer (model BIA-103; RJL-system®, Detroit, MI) using a single-frequency with current at 50 kHz while the subjects were supine with arms and legs extended. Electrodes were attached at standardized positions on the right side of the body. FFM was estimated using the prediction equation developed by Kotler et al. (1996).<sup>17</sup> Body FM was then calculated by subtracting the FFM from the total weight.

$$\text{FFM} = 0.50 \left[ \frac{\text{Ht}^{1.48}}{\text{Z}^{0.55}} \times \frac{1.0}{1.21} \right] + 0.42 \text{Wt} + 0.49$$

Ht = height, Wt = weight, and Z (impedance)  $Z^2 = R^2 + Xc^2$  where R = resistance  $Xc$  = reactance

The segmental BIA considered the whole body as three cylinders: arm, trunk and leg. The positions of electrodes are described elsewhere.<sup>18,19</sup> The results are shown as resistance values and the leg index of the conductive volume, by using the formula  $\text{leg length}^2 / \text{resistance}$ .<sup>19</sup>

Whole-body DXA scans (Hologic QDR 4500A scanner®, Hologic Inc, Waltham, MA) were performed and analyzed by an independent observer. The measurements provided FM and FFM of regional and total body.

#### Statistical analysis

Data were analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), version 15. After testing normality (Komogorov-Smirnov), one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to compare groups. All continuous variable were expressed as means  $\pm$  standard deviation (SD) and differences were admitted as statistically significant when  $p$  value  $< 0.05$ . Tukey test was used for post hoc analysis.

Categorical variables were compared using chi square test and giving frequencies of each variable in

each group. Correlations were calculated using Pearson correlation coefficient.

To detect agreement between the methods we considered DXA as reference method (gold standard) and applied St Laurent coefficient test. A value above 0.81 was considered almost perfect and beyond 0.40 as a fair strength of agreement.

## Results

#### Clinical and demographic characteristics

Forty seven patients were enrolled at this study. Of these, three were excluded because of hypothyroidism, weight gain higher than 10% in a short period of time and undernutrition. All patients who all who fulfilled the inclusion criteria, accept to participate of the study.

All the subjects were male and with similar age ( $p = 0.25$ ). HIV+LIPO+ were represented by 10 patients ( $46 \pm 5$  yrs); HIV+LIPO- by 22 patients ( $43 \pm 6$  yrs), and control group by 12 subjects ( $45 \pm 5$  yrs).

The groups were comparable regarding the CD4 count (HIV+LIPO+ =  $551 \pm 300$  cells/mm<sup>3</sup>; HIV+LIPO- =  $454 \pm 186$  cells/mm<sup>3</sup>, NS) and only 5 patients had viral load more than 50 copies/mm<sup>3</sup>.

The mean time since the diagnosis of HIV was similar between groups (HIV+LIPO+ =  $114 \pm 27$  months and HIV+LIPO- =  $96 \pm 64$  months;  $p > 0.05$ ). The duration of HAART was also similar between groups (HIV+LIPO+ =  $110 \pm 23$  months; HIV+LIPO- =  $78 \pm 52$  months;  $p$  value  $> 0.05$ ).

The combination of different antiretroviral classes was similar between HIV-infected groups. The most common therapy prescribed were 2 nucleoside-reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI) + 1 non- nucleoside-reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI) (30%), 1 NRTI + 1 NNRTI + 1 protease inhibitor (PI) (30%) and 2 NRTI + 1 PI (20%) in HIV+LIPO+ group. In HIV+LIPO- group, the results were 54%, 14% and 27%, respectively.

#### Body composition assessment

BMI was similar between groups. There was no significant difference between the 3 groups regarding DXA-values for lean mass (table I). Leg and total body FM values, however, were significantly lower in HIV+LIPO+.

Table II documents anthropometric variables. Arm circumference and triceps SF were lower, indicating fewer subcutaneous fat in HIV+LIPO+ when compared to others groups. It was found an excellent correlation between MAC and lean mass determined by DXA ( $r = 0.718$   $p < 0.05$ ). SF values were significantly correlated with DXA only in Control group ( $r = 0.704$ ) and waist circumference values were significantly correlated in all groups.

| <b>Table I</b><br><i>Body composition by DXA of HIV patients with LS (HIV+LIPO+) and without (HIV+LIPO-) and healthy (Control) groups</i> |                        |                      |              |                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
|                                                                                                                                           | HIV+LIPO+              | HIV+LIPO-            | Control      | <i>p</i> value |
| <i>Total Body</i>                                                                                                                         |                        |                      |              |                |
| Fat mass, kg                                                                                                                              | 12 (5) <sup>a</sup>    | 14 (6)               | 19 (4)       | 0.02           |
| Lean mass, kg                                                                                                                             | 54 (7)                 | 54 (7)               | 56 (6)       | 0.76           |
| Fat mass, %                                                                                                                               | 17 (5) <sup>a</sup>    | 20 (6)               | 24 (4)       | 0.02           |
| <i>Arms</i>                                                                                                                               |                        |                      |              |                |
| Fat mass, kg                                                                                                                              | 0.482 (0.32)           | 0.682 (0.33)         | 0.675 (0.17) | 0.21           |
| Lean mass, kg                                                                                                                             | 3.430 (0.74)           | 3.550 (0.65)         | 3.740 (0.44) | 0.51           |
| Fat mass, %                                                                                                                               | 15 (6)                 | 15 (3)               | 15 (5)       | 0.22           |
| <i>Legs</i>                                                                                                                               |                        |                      |              |                |
| Fat mass, kg                                                                                                                              | 1 (0.6) <sup>a,b</sup> | 2 (0.8) <sup>a</sup> | 3 (1.2)      | <0.01          |
| Lean mass, kg                                                                                                                             | 9 (1.3)                | 10 (1.2)             | 10 (1.5)     | 0.12           |
| Fat mass, %                                                                                                                               | 11 (5) <sup>a,b</sup>  | 17 (7)               | 22 (7)       | <0.01          |
| <i>Trunk</i>                                                                                                                              |                        |                      |              |                |
| Fat mass, kg                                                                                                                              | 7 (3)                  | 8 (4)                | 10 (2)       | 0.37           |
| Lean mass, kg                                                                                                                             | 28 (3)                 | 27 (4)               | 27 (2)       | 0.86           |
| Fat mass, %                                                                                                                               | 21 (6)                 | 22 (7)               | 26 (3)       | 0.13           |

*Abbreviations:* HIV+LIPO+ = HIV-infected man with lipodystrophy syndrome; HIV+LIPO- = HIV-infected man without lipodystrophy syndrome; Control = Healthy subjects.

Results are expressed as mean value and standard deviation.

ANOVA test was used. Level of significance  $p < 0.05$  (a  $\neq$  control; b  $\neq$  HIV+LIPO-).

| <b>Table II</b><br><i>Anthropometric characteristics of HIV patients with LS (HIV+LIPO+) and without (HIV+LIPO-) and healthy (Control) groups</i> |                     |                    |         |                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------|----------------|
|                                                                                                                                                   | HIV+LIPO+           | HIV+LIPO-          | Control | <i>p</i> value |
| Body weight, kg                                                                                                                                   | 69 (11)             | 73 (12)            | 78 (9)  | 0.13           |
| Height, cm                                                                                                                                        | 171 (6)             | 172 (5)            | 172 (6) | 0.82           |
| Body mass index, kg/m <sup>2</sup>                                                                                                                | 24 (3)              | 24 (3)             | 26 (3)  | 0.11           |
| Waist circumference, cm                                                                                                                           | 89 (7)              | 90 (10)            | 92 (6)  | 0.71           |
| Arm circumference, cm                                                                                                                             | 29 (4) <sup>a</sup> | 30 (3)             | 32 (2)  | 0.04           |
| Skinfold thickness (mm):                                                                                                                          |                     |                    |         |                |
| Triceps                                                                                                                                           | 7 (2) <sup>a</sup>  | 8 (2) <sup>a</sup> | 12 (3)  | <0.01          |
| Biceps                                                                                                                                            | 6 (2)               | 5 (2)              | 5 (2)   | 0.08           |
| Subscapular                                                                                                                                       | 19 (6)              | 16 (6)             | 20 (5)  | 0.12           |
| Suprailiac                                                                                                                                        | 11 (5)              | 12 (8)             | 16 (5)  | 0.16           |
| Sum of skinfolds, mm                                                                                                                              | 43 (12)             | 42 (16)            | 53 (14) | 0.06           |
| Mid-arm muscle circumference, cm                                                                                                                  | 26 (4)              | 28 (3)             | 28 (1)  | 0.36           |

*Abbreviations:* HIV+LIPO+ = HIV-infected man with lipodystrophy syndrome; HIV+LIPO- = HIV-infected man without lipodystrophy syndrome; Control = Healthy subjects.

Results are expressed as mean value and standard deviation.

ANOVA test was used. Level of significance  $p < 0.05$  (a  $\neq$  control; b  $\neq$  HIV+LIPO-).

Only Control group had significant correlation and good agreement between FM estimated by SF with FM measured by DXA. Although, the agreement were fair strength in both HIV groups (table III). In relation to BIA, the correlation and the agreement analysis were reported in table IV. BIA was correlated positively and significantly with DXA in all groups and with substantial agreement.

No differences were observed by resistance value or the leg index of the conductive volume.

## Discussion

We used methods to assess body composition in HIV-infected man with LS and compare to HIV-infected man without LS and to controls. DXA was used as gold standard, and fewer prior studies have specifically examined agreement between methods to assess LS in HIV-infected patients.

All groups were homogenous for age and BMI, time of undergoing HAART and type of HAART. DXA

**Table III**  
Percentage of fat mass by SF and its correlation and agreement with DXA in each groups: HIV patients with LS (HIV+LIPO+) and without (HIV+LIPO-) and healthy (Control) groups

|             | HIV+LIPO+         | HIV+LIPO-           | Control           |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Fat mass, % | 22 (4)            | 20 (4) <sup>a</sup> | 25 (4)            |
| Correlation | 0,46              | 0,79**              | 0,83**            |
| Agreement   | 0,35 (0,19; 0,60) | 0,40 (0,13; 0,78)   | 0,74 (0,50; 0,89) |

Abbreviations: HIV+LIPO+ = HIV-infected man with lipodystrophy syndrome; HIV+LIPO- = HIV-infected man without lipodystrophy syndrome; Control = Healthy subjects.

The correlation test used was Pearson and \* =  $p < 0,05$  \*\* =  $p < 0,01$ .

The agreement test used was St Laurent. Values above 0.81 was considered almost perfect and beyond 0.40 as a fair strength of agreement.

**Table IV**  
Body composition by BIA and its correlation and agreement with DXA in each groups: HIV patients with LS (HIV+LIPO+) and without (HIV+LIPO-) and healthy (Control) groups

|                   | HIV+LIPO+           | HIV+LIPO-         | Control           |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Fat mass, %       | 18 (4) <sup>a</sup> | 19 (4)            | 22 (2)            |
| Correlation       | 0,66*               | 0,74**            | 0,71**            |
| Agreement         | 0,65 (0,38; 0,86)   | 0,69 (0,60; 0,86) | 0,58 (0,45; 0,73) |
| Fat mass, kg      | 13 (5)              | 14 (5)            | 17 (3)            |
| Correlation       | 0,87 **             | 0,90**            | 0,61*             |
| Agreement         | 0,79 (0,40; 0,96)   | 0,85 (0,74; 0,93) | 0,60 (0,41; 0,87) |
| Fat free mass, kg | 56 (7)              | 58 (7)            | 61 (6)            |
| Correlation       | 0,93 **             | 0,92 **           | 0,73 **           |
| Agreement         | 0,89 (0,79; 0,96)   | 0,85 (0,73; 0,93) | 0,61 (0,32; 0,91) |

Abbreviations: HIV+LIPO+ = HIV-infected man with lipodystrophy syndrome; HIV+LIPO- = HIV-infected man without lipodystrophy syndrome; Control = Healthy subjects.

The correlation test used was Pearson and \* =  $p < 0,05$  \*\* =  $p < 0,01$ .

The agreement test used was St Laurent. Values above 0.81 was considered almost perfect and beyond 0.40 as a fair strength of agreement.

results demonstrated statistically reduced leg fat in HIV+LIPO+ when compared to HIV+LIPO- and control groups, confirming the peripheral lipoatrophy. Leg fat was the depot most affected in HIV-infection and was in agreement with others studies.<sup>20-23</sup> Lean mass did not differ between groups which could, at least in part, explain the relative preservation of lean mass in aids patients under antiretroviral drug.<sup>8</sup>

Anthropometric measurements were important to detect loss of regional FM and total lean mass. Arm circumference was significantly lower in HIV+LIPO+ when compared to control group, suggesting that bone, muscle or fat tissue could be altered. It was found an excellent correlation between MAC and LM determined by DXA which suggests an adequate applicability of MAC in clinical practice in aids patients with LS. Also waist circumference was correlated with trunk fat mass from DXA, suggesting being another practical important instrument. Our mean triceps SF values were similar to other study that used triceps SF as definition to lipoatrophy.<sup>24</sup> However, our results were not correlated with arm fat mass determined by DXA.

Our results demonstrated that the estimation of FM by SF were neither correlated nor in agreement with DXA in HIV+LIPO+ group. Durnin and Womersley

equation to predict FM was designed from healthy population and may not be useful for disease related groups.<sup>10,25</sup> Batterham, Garcia and Greenop (1999) compared 6 equations to estimate FM by SF in aids patients and none had agreement with DXA.<sup>26</sup>

The mean result from this study was that BIA could accurate predict FFM and FM in HIV-infected man with SL, when using Kotler's equation. This equation was validated in a study involving HIV-infected patients.<sup>17</sup> Forrester, Sheehan and Joffe (2008) also found good correlation between BIA and DXA in HIV-infected men ( $r = 0.89$  for LM, and  $r = 0.88$  for FM,  $p < 0.05$ ).<sup>27</sup> Aghdassi et al. (2007) also found good agreement between BIA and DXA in a group of 47 HIV-infected male subjects receiving HAART. Their results suggest that BIA (using the prediction equation in the manufactures' software of RJL system, model BIA-103) could be used for routine assessment of total body FM in male subjects with HIV-infection.<sup>9</sup>

Segmental BIA could be an alternative method to detect changes in fat mass. Until now, there were no suitable equations validated to estimate FFM and FM in HIV-infected patients with lipodystrophy. Only one study was found comparing segmental fat mass by BIA

**Table V**  
Legs indices and resistance values in segment of arms, trunk and leg in each groups: HIV patients with LS (HIV+LIPO+) and without (HIV+LIPO-) and healthy (Control) groups

|                                                           | HIV+LIPO+ | HIV+LIPO- | Control  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Leg length <sup>2</sup> / resistance at 50 KHz resistance | 43 (5)    | 44 (7)    | 46 (7)   |
| Arm                                                       | 225 (45)  | 215 (30)  | 207 (25) |
| Trunk                                                     | 71 (21)   | 75 (20)   | 62 (6)   |
| Leg                                                       | 206 (20)  | 206 (34)  | 184 (24) |

**Abbreviations:** HIV+LIPO+ = HIV-infected man with lipodystrophy syndrome; HIV+LIPO- = HIV-infected man without lipodystrophy syndrome; Control = Healthy subjects.

Results are expressed as mean value and standard deviation.

ANOVA test was used. Level of significance  $p < 0.05$  (a  $\neq$  control; b  $\neq$  HIV+LIPO-).

in HIV- infected individuals with or without lipodystrophy.<sup>10</sup> The study did not have a reference method to compare and observe that the group with lipodystrophy had higher leg resistance index than the group without lipodystrophy, but the discriminative power of BIA between patients with or without lipodystrophy was not improved by the use of leg segmental BIA. New formulas or methods are necessary.

Our main result indicates BIA as clinical effective and practical method to access total body composition in HIV-infected man with lipodystrophy syndrome. More studies are needed to establish more non-invasive clinical methods to access fat mass in these subjects, including segmental BIA and anthropometry.

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Original

# Comparison of NCHS, CDC and WHO growth charts in the nutritional assessment of hospitalized children up to five years old

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Abstract

**Aims:** This study evaluated the agreement of growth charts proposed by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS/1977), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC/2000) and World Health Organization (WHO/2006).

**Methods:** Were assessed children between 0 and 5 years old, hospitalized in the pediatric wards of a Brazilian school hospital. Z-score indexes: stature/age (S/A), weight/age (W/A) and weight/stature (W/S) was evaluated, in each of the three references (NCHS, CDC and WHO). ANOVA and test Bland & Altman and Lin plots were used in the comparison of the 3 charts. The agreement of the nutritional state categories was also evaluated, through kappa coefficient. The study was approved by the Institution's Research Ethics Committee.

**Results:** The study analyzed 337 children, whose median age was 0.52 (IQR: 0.21-1.65) years, 65.3% of them were below 1 year old, 60.2% were male and 50% hospitalized due to acute respiratory disease. Lower Z-scores of W/A and S/A were obtained with the WHO charts and lower W/S with the CDC chart. High correlation and agreement were observed among the criteria, but more patients were classified as presenting shortness through the WHO criteria. CDC and WHO criteria were more rigorous than the NCHS criteria for the diagnosis of underweight (W/A) and malnutrition (W/S).

**Conclusion:** Despite the strong agreement of the 3 charts, the adoption of the WHO charts seems to be more helpful for the children's nutritional screening for admission, as it enables to detect a higher number of malnourished children or at nutritional risk, who will benefit from an early intervention.

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Key words: Children's growth. Growth charts. Hospitalized child. Malnutrition. Hospital.

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## COMPARACIÓN DE LAS CURVAS DE CRECIMIENTO DEL NCHS, CDC Y LA OMS EN LA VALORACIÓN NUTRICIONAL DE LOS NIÑOS HASTA CINCO AÑOS HOSPITALIZADOS

Resumen

**Objetivo:** Este estudio comparó las curvas de crecimiento para la clasificación de la puntuación Z de talla/edad (T/E), peso/edad (P/E) y peso/talla (P/T) propuesto por el Centro Nacional para Estadísticas Sanitarias (NCHS, 1977), *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* (CDC/2000) y la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS/2006).

**Métodos:** Niños entre 0 y 5 años de edad hospitalizados en las salas de pediatría de un hospital terciario en Brasil fueron valorados. Se utilizaron ANOVA, Bland & Altman y gráfico de Lin en la comparación de las 3 curvas de crecimiento. Las categorías del estado nutricional se evaluaron por coeficiente kappa. El estudio fue aprobado por el Comité de Ética de la institución.

**Resultados:** El estudio analizó 337 niños, cuya edad fue 0,52 (IQ: 0,21-1,65) años, 65,3% de ellos eran menores de 1 año de edad, 60,2% eran varones y 50% con enfermedades respiratorias agudas. Se obtuvieron puntuaciones Z más bajas de P/E y T/E con la curva de la OMS y más bajo P/T con la tabla del CDC. Fue observada fuerte concordancia entre los 3 criterios, pero más pacientes se clasificaron como "baja estatura" por los criterios de la OMS. Los criterios del CDC y OMS eran más rigurosos que las del NCHS para el diagnóstico de la insuficiencia ponderal (P/E) y la malnutrición (P/T).

**Conclusión:** A pesar de la fuerte concordancia de las 3 curvas, la adopción de los criterios de la OMS parece ser más útil para el diagnóstico nutricional de los niños al ingreso hospitalario. Con esto se hace posible detectar un mayor número de desnutridos o en riesgo nutricional que se beneficiarán de la intervención temprana.

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Palabras clave: Crecimiento de los niños. Curvas de crecimiento. Niños hospitalizados. Desnutrición. Hospital.

## Abbreviations

WHO: World Health Organization.  
NCHS: National Center for Health Statistics.  
CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.  
S/A: stature/age.  
W/A: weight/age (W/A).  
W/S: weight/stature (W/S).  
SD: standard deviation.  
SPSS: Statistical Package for the Social Sciences.  
IQR: Interquartile range.  
MGRS: Multicentre Growth Reference Study.

## Introduction

The systematic assessment of nutritional state is an important procedure for the global health, recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Brazilian Department of Health and the Brazilian Society of Pediatrics.<sup>1</sup> This assessment can explain present and past occurrences and indicate probabilities of future risks to the child's health. For this purpose, growth charts are adopted, which relate values of weight, stature and age adjusted by gender, and where the percentiles or Z-score expected for the age are used in comparisons.

Today, three growth charts are available for the health professionals to monitor the nutritional state of children from 0 to 5 years of age: a) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS/1977),<sup>2</sup> b) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC/2000)<sup>3</sup> and c) WHO/2006.<sup>4</sup> For the development and validation of each of these instruments, studies were conducted in several populations, which could explain the differences found when assessing the same child through the three charts.

In the NCHS/1977 charts, all age groups and social classes were included in the group between 2 and 18 years old, but only white individuals of middle class were included in the age group between 0 and 36 months old. For the elaboration of the CDC/2000 charts, American individuals of ethnic diversity, between 0 to 20 years old, were included, upper and lower stature limits were extended, improvements in the statistical tests were made and new percentiles were presented to the 16 charts available. The instruments proposed in 2006 by the WHO, for children from 0 to 5 years old from different ethnic groups (data collected in several countries), were based on what is considered as "ideal" growth of these individuals, without economic, environmental, nutritional or genetic limitations to their development.

The children's nutritional state classification, regardless of the instrument employed, considers the percentile or Z-score to each evaluated index: stature/age (S/A), weight/age (W/A) and weight/stature (W/S).

Although developed and validated in the context of individuals not submitted to chronic and/or acute disorders, these instruments are widely used in nutritional

assessment routines of hospitalized children, where the cutoff points of Z-score for risk and malnutrition could be others, given the presence of new variables.

The purpose of this study was to compare the agreement of NCHS, CDC and WHO growth charts regarding the nutritional state classification of children between 0 and 5 years old hospitalized in a general hospital of high complexity in southern Brazil.

## Patients and methods

This study is part of a more comprehensive study that assessed the alterations in the nutritional state of 426 hospitalized children<sup>5</sup> and was approved by the Research Ethics Committee of our Institution regarding its ethical and methodological aspects. So, this study evaluated 337 patients between 0 and 5 years of age, hospitalized between March and October 2004 in the pediatrics wards. Each patient was included only once, no matter a new hospitalization occurred in other occasions during the study period. Not included children from oncology and intensive care units, children with Down Syndrome, without clinical conditions for weight and/or stature measurement, such as those wearing cast immobilization, with muscular spasticity, bone deformity and those without a formal consent. The study was preceded by training to the research assistants on the invitation, study participation and consent obtention, proper technique of weight and stature measurements and study form filling.

This is an observational study. During the study period, no alterations were made to the routine services provided by the teams. The same study protocol was adopted for all patients; they were all evaluated in the first 48 hours of hospitalization. The patients were submitted to weight and stature measurements, always performed by two researchers, regardless of recent registrations of these data in the child's clinical records.

The body weight was measured using previously calibrated digital scales from the hospitalization division. Children up to two years old or up to 15 kg were weighted completely undressed; they were placed laying or sitting in the middle of the scale, without any external support. Taller children were weighted in light clothes or sitting in the middle of the scale, without any external support. For length measurement, children up to 2 years old were placed laying on a flat place, and a ruler with a fixed support at one end for the head positioning and a retractable support at the other end for feet positioning (procedure performed by two investigators to ensure stretched body and correct positioning). The stature was measured with an anthropometer, where the child was placed barefoot, with ankles together in contact with the vertical rod of the anthropometer, head in erect position, and the horizontal cursor of the anthropometer retracted to the highest point of the child's head.

Z-score values for indexes S/A, W/A and W/S were obtained for each child, in each of the three references

(NCHS/1997, CDC/2000 and WHO/2006). For the calculations, the following applications were used EPI INFO version 3.4.3 (NCHS/1997 and CDC/2000) and ANTHRO/2006 (OMS/2006). The nutritional state was classified as: (a) malnutrition due to underweight when Z-score  $\leq -2$  SD for indexes W/A and W/S, (b) shortness when Z-score  $\leq -2$  SD for S/A, (c) risk for underweight when Z-score between  $-1.99$  SD and  $-1.28$  SD for W/S and W/A, (d) normal when Z-score between  $-1.27$  SD and  $+1.27$  SD for W/S and W/A, and  $>-1.99$  SD for S/A, (e) risk for overweight when Z-score between  $+1.28$  SD and  $+1.99$  SD for W/S or W/A and (f) overweight and obesity when Z-score  $\geq +2.00$  SD for W/S and W/A.<sup>6-8</sup> For premature patients below 2 years old, the chronological age was corrected with the gestational age.<sup>9</sup>

The comparison of the three charts of NCHS, CDC and WHO for each of the indexes (W/A, S/A and W/S) was made using ANOVA test for repeated measurements, with the Bonferroni correction. The agreement of charts was assessed by Bland & Altman<sup>10</sup> and Lin<sup>11</sup> plots for continuous variables. For the comparison of categorical variables, McNemar's test was made and kappa coefficient was calculated. The analyses were performed in the application Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), version 16.0, and the P-values  $< 0.05$  (2-tailed) were considered statistically significant.

## Results

The study assessed 337 children, whose age median was 0.52 (IQR: 0.21-1.65) years, 65.3% of them were below 1 year old, 60.2% were male and 50% hospitalized due to acute respiratory disease. Differences were identified when comparing the mean values of Z-score from the NCHS, CDC and WHO charts for indexes: W/A ( $p < 0.001$ ), S/A ( $p < 0.001$ ) and W/S ( $p = 0.004$ ). Lower mean values of W/A and S/A were obtained when adopting the WHO charts, while a lower mean value of W/S was observed when adopting the CDC chart (Fig. 1). That was confirmed with the assessment of patients sorted into categories according to their nutritional state, through the different indexes.

Despite the high agreement among the three criteria, when using the WHO chart, more patients were classified as presenting shortness than when adopting the criteria of NCHS ( $p < 0.001$ ) and CDC ( $p < 0.001$ ) (Table I). In the W/A comparison, the criteria of CDC ( $p < 0.001$ ) and WHO ( $P = 0.018$ ) were more rigorous in the classification of underweight and risk for underweight than the criteria of NCHS (Table II). For W/S, the criteria of CDC ( $p < 0.001$ ) and WHO ( $p < 0.001$ ) were also more stringent than those of NCHS, with CDC still more than WHO ( $p = 0.003$ ) (Table II).

Figure 2 shows the differences resulting from the comparison of the diagnostic criteria (NCHS, CDC and WHO) for the indexes: W/A (Fig. 2a-2c); S/A (Fig. 2d-2f) and W/S (Fig. 2g-2i), indicating that, despite the strong agreement among these criteria, WHO and CDC

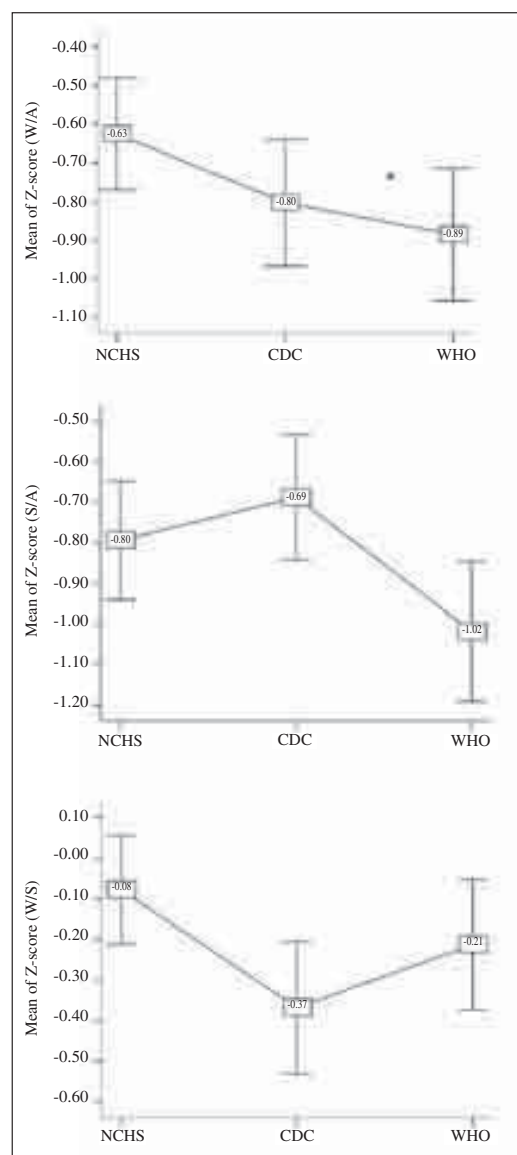


Fig. 1.—ANOVA for repeated measurements, comparing the mean values of the different charts. Bonferroni correction  $p < 0.001$  for all comparisons, except for W/A between CDC and WHO (\* $p = 0.014$ ).

tend to be more rigorous than NCHS. Likewise, Figure 3 shows the strong correlation of the criteria, emphasizing again that WHO and CDC classify the patients for worse nutritional state.

## Discussion

According to NCHS/1977, CDC/2000 and WHO/2006 criteria, an agreement was observed when com-

| Table I                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |           |               |        |        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|--------|--------|
| Agreement of classification criteria NCHS/1977, CDC/2000 and WHO/2006 for S/A in children of $\leq 5$ years of age, considering shortness of patients presenting Z-score $\leq 2.0$ SD. Data presented in absolute numbers (n = 337) |           |               |        |        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | shortness | not shortness | p      | kappa  |
| CDC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |           |               |        |        |
| NCHS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |           |               |        |        |
| shortness                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 45        | 8             | 0.388  | 0.861* |
| not shortness                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 4         | 280           |        |        |
| WHO                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |           |               |        |        |
| NCHS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |           |               |        |        |
| shortness                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 53        | 0             | <0.001 | 0.781* |
| not shortness                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 23        | 261           |        |        |
| WHO                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |           |               |        |        |
| CDC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |           |               |        |        |
| shortness                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 49        | 0             | <0.001 | 0.738* |
| not shortness                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 27        | 261           |        |        |

\*P < 0.001; NCHS: National Center Health Statistics; CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; WHO: World Health Organization.

| Table II                                                                                                                    |          |    |         |        |         |           |        |        |    |         |        |         |           |        |        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----|---------|--------|---------|-----------|--------|--------|----|---------|--------|---------|-----------|--------|--------|
| Agreement of classification criteria NCHS/1977, CDC/2000 and WHO/2006 for W/A and W/S in children of $\leq 5$ years of age. |          |    |         |        |         |           |        |        |    |         |        |         |           |        |        |
| Data presented in absolute numbers (n = 337)                                                                                |          |    |         |        |         |           |        |        |    |         |        |         |           |        |        |
| W/A                                                                                                                         |          |    |         |        |         |           |        | W/S    |    |         |        |         |           |        |        |
| CDC                                                                                                                         |          |    |         |        |         |           |        |        |    |         |        |         |           |        |        |
|                                                                                                                             |          | UW | UW risk | Normal | OW risk | OW/ obese | p      | Kappa  | UW | UW risk | Normal | OW risk | OW/ obese | p      | Kappa  |
| NCHS                                                                                                                        | UW       | 48 | 0       | 0      | 0       | 0         | <0.001 | 0.797* | 18 | 0       | 1      | 0       | 0         | <0.001 | 0.627* |
|                                                                                                                             | UW risk  | 13 | 43      | 3      | 0       | 0         |        |        | 15 | 12      | 1      | 0       | 0         |        |        |
|                                                                                                                             | normal   | 0  | 17      | 185    | 3       | 0         |        |        | 5  | 29      | 205    | 4       | 0         |        |        |
|                                                                                                                             | OW risk  | 0  | 0       | 1      | 13      | 1         |        |        | 0  | 0       | 3      | 20      | 0         |        |        |
|                                                                                                                             | OW/obese | 0  | 0       | 0      | 3       | 7         |        |        | 0  | 0       | 0      | 2       | 13        |        |        |
| WHO                                                                                                                         |          |    |         |        |         |           |        |        |    |         |        |         |           |        |        |
| NCHS                                                                                                                        | UW       | 46 | 6       | 0      | 0       | 0         | 0.018  | 0.606* | 16 | 3       | 0      | 0       | 0         | <0.001 | 0.620* |
|                                                                                                                             | UW risk  | 20 | 24      | 15     | 0       | 0         |        |        | 12 | 11      | 5      | 0       | 0         |        |        |
|                                                                                                                             | normal   | 4  | 24      | 173    | 4       | 0         |        |        | 7  | 25      | 202    | 9       | 0         |        |        |
|                                                                                                                             | OW risk  | 0  | 0       | 4      | 10      | 1         |        |        | 0  | 0       | 1      | 21      | 1         |        |        |
|                                                                                                                             | OW/obese | 0  | 0       | 0      | 1       | 9         |        |        | 0  | 0       | 0      | 0       | 15        |        |        |
| WHO                                                                                                                         |          |    |         |        |         |           |        |        |    |         |        |         |           |        |        |
| CDC                                                                                                                         | UW       | 50 | 11      | 0      | 0       | 0         | 0.740  | 0.627  | 29 | 9       | 0      | 0       | 0         | 0.003  | 0.784* |
|                                                                                                                             | UW risk  | 15 | 28      | 17     | 0       | 0         |        |        | 3  | 27      | 11     | 0       | 0         |        |        |
|                                                                                                                             | normal   | 1  | 15      | 168    | 5       | 0         |        |        | 3  | 5       | 200    | 7       | 0         |        |        |
|                                                                                                                             | OW risk  | 0  | 0       | 7      | 8       | 4         |        |        | 0  | 0       | 0      | 24      | 3         |        |        |
|                                                                                                                             | OW/obese | 0  | 0       | 0      | 2       | 6         |        |        | 0  | 0       | 0      | 0       | 16        |        |        |

W/A: weight-for-age index; W/S: weight-for-stature index; CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; UW: underweight; UW underweight risk; OW risk: overweight risk; OW: overweight; NCHS: National Center Health Statistics; WHO: World Health Organization; \*: P < 0.001.

paring indexes S/A, W/A and W/S, in the classification of hospitalized patients between 0 and 5 years old. Yet, small differences were observed in the mean values of Z-score. Lower values of Z-score, for S/A and W/A, were obtained with the WHO charts, classifying more patients in the categories of shortness and underweight,

suggesting that it is a more useful criterion to screen malnutrition and nutritional risk for hospital admission.

The literature has few references comparing the performance of charts in hospitalized children, especially in Brazilian hospitals. However, studies with different populations of non-hospitalized children obtained sim-

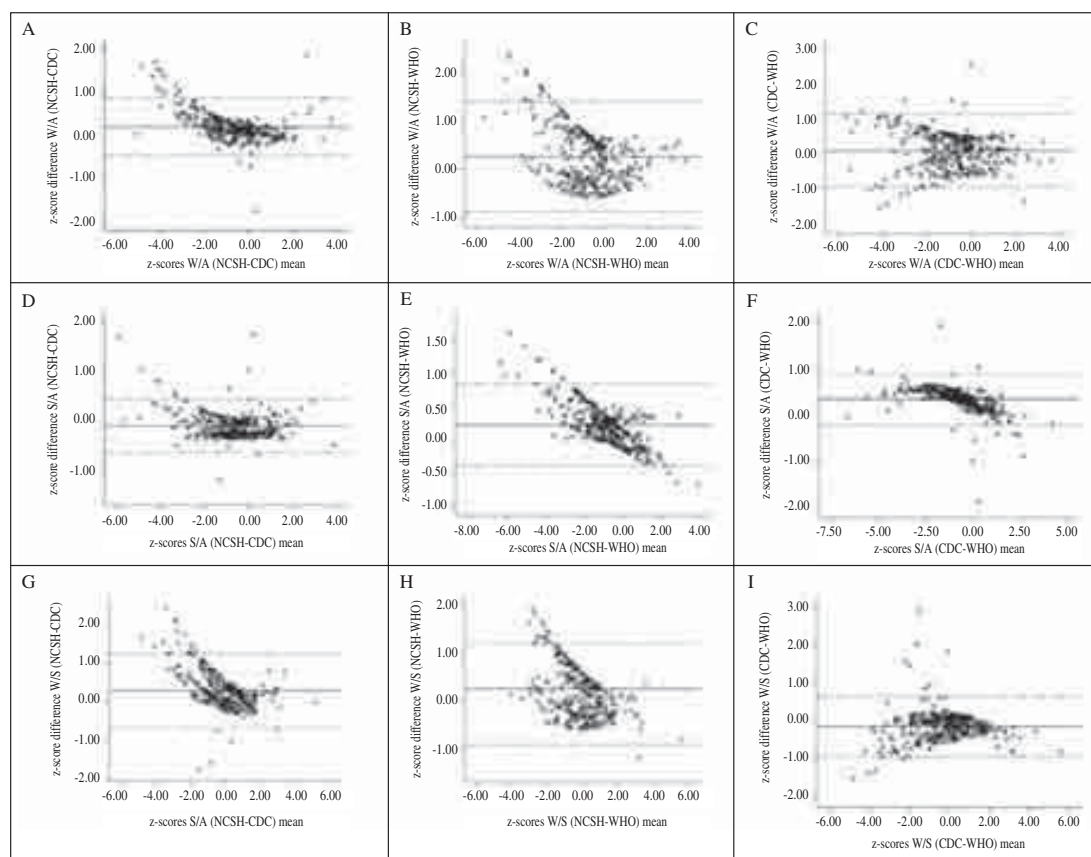


Fig. 2.—Differences of Z-score for weight/age (A to C), stature/age (D to F) and weight/stature (G to I) through NCHS (A, D, G), CDC (B, E, H) and WHO (C, F, I) charts, along the mean of values obtained with the charts assessed (axis x). The continuous lines show the difference mean and the broken lines show  $\pm 1.96$  standard deviation of the difference mean (Bland & Altman plot).

ilar data to those found in this study. Torres et al.<sup>12</sup> showed similar data to ours when evaluating impaired growth in preschool non-hospitalized children using the CDC 2000 and WHO 2006 criteria. They observed more weight reduction (W/S) and stature reduction (S/A) when using the WHO criteria, although these differences were not significant in the statistical perspective in any group age. On the other hand, in the Multi-centre Growth Reference Study (MGRS) elaborated by the WHO,<sup>13</sup> non-hospitalized children had the diagnosis of nutritional impairment earlier when using the WHO standard.

In a posterior study, Onis et al.<sup>14</sup> compared the WHO and NCHS growth charts and found higher malnutrition in W/A in the first six months of life, when based on the WHO standard. The prevalence of 2.5 times higher when compared to the criteria of NCHS. The same was observed in S/A, the prevalence of stunting was higher in all ages when the WHO standard was adopted. For W/S, during the first six months of life, the prevalence of wasting and severe wasting using the WHO standard was, respectively, 2.5 and 3.5 times

those estimated using the NCHS reference. Likewise, when comparing the CDC and WHO charts, the WHO group<sup>15</sup> found higher malnutrition when the WHO criteria were adopted. Such data agree with the results of this study, emphasizing that the age median of the sample for this study was around 6 months old.

Almeida et al.<sup>16</sup> evaluated 841 Brazilian non-hospitalized children of max. five years old through four methods. Just like us, the authors showed agreement when comparing the methods, confirming that, in large groups of children dispersed in the population presenting several degrees of malnutrition, different methods are highly correlated. Yet, caution should be considered in individual assessment, as different methods can reproduce different scores to the same child.

With the purpose of studying shortness and underweight, Schwartz et al.<sup>17</sup> conducted a study with a cohort of 289 African children up to the 15th month after their birth, using the WHO, CDC and NCHS growth charts. The highest incidence of underweight at the 3rd month of age was identified with the adoption of the WHO charts in relation to CDC (4% vs.

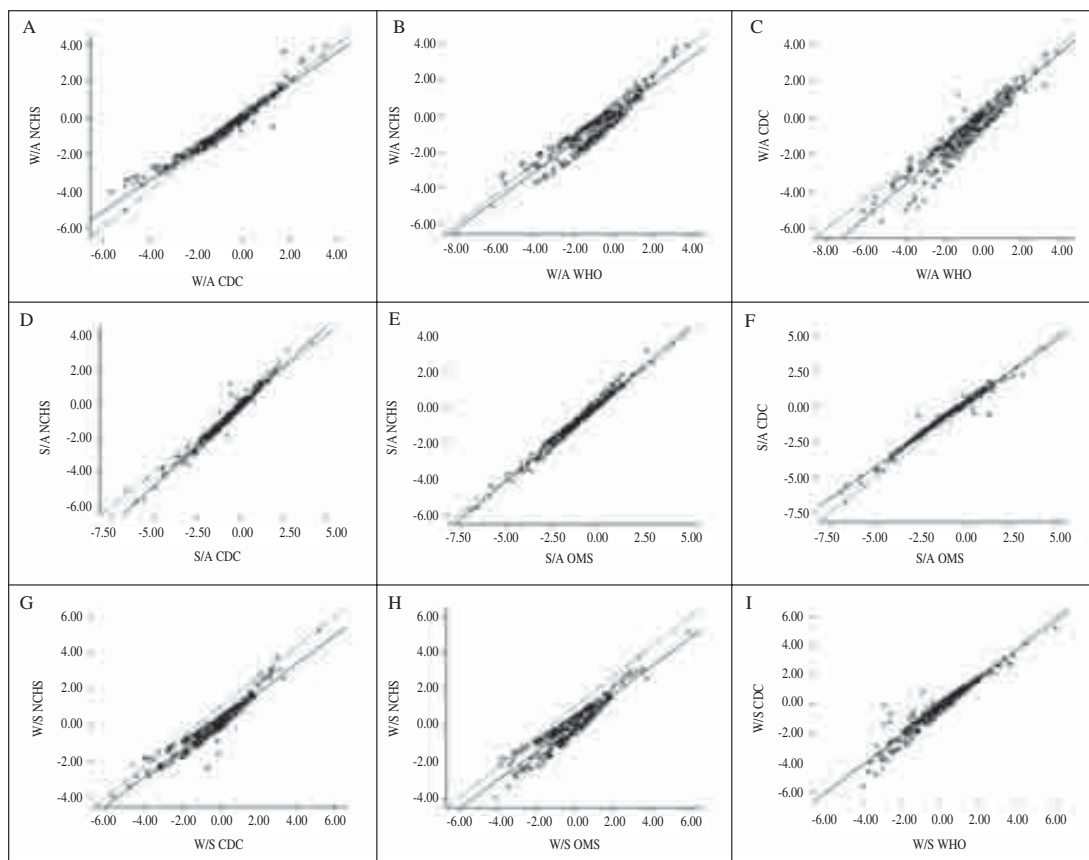


Fig. 3.—Differences of Z-score for weight/age (A to C), stature/age (D to F) and weight/stature (G to I). The broken lines show what would be the perfect agreement of the methods (angle of 45° of axis Y and X), while the continuous lines indicate the straight line estimated for the agreement found in this study. Each point represents the same patient, assessed through the different criteria.

1%) and to NCHS (4% vs. 0.7%). Similar differences were identified in the evaluations made at the 9th and 15th month of life. Just like in our study, the diagnosis of shortness through the WHO charts was more sensitive in all evaluations.

Mei et al.<sup>18</sup> assessed weight and stature of children between 0 and 59 months of age ( $n = 3,920$ ) included in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 1999-2004, unifying the cutoff point of the CDC and WHO charts. The authors found more shortness with the WHO charts.

Malnutrition is a frequent comorbidity at the moment of hospitalization; it can affect one out of 5 children of our context. The early detection of this event can enable a different nutritional attention. In this sense, as a measurement of nutritional screening, despite the strong agreement of the NCHS, CDC and WHO charts, the adoption of the WHO charts seems to be more useful to detect the highest possible number of malnourished children or children at nutritional risk, who should receive early nutritional interference already at the admission.

## Conclusion

Despite the strong agreement of the 3 charts, the adoption of the WHO charts seems to be more helpful for the children's nutritional screening for hospital admission, as it enables to detect a higher number of malnourished children or at nutritional risk, who will benefit from an early intervention.

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Original

## Concordancia entre la autopercepción de la imagen corporal y el estado nutricional en universitarios de Orense

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### Resumen

El objetivo de este trabajo fue detectar posibles alteraciones de la conducta alimentaria en universitarios del Campus de Orense mediante la autopercepción de su imagen corporal. Participaron 145 universitarios, 107 mujeres (74% de la población estudiada con una edad media de  $25,2 \pm 2,9$  años) y 38 hombres (26% con una edad media de  $25,3 \pm 3,3$  años). Se trata de un estudio transversal descriptivo con encuestas en el que se determinó el índice de masa corporal (IMC), el peso subjetivo y se utilizaron dos subescalas del Eating Disorders Inventory 2: la subescala de insatisfacción corporal (EDI-IC) y la de obsesión por la delgadez (EDI-OD). Los resultados muestran que la mayoría de la población es normopeso, no existen casos de obesidad en la población femenina y en la población masculina no se encontraron casos de bajo peso. Más de la mitad de la población (55% de las mujeres y 63% de los hombres) tienen un juicio valorativo distorsionado de su cuerpo respecto a los valores del IMC, observándose que los hombres subestiman su peso y en las mujeres aparecen casos de subestimación y de sobrestimación. Las mujeres más insatisfechas con su figura son las que presentan sobrepeso o bajo peso y las más obsesionadas por adelgazar son las que se encuentran en el límite superior del normopeso. En el grupo de los hombres, los que presentan sobrepeso y obesidad son los más insatisfechos y los más obsesionados por adelgazar.

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Palabras clave: Imagen corporal. IMC (índice de masa corporal). Percepción. Peso subjetivo. Insatisfacción corporal.

### Abreviaturas

EDI-IC: Eating Disorders Inventory-Insatisfacción Corporal.

EDI-OD: Eating Disorders Inventory-Obsesión por adelgazar.

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### AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SELF-PERCEPTION ON THE BODY IMAGE AND THE NUTRITIONAL STATUS IN COLLEGE STUDENTS FROM ORENSE

#### Abstract

The aim of this study was to detect the possible changes in dietary behavior among college students from the University Campus of Orense by means of self-perception of their body image. 145 college students participated, 107 women (74% of the study population with a mean age of  $25.2 \pm 2.9$  years) and 38 men (26%, with a mean age of  $25.3 \pm 3.3$  years). This is a descriptive cross-sectional study using questionnaires and assessing the body mass index (BMI), the subjective weight and using two sub-scales of the Eating Disorders Inventory 2: the body dissatisfaction (EDI-IC) sub-scale and the slimness obsession (EDI-OD) sub-scale. The results show that most of the population had normal weight, there exists no obesity among the female population and there were no underweight cases among the male population. More than half of the population (55% of women and 63% of men) that a distorted judgment of their body as compared to the BMI values, with men underestimating their weight and, among women, there are cases underestimating or overestimating their weight. The women more unsatisfied with their body image were those having overweight or low weight, and those more obsessed with losing weight are those in the upper limit of the normal weight. Among men, those having overweight or obesity are the most unsatisfied and most obsessed with losing weight.

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Key words: Body image. BMI (body mass index). Perception. Subjective weight. Body dissatisfaction.

IMC: Índice de Masa Corporal.

SEEDO: Sociedad Española para el estudio de la Obesidad.

### Introducción

Una de las definiciones integradoras del concepto de imagen corporal<sup>1</sup> lo define como un constructo complejo que incluye tanto la percepción que tenemos de todo el cuerpo y de cada una de sus partes, como del movimiento y límites de éste, la experiencia subjetiva de actitudes, pensamientos, sentimientos y valoraciones que hacemos y sentimos, y el modo de comportar-

nos derivado de las cogniciones y los sentimientos que experimentamos.

El culto que rinde al cuerpo nuestra sociedad es cada vez más importante y los mensajes socioculturales de una industria que sobrevalora la delgadez impactan en el comportamiento y pensamiento de la población, sobre todo joven, induciendo conductas de riesgo para su bienestar físico y psicológico. Tener una buena o mala imagen corporal influye en nuestros pensamientos, sentimientos y conductas, y además, también en la forma en cómo nos respondan los demás<sup>2</sup>.

La imagen corporal se considera, en el ámbito de las investigaciones relacionadas con los trastornos de la conducta alimentaria, como una aproximación cualitativa al estado nutricional del individuo<sup>3</sup>. Los trastornos de la conducta alimentaria están vinculados a una percepción distorsionada de la imagen del propio cuerpo, así como a la insatisfacción corporal. La importancia del estudio de la insatisfacción corporal se debe a que en recientes investigaciones se ha confirmado que las alteraciones de la imagen corporal tienen una participación causal en el trastorno alimentario, en lugar de ser secundarias a él<sup>4</sup>. Se considera que aquellos sujetos que, al evaluar sus dimensiones corporales, manifiestan juicios valorativos sobre el cuerpo que no coinciden con las dimensiones reales presentan una alteración de la imagen corporal<sup>5</sup>. Las alteraciones de la imagen corporal se caracterizan por una valoración cognitiva y actitudinal distorsionada en sentido negativo del propio cuerpo y constituye un factor decisivo en la motivación para realizar algún tipo de dieta restrictiva.

## Objetivos

El objetivo de este trabajo fue investigar la presencia de alteraciones de la imagen corporal en universitarios orensanos y establecer su relación con la insatisfacción corporal y la obsesión por la delgadez, considerados como factores de riesgo en los trastornos de la conducta alimentaria.

## Material y métodos

Es un estudio transversal descriptivo mediante encuestas<sup>6</sup>, en el que participaron voluntariamente 145 estudiantes universitarios del Campus de Ourense (74% mujeres y 26% hombres). La edad media era de  $25,2 \pm 2,9$  años para las mujeres y  $25,3 \pm 3,3$  años para los hombres. Se realizó una primera sesión informativa para los alumnos interesados en participar en la que se informó del trabajo que se iba a realizar, los objetivos del mismo y se les explicó en qué consistiría su participación. Se concertó con cada uno una entrevista personal, en la que se solicitó su permiso y consentimiento y se procedió a la realización de las medidas antropométricas así como a la recogida de los datos necesarios para cubrir los cuestionarios utilizados en este trabajo.

## Instrumentos

1°. Cuestionario de datos personales: edad, sexo, facultad en la que realiza sus estudios y curso.

2°. Determinación del Índice de Masa Corporal (IMC): se procedió a la medida del peso y de la talla. El peso se determinó con la persona descalza y con ropa ligera, utilizando una balanza modelo SECA con precisión de 1kg (rango 1-150kg). La talla se midió con la ayuda de un tallímetro, con la persona en bipedestación, con la espalda en contacto con el tallímetro y sin calzado<sup>7</sup>. El Índice de Masa Corporal (IMC) se obtuvo a partir de la fórmula  $IMC = \text{Peso (kg)} / \text{Talla (m)}^2$ . En base a estos datos, y para la tipificación ponderal del colectivo, se utilizaron los criterios propuestos por la SEEDO<sup>8</sup> en base al valor del IMC.

3°. Determinación del peso subjetivo siguiendo el protocolo establecido por otros autores<sup>9</sup>, para ello la persona tenía que elegir una de las siguientes opciones: “considero que estoy en mi peso;” “considero que tengo kilos de más” o “considero que tengo kilos de menos”. A partir de esta variable se clasificó a la población en tres grupos: “peso-subjetivo-justo” aquellos que creen estar en su peso, “kilos de más-subjetivo” para los que creen que les sobran kilos y “kilos de menos-subjetivo” para los que creen que pesan menos de lo que deberían.

4. Insatisfacción corporal y obsesión por adelgazar: se administró un cuestionario con preguntas relativas a dos de las once subescalas del Eating Disorders Inventory-2<sup>10</sup>: *Insatisfacción corporal* (EDI-IC) y *Obsesión por la delgadez* (EDI-OD), por ser éstas las que evaluaban propiamente las actitudes hacia el cuerpo. Este cuestionario ha sido validado en España por otros autores<sup>11</sup>. Los ítems de estas dos subescalas aparecen mezclados en el cuestionario para evitar que los sujetos adivinen el constructo que se evalúa, aunque algunos investigadores ya han demostrado que las diferencias observadas al administrar la subescala sola o conjuntamente con otras no son significativas<sup>12</sup>. Todos los ítems se contestan siguiendo la forma propuesta en el manual del cuestionario. La forma de corrección utilizada también es la propuesta por el manual del cuestionario.

El tratamiento estadístico de los datos obtenidos se realizó con el programa estadístico SPSS 14.1 para Windows. Los resultados se expresan como media y desviación estándar en el caso de las variables antropométricas y para las puntuaciones de las subescalas del EDI-2 y como porcentajes de frecuencia para la clasificación de la población en función del IMC y del peso subjetivo. Se realizó un análisis de varianza (al 95% de confianza,  $p < 0,05$ ) con la prueba de contraste de Tukey para la comparación de las variables.

## Resultados y discusión

*Índice de Masa Corporal*: El IMC medio de las mujeres es de  $22,0 \pm 2,6$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> y en base a la classifica-

ción propuesta por la SEEDO<sup>8</sup>, se ha comprobado que la mayoría (77%) son normopeso, aunque también se observan casos de sobrepeso (9% para el de grado I y 5% para el de grado II) y de bajo peso (9%). No se encontraron casos de obesidad. El IMC medio de los hombres ( $24,5 \pm 3,2 \text{ kg/m}^2$ ) difiere significativamente del de las mujeres ( $F = 15,571$ ,  $p = 0,000$ ) y más de la mitad (54%) se pueden considerar normopeso, aunque un porcentaje bastante elevado presentan sobrepeso (39%) y el 7% presentan obesidad de tipo I.

En estudios realizados anteriormente por nuestro equipo en poblaciones universitarias similares<sup>13,14</sup>, los datos muestran que en los últimos 10 años tanto en hombres como en mujeres ha disminuido el porcentaje de individuos con déficit de peso, pero esta disminución se ha compensado de diferente manera según el sexo y así en las mujeres se observó un aumento del grupo normopeso mientras que en los hombres aumentó el grupo de sobrepeso, sin que se viera modificado el porcentaje de obesos, lo que implica un trasvase de normopesos a los rangos de peso superiores. En un estudio con universitarias madrileñas<sup>15</sup> un 25% de la población presentaba valores de IMC comprendidos entre 15,5 y 20, aunque el IMC medio se encontraba en el intervalo de normopeso ( $21 \pm 2$ ); al igual que en este trabajo, no encontraron casos de obesidad entre mujeres. En el trabajo de Riba i Sicart<sup>16</sup>, el porcentaje de mujeres normopeso encontrado es menor (61,8%), y ninguna presentaba sobrepeso, pero por el contrario era muy elevado el porcentaje de mujeres con insuficiencia de peso, llegando al 43% de la población. Entre los hombres, la mayoría (82,5%) era normopeso, lo que implica porcentajes menores de individuos con sobrepeso u obesidad. Algunos estudios<sup>17</sup> encuentran mayor prevalencia de obesidad en hombres que en mujeres, aunque hay investigaciones en las que se señala lo contrario, así en una muestra de universitarios madrileños<sup>18</sup> se observó que era más alto el porcentaje de mujeres obesas (5,7%) frente al 0% en el caso de los hombres. Otros investigadores<sup>19</sup> realizaron un trabajo en el que evaluaron a estudiantes universitarios de 22 países de todo el mundo, observando que los estudiantes estadounidenses ( $24,3 \text{ kg/m}^2$ ) e islandeses ( $23,6 \text{ kg/m}^2$ ) eran los que presentaban un IMC mayor y; por el con-

trario, los IMC más bajos correspondían a los coreanos y tailandeses ( $20,7$  y  $20,5 \text{ kg/m}^2$  respectivamente).

**Peso subjetivo:** Como se puede observar en la figura 1, la mayoría de la población cree estar en su *peso subjetivo justo* (64% de las mujeres y en el 56% de los hombres), de estos datos podemos deducir que las mujeres son más conscientes que los hombres de su peso real, quizás debido a la mayor preocupación por las cuestiones relacionadas con el peso. Por el contrario, son menos las mujeres que creen tener *kilos de menos*.

En base a estos datos se clasificó a la población en función del *peso subjetivo* declarado y del IMC calculado (tabla I). La clasificación según el IMC se realizó, en este caso, siguiendo la propuesta de la SEEDO<sup>8</sup> pero modificada en base a los trabajos de varios autores: Gray<sup>20</sup> en una revisión de datos de prevalencia de obesidad en diferentes poblaciones concluye que la menor incidencia de mortalidad se asocia, en ambos sexos, con un IMC de  $22 \text{ kg/m}^2$  y que la mortalidad asociada a un IMC  $< 20 \text{ kg/m}^2$  es mayor que en la franja de  $20-25 \text{ kg/m}^2$ . Y Barbany y Foz<sup>21</sup> proponen que el IMC entre  $22$  y  $24,9 \text{ kg/m}^2$  debe de considerarse como la franja superior de la normopeso. En base a ello, nuestro grupo de investigación optó por subdividir el grupo normopeso propuesto por la SEEDO en tres subgrupos: límite inferior de normopeso ( $18,5 < \text{IMC} < 19,9$ ), normopeso ( $20 < \text{IMC} < 21,9$ ) y límite superior de normopeso ( $22 < \text{IMC} < 24,9$ ).

En el grupo de mujeres (tabla I) que se ven con *kilos de más subjetivo* un 50% han valorado su peso de manera coincidente al IMC ya que presentan sobrepeso o están en el límite superior del normopeso; el otro 50% sobrestima su peso apareciendo casos de bajo peso (11%) y en el límite inferior de la normalidad (7%). En cuanto al grupo de mujeres que se ven con *kilos de menos* sólo en el 18% la valoración del peso coincide con las dimensiones reales, ya que tienen un IMC en el límite inferior del normopeso, el resto subestima su peso incluso hay un 9% que tienen un IMC correspondiente al sobrepeso de grado I. Dentro del grupo *peso subjetivo justo* observamos que coincide la autopercepción del peso con el IMC en un 45,7% de las mujeres, el resto o bien sobrestiman su peso o bien lo subestiman.

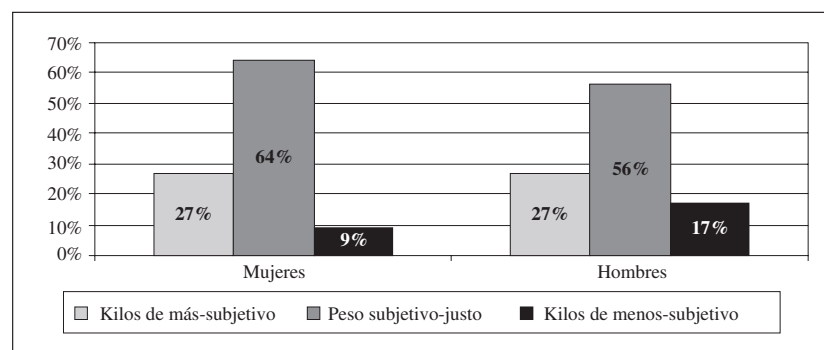


Fig. 1.—Clasificación de la población en función del "peso subjetivo".

| <b>Tabla I</b><br>Clasificación de la población según su “peso subjetivo” y su IMC |            |              |                |            |              |                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------|----------------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| IMC (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )                                                           | Mujeres    |              |                | Hombres    |              |                |
|                                                                                    | Peso justo | Kilos de más | Kilos de menos | Peso justo | Kilos de más | Kilos de menos |
| IMC < 18,5<br>Insuficiencia de peso                                                | 8,5%       | 11%          | 0%             | 0%         | 0%           | 0%             |
| 18,5 < IMC < 19,9<br>Límite inferior normopeso                                     | 10%        | 7%           | 18%            | 0%         | 0%           | 17%            |
| 20 < IMC < 22,9<br>Normopeso                                                       | 45,7%      | 32%          | 36,5%          | 15%        | 0%           | 83%            |
| 23 < IMC < 24,9<br>Límite superior normopeso                                       | 31,5%      | 25%          | 36,5%          | 55%        | 0%           | 0%             |
| 25 < IMC < 26,9<br>Sobrepeso grado I                                               | 2,8%       | 14,3%        | 9%             | 25%        | 30%          | 0%             |
| 27 < IMC < 29,9<br>Sobrepeso grado II                                              | 1,5%       | 10,7%        | 0%             | 5%         | 40%          | 0%             |
| IMC > 30<br>Obesidad                                                               | 0%         | 0%           | 0%             | 0%         | 30%          | 0%             |

El 100% de los hombres que se ven con *kilos de más* se clasificó correctamente ya que ninguno tiene un IMC dentro del normopeso o insuficiencia de peso (tabla I). En relación a los que creen tener *kilos de menos*, mayoritariamente subestiman su peso, ya que el 83% son normopeso, solamente el 17% presentan un IMC en el límite inferior. Los datos obtenidos para los que se ven en su *peso subjetivo justo* nos muestran que

sólo en el 15% de los casos coincide la estimación con el normopeso, en base al IMC, ya que el 55% subestiman su peso al estar en el límite superior y un 30% presentan sobrepeso (tabla II).

Se comprobó que el porcentaje de mujeres que creen que están en su peso justo es mayor que el de hombres, lo que se corresponde con lo evidenciado por los valores del IMC, la mayoría de ellas son normopeso. Este

| <b>Tabla II</b><br>Puntuación media (media $\pm$ devest) en las subescalas EDI-IC y EDI-OD |                              |                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Subescala EDI                                                                              | Mujeres                      | Hombres                      |
| <b>Puntuación media subescala EDI-IC</b>                                                   |                              |                              |
| Ítems EDI-IC:                                                                              | 6,36 $\pm$ 6,47 <sup>a</sup> | 2,79 $\pm$ 3,60 <sup>b</sup> |
| 1. Pienso que mi estómago es demasiado grande                                              | 0,39 $\pm$ 0,78 <sup>a</sup> | 0,22 $\pm$ 0,64 <sup>a</sup> |
| 2. Pienso que mis muslos son demasiado gruesos                                             | 0,79 $\pm$ 1,20 <sup>a</sup> | 0,11 $\pm$ 0,52 <sup>b</sup> |
| 3. Pienso que mi estómago tiene el tamaño adecuado                                         | 0,68 $\pm$ 0,98 <sup>a</sup> | 0,80 $\pm$ 1,04 <sup>a</sup> |
| 4. Me siento satisfecho con mi figura                                                      | 0,57 $\pm$ 0,84 <sup>a</sup> | 0,19 $\pm$ 0,62 <sup>b</sup> |
| 5. Me gusta la forma de mi trasero                                                         | 0,80 $\pm$ 1,05 <sup>a</sup> | 0,42 $\pm$ 0,91 <sup>b</sup> |
| 6. Pienso que mis caderas son demasiado anchas                                             | 0,55 $\pm$ 1,04 <sup>a</sup> | 0,00 $\pm$ 0,00 <sup>b</sup> |
| 7. Creo que el tamaño de mis muslos es el adecuado                                         | 1,22 $\pm$ 1,14 <sup>a</sup> | 0,53 $\pm$ 0,97 <sup>b</sup> |
| 8. Creo que mi trasero es demasiado grande                                                 | 0,34 $\pm$ 0,83 <sup>a</sup> | 0,03 $\pm$ 0,17 <sup>b</sup> |
| 9. Creo que mis caderas tienen el tamaño adecuado                                          | 1,00 $\pm$ 1,05 <sup>a</sup> | 0,30 $\pm$ 0,66 <sup>b</sup> |
| <b>Puntuación media subescala EDI-OD</b>                                                   |                              |                              |
| Ítems EDI-OD:                                                                              | 2,79 $\pm$ 3,60 <sup>a</sup> | 1,36 $\pm$ 1,79 <sup>b</sup> |
| 1. Como dulces y carbohidratos sin sentirme nervioso                                       | 0,40 $\pm$ 0,77 <sup>a</sup> | 0,28 $\pm$ 0,66 <sup>a</sup> |
| 2. Pienso en ponerme en dieta                                                              | 1,02 $\pm$ 1,01 <sup>a</sup> | 0,64 $\pm$ 1,02 <sup>b</sup> |
| 3. Me siento muy culpable cuando como en exceso                                            | 0,28 $\pm$ 0,74 <sup>a</sup> | 0,08 $\pm$ 0,50 <sup>b</sup> |
| 4. Me aterroriza la idea de engordar                                                       | 0,37 $\pm$ 0,85 <sup>a</sup> | 0,08 $\pm$ 0,28 <sup>a</sup> |
| 5. Exagero o doy demasiada importancia al peso                                             | 0,31 $\pm$ 0,79 <sup>a</sup> | 0,14 $\pm$ 0,42 <sup>a</sup> |
| 6. Estoy obsesionado por el deseo de ser más delgado                                       | 0,19 $\pm$ 0,62 <sup>a</sup> | 0,06 $\pm$ 0,23 <sup>a</sup> |
| 7. Si aumento un kilo de peso temo que seguiré engordando                                  | 0,21 $\pm$ 0,68 <sup>a</sup> | 0,08 $\pm$ 0,37 <sup>a</sup> |

Los valores dentro de una misma fila con el mismo superíndice no son significativamente diferentes (intervalo de confianza al 95% y  $p > 0,05$ ).

hecho puede deberse<sup>3</sup> a que posiblemente los hombres estén menos preocupados por su imagen y, por ello, ellas son más conscientes de su peso. Además el 55% de las mujeres participantes y el 63% de los hombres presentan una posible alteración en la percepción de su imagen corporal, aunque esta alteración varía en función del sexo de tal forma que en los hombres se debe a una subestimación de su peso, mientras que en las mujeres un 30% se debe a la subestimación y un 25% a la sobrestimación del peso.

En una población española<sup>22</sup> de edad media  $42,3 \pm 13,5$  años se observó que los hombres tienden a infravalorar su peso, aunque a diferencia de este estudio, esto ocurre en mayor medida en los obesos. También observaron que las mujeres normopeso eran más objetivas que los hombres a la hora de autopercebir su imagen corporal mediante la estimación del peso. Sin embargo, en la muestra española de la Encuesta Pan Europea (Proyecto Body Weight and Physical Activity, 1997) se comprobó<sup>3</sup> al contrario de este estudio, que un mayor porcentaje de hombres se autocalifican en la normalidad. Algunos autores<sup>23</sup> observaron que el grado de sobrepeso y obesidad también influye en la percepción del peso; los hombres se perciben de forma más correcta cuando se encuentran en valores de normopeso y sobrepeso. En un trabajo en el que se compararon dos poblaciones de jóvenes, españoles y mexicanos<sup>24</sup> se comprobó que mientras que los hombres (de ambas nacionalidades) querían estar más robustos, las mujeres deseaban estar más delgadas, independientemente del peso que tenían, y este deseo afectaba en mayor medida a las españolas que a las mexicanas. En adultos mejicanos también se pudo comprobar que las estimaciones de peso de las mujeres se ajustan más al peso real que las de los hombres<sup>25</sup>.

**Puntuaciones para las subescalas EDI-IC y EDI-OD (tabla II):** La puntuación media para la subescala EDI-IC (*Insatisfacción corporal*) es significativamente más alta en mujeres ( $6,4 \pm 6,5$ ) que en hombres ( $2,6 \pm 3,5$ ) lo que demuestra que las mujeres expresan una mayor insatisfacción con su cuerpo que los hombres, percibiendo más negativamente su imagen corporal. Además las mujeres obtienen puntuaciones medias más altas para todos los ítems de esta subescala, excepto para el ítem 3 (*pienso que mi estómago tiene el tamaño adecuado*) siendo éste el ítem que obtuvo la puntuación más elevada en los hombres, lo que implica que es la parte del cuerpo que más les preocupa. En el grupo de las mujeres las puntuaciones más altas se obtuvieron en los ítems referidos a muslos, caderas y trasero (ítems 2, 5, 7 y 9)<sup>26</sup>, así como el referido a la insatisfacción con su figura (ítem 4). Una vez realizado el tratamiento estadístico, se comprobó que salvo para los dos ítems referidos al estómago las diferencias entre sexos han resultado significativas (tabla II).

Las diferencias encontradas entre sexos para la subescala EDI-IC muestran una tendencia generalizada en la investigación de los trastornos de la conducta alimentaria (TCA), y que consiste en que los

hombres dan menor puntuación a las variables asociadas a estos trastornos que las mujeres<sup>12,5</sup>. Es necesario reflexionar sobre qué tipo de insatisfacción corporal miden las subescalas de estos test, pues la mayoría se refieren sobre todo a aspectos de la imagen corporal que se consideran importantes en la cultura de la belleza de la mujer. En un trabajo con jóvenes de la Universidad de Vigo<sup>27</sup> con una edad media de 19 años, se obtuvieron puntuaciones superiores a las de este estudio, lo que podría deberse a la forma de utilización de la subescala ya que dichos autores utilizaron todas las subescalas del EDI-2. En jóvenes canarios<sup>28</sup> se estudiaron actitudes y conductas asociadas a TCA, encontrando al igual que en los trabajos comentados anteriormente, diferencias significativas en la subescala EDI-IC en cuanto al sexo pero no en función de la clase social lo que también señalaron otros autores<sup>10,29</sup>, aunque también pudiera ocurrir que tales diferencias todavía no hayan sido probadas<sup>30</sup>. En un grupo de chicas argentinas<sup>31</sup> se encontró que las de mayor edad (18-20 años) declaraban mayor insatisfacción corporal que las de menor edad (12-14 años) para esta subescala de *Insatisfacción corporal* del EDI-2.

En un estudio comparativo entre adolescentes españoles y mexicanos<sup>24</sup>, observaron que hay significativamente más mujeres insatisfechas con su imagen que hombres, sin embargo, esta insatisfacción no difiere significativamente entre las dos nacionalidades. Y la insatisfacción de los hombres es diferente a la de las mujeres, puesto que mientras ellos quieren tener un cuerpo más musculado, ellas quieren estar más delgadas. Estudios epidemiológicos muy amplios han demostrado que de las mujeres adolescentes que se encuentran insatisfechas con su cuerpo, pocas tienen sobrepeso<sup>32</sup>. El hecho evidente, en todos estos trabajos, de que la mayoría de las chicas (sufran o no de trastornos de la conducta alimentaria) presentan una gran preocupación por la imagen corporal y una insatisfacción hacia su forma corporal, nos conduce a poner una especial atención en el concepto de imagen corporal y su relación con los trastornos alimentarios<sup>33</sup>, puesto que esta insatisfacción puede conducir a conductas erróneas hacia la comida que pueden convertirse en factores de riesgo de trastornos de la conducta alimentaria.

La puntuación media para la subescala del EDI-OD (*Obsesión por la delgadez*) (tabla II) es significativamente más alta en mujeres que en hombres; por lo tanto éstas muestran, en general, un mayor interés por adelgazar. Si analizamos las respuestas de cada ítem por separado (tabla 3), solamente se observan diferencias significativas, entre hombres y mujeres, en el ítem 2 (*pienso en ponerme a dieta*), para el que se alcanza la puntuación más alta para ambos sexos. Además las puntuaciones obtenidas son siempre más altas en las mujeres y, en la población masculina, las puntuaciones son muy bajas en los ítems relacionados con la *culpabilidad cuando comen en exceso, estar aterrorizado por la idea de engordar, dar demasiada importancia al peso y estar obsesionado por estar más delgado* (ítems

**Tabla III**  
Puntuaciones medias (media  $\pm$  desv) para las subescalas EDI-IC y EDI-OD en función de su IMC

|                                                | EDI-IC                     |                            | EDI-OD                     |                            |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                                | Mujeres                    | Hombres                    | Mujeres                    | Hombres                    |
| IMC < 18,5<br>Insuficiencia de peso            | 7,1 $\pm$ 7,7 <sup>a</sup> | –                          | 2,7 $\pm$ 4,2 <sup>a</sup> | –                          |
| 18,5 < IMC < 19,9<br>Límite inferior normopeso | 7,0 $\pm$ 4,0 <sup>a</sup> | 0,0 $\pm$ 0,0 <sup>a</sup> | 2,6 $\pm$ 2,2 <sup>a</sup> | 0,0 $\pm$ 0,0 <sup>a</sup> |
| 20 < IMC < 21,9<br>Normopeso                   | 6,6 $\pm$ 6,4 <sup>a</sup> | 2,6 $\pm$ 3,2 <sup>a</sup> | 2,6 $\pm$ 3,4 <sup>a</sup> | 0,8 $\pm$ 1,5 <sup>a</sup> |
| 22 < IMC < 24,9<br>Límite superior normopeso   | 5,9 $\pm$ 6,5 <sup>a</sup> | 0,9 $\pm$ 1,9 <sup>a</sup> | 3,8 $\pm$ 5,0 <sup>a</sup> | 0,8 $\pm$ 1,1 <sup>a</sup> |
| 25 < IMC < 26,9<br>Sobrepeso grado I           | 7,4 $\pm$ 8,3 <sup>a</sup> | 1,9 $\pm$ 1,5 <sup>a</sup> | 2,0 $\pm$ 2,3 <sup>a</sup> | 1,9 $\pm$ 2,2 <sup>a</sup> |
| 27 < IMC < 29,9<br>Sobrepeso grado II          | 7,5 $\pm$ 9,9 <sup>a</sup> | 4,4 $\pm$ 5,8 <sup>a</sup> | 2,5 $\pm$ 3,8 <sup>a</sup> | 2,2 $\pm$ 2,3 <sup>a</sup> |
| IMC > 30<br>Obesidad                           | –                          | 6,3 $\pm$ 5,8 <sup>a</sup> | –                          | 2,3 $\pm$ 2,3 <sup>a</sup> |

Para cada subescala del EDI, los valores dentro de una misma fila con el mismo superíndice no son significativamente diferentes (intervalo de confianza al 95% y  $p > 0,05$ ).

3, 4, 6 y 7). En jóvenes de la universidad de Vigo<sup>27</sup> se observaron puntuaciones medias superiores a las de este estudio en ambos sexos, y cuya justificación podría ser la misma que la comentada para las diferencias encontradas para la subescala EDI-IC en este trabajo. En otro estudio de prevalencia de TCA en universitarios madrileños<sup>34</sup> no encontraron diferencias significativas entre sexos para esta subescala, aunque fueron más altas las puntuaciones de las mujeres. En un trabajo en el que se estudió la asociación entre insatisfacción con la imagen corporal y los trastornos de la conducta alimentaria en mujeres argentinas de edades comprendidas entre 18 y 20 años<sup>31</sup>, utilizando esta subescala, se obtuvieron puntuaciones medias de 6,3. Este valor es superior al que hemos encontrado para la población de este estudio (2,8  $\pm$  3,6), lo que puede deberse a las diferencias de edad. Algunos autores<sup>35</sup> señalan que la aplicación del cuestionario EDI-2 o de sus subescalas, en una población abierta, puede servir como un primer paso en el proceso de cribado, aunque también puede utilizarse para identificar individuos altamente preocupados por su peso, y esta población puede ser adecuada para estudiar los posibles factores de riesgo de los TCA. El número de trabajos en los que se aplican las subescalas del EDI-2 en población masculina es menor que el de trabajos cuya población de estudio es femenina. En uno de esos trabajos<sup>36</sup> los universitarios de Toronto, entre 18 y 25 años, obtuvieron una puntuación media de 1,6  $\pm$  3,1, la cual se aproxima bastante, tanto a las obtenidas en este trabajo (1,4  $\pm$  1,8), como a las de otros grupos de población similares de España<sup>3,34</sup>. Son muchos los estudios en los que se han encontrado puntuaciones similares, tanto para hombres como mujeres, pero evidentemente estos valores son

diferentes entre los dos grupos, lo que refleja que entre ambos sexos existen distintas actitudes hacia la comida y el cuerpo<sup>10</sup>. Podemos concluir que, independientemente de la edad y la nacionalidad, las mujeres suelen presentar más obsesión por adelgazar que los hombres y esta obsesión puede influir negativamente en sus hábitos alimentarios convirtiéndose en un factor de riesgo de TCA.

*Subescalas EDI-IC y EDI-OD en relación a los valores del IMC* (tabla III): Se han calculado las puntuaciones medias de las subescalas del EDI-2 utilizadas para cada uno de los grupos de población clasificados según el IMC. Las mujeres que declaran mayor insatisfacción respecto a su cuerpo son las que presentan problemas de sobrepeso, aunque paradójicamente son las que están menos obsesionadas por adelgazar. Además las que tienen insuficiencia de peso y las que están en el límite inferior del normopeso, también presentan un alto grado de insatisfacción lo que evidencia una posible alteración en la percepción de su imagen corporal. Por el contrario, la menor insatisfacción la presentan las mujeres que tienen un IMC en el límite superior del normopeso que a su vez son las que están más obsesionadas por adelgazar.

Los resultados obtenidos para los hombres parecen más coherentes ya que las puntuaciones medias obtenidas en función del IMC muestran que los hombres obesos y los que presentan sobrepeso de grado I son los más insatisfechos con su imagen corporal y los que están más obsesionados por adelgazar. Por el contrario, se evidencia menor insatisfacción en los hombres que están en el límite inferior y superior del normopeso; estos junto a los normopeso son los que presentan menor obsesión por adelgazar.

**Tabla IV**  
Puntuaciones medias (media  $\pm$  desv) obtenidas para las subescalas EDI-IC y EDI-OD en función del peso subjetivo

| Peso subjetivo           | EDI-IC                      |                            | EDI-OD                      |                            |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
|                          | Mujeres                     | Hombres                    | Mujeres                     | Hombres                    |
| Kilos de menos-subjetivo | 2,7 $\pm$ 3,0 <sup>a</sup>  | 3,3 $\pm$ 3,3 <sup>a</sup> | 1,0 $\pm$ 1,3 <sup>a</sup>  | 0,7 $\pm$ 1,6 <sup>a</sup> |
| Peso justo subjetivo     | 4,8 $\pm$ 5,3 <sup>a</sup>  | 1,9 $\pm$ 3,2 <sup>a</sup> | 2,4 $\pm$ 2,9 <sup>ab</sup> | 0,8 $\pm$ 1,1 <sup>a</sup> |
| Kilos de más-subjetivo   | 11,5 $\pm$ 7,2 <sup>b</sup> | 3,8 $\pm$ 4,2 <sup>a</sup> | 4,4 $\pm$ 4,9 <sup>b</sup>  | 3,0 $\pm$ 2,2 <sup>b</sup> |

Para cada subescala del EDI, los valores dentro de una misma fila con el mismo superíndice no son significativamente diferentes (intervalo de confianza al 95% y  $p > 0,05$ ).

*Subescalas EDI-IC y EDI-OD en relación al peso subjetivo* (tabla IV): Teniendo en cuenta la clasificación de la población en base a su peso subjetivo, se estudiaron las puntuaciones de los 3 grupos (*peso subjetivo-justo*, *kilos de más-subjetivo*, *kilos de menos-subjetivo*) para las subescalas utilizadas en este trabajo, para ver la posible influencia del peso subjetivo en las respuestas.

Entre la población femenina las puntuaciones medias más altas para las dos subescalas las obtuvieron las del grupo *kilos de más-subjetivo*. Por tanto, las mujeres que creen estar por encima de su peso (un 27%) son las más insatisfechas con su imagen corporal y las que presentan mayor obsesión por adelgazar. En el tratamiento estadístico se ha comprobado que la insatisfacción corporal es significativamente mayor en las mujeres con *kilos de más* que en el resto y que la obsesión por adelgazar también es significativamente mayor en las que se ven con *kilos de más* respecto a las que creen que tienen *kilos de menos*.

En el grupo de los hombres (tabla IV) los que creen tener *kilos de más* son los más insatisfechos con su figura corporal y los que están más preocupados por adelgazar. Las diferencias encontradas entre los 3 grupos en función de su *peso subjetivo* no son estadísticamente significativas para la EDI-IC, sin embargo sí lo son para la subescala EDI-OD concretamente entre los hombres que se ven con *kilos de más* y los otros dos grupos.

## Conclusiones

La mayoría de las mujeres son normopeso, no hay casos de obesidad y existe un porcentaje pequeño de mujeres con bajo peso. En el grupo de los hombres mayoritariamente son normopeso, no hay casos de bajo peso, pero sí se encuentran obesos. Las alteraciones en la percepción de la imagen corporal afectan a más de la mitad de la población estudiada, siendo más frecuentes en hombres que en mujeres. En el caso de los hombres estas alteraciones se deben siempre a una subestimación del peso, mientras que en las mujeres aparecen algunos casos más de subestimación que de sobrestimación. En la población femenina, los grupos de riesgo para la detección de algún trastorno de la conducta alimentaria son: 1) las mujeres con bajo peso y en el límite inferior

del normopeso que creen que tienen kilos de más y además son las más insatisfechas con su imagen corporal, lo que les podría llevar a conductas restrictivas que pueden influir negativamente en su estado nutricional; 2) las mujeres con sobrepeso que subestiman su peso y que declaran estar menos obsesionadas por adelgazar, lo que les podría llevar, con el tiempo a estados de obesidad. Entre la población masculina, el grupo de riesgo son los hombres con sobrepeso y obesidad que subestiman su peso, lo que podría ocasionar un empeoramiento de su situación respecto al peso. Se corrobora así lo concluido por algunos autores<sup>5</sup> acerca de la conveniencia de aumentar el número de estudios dirigidos a conocer los problemas alimentarios en ambientes universitarios, así como implantar programas de prevención y tratamiento.

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Original

# Agreement and association between the phase angle and parameters of nutritional status assessment in surgical patients

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**Abstract**

**Background & aims:** To assess the agreement and the association between phase angle (PA) and parameters of nutritional status in surgical patients.

**Methods:** This was a cross-sectional study that involved 98 patients admitted for elective gastrointestinal or hernia repair surgery. The risk and nutritional status were evaluated through Nutritional Risk Screening 2002 (NRS 2002), Subjective Global Assessment (SGA), Body Mass Index (BMI) and Total Lymphocytes Count (TLC). These assessments were compared with the mean standardized PA (SPA), obtained by Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis (BIA). Statistical analysis included kappa coefficient, Student's *t*-test, Mann-Whitney test, and the construction of a ROC Curve.

**Results:** The highest kappa agreement was obtained between the SPA and the SGA (0.27; CI95% 0.06-0.48). Malnourished patients diagnosed by NRS 2002, SGA and TLC had a significantly lower mean SPA as compared to those who were well-nourished. A cut-off point of 0.8 for SPA showed 82.6% (CI95% 65.0-100.0%) sensitivity and 40.6% (CI95% 23.0-58.2%) specificity.

**Conclusion:** The SPA presented weak agreement with the methods of nutritional assessment, as well as low specificity, and could not be recommended as a marker of nutritional status, despite the fact that the lowest values for SPA were found in malnourished patients.

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**Key words:** Nutritional status assessment. Bioelectrical impedance analysis. Phase angle. Surgical patients.

## CONCORDANCIA Y ASOCIACIÓN ENTRE EL ÁNGULO DE FASE Y LOS PARÁMETROS DE EVALUACIÓN DEL ESTADO NUTRICIONAL EN PACIENTES QUIRÚRGICOS

**Resumen**

**Introducción y objetivos:** Evaluar la concordancia y asociación entre el ángulo de fase (AF) y los parámetros del estado nutricional en pacientes quirúrgicos.

**Métodos:** Se desarrolló un estudio de sección transversal con 98 pacientes admitidos para una cirugía gastrointestinal o de hernia. Se evaluó el riesgo y el estado nutricional a través del Rastreo de Riesgo Nutricional 2002 (RRN 2002), la Valoración Global Subjetiva (VGS), el Índice de Masa Corporal (IMC) y el Recuento Total de Linfocitos (RTL). Estos métodos fueron comparados con la media del AF estandarizado (AFE) obtenido por medio del Análisis de Impedancia Bioeléctrica (AIB). Los Análisis estadísticos incluyeron el coeficiente *kappa*, el test *t* Student, el test de Mann-Whitney, y la construcción de la Curva ROC.

**Resultados:** La concordancia *kappa* más alta se obtuvo entre el AFE y el VGS (0,27; CI95% 0,06-0,48). Los pacientes desnutridos diagnosticados por el RRN 2002, VGS y el RTL, tuvieron una media estadística de AFE significativamente menor comparado con aquellos que estaban bien nutridos. Un punto de corte del 0.8 para un AFE mostró 82,6% (CI95% 65,0-100,0%) de sensibilidad y 40,6% (CI95% 23,0-58,2%) de especificidad.

**Conclusión:** El AFE presentó una concordancia débil con los métodos de evaluación nutricional, así como una baja especificidad y no pudo ser recomendado como un indicador del estado nutricional, a pesar de que los valores más bajos del AFE fueron encontrados en pacientes desnutridos.

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**Palabras clave:** Evaluación del estado nutricional. Análisis por impedancia bioeléctrica. Ángulo de fase. Pacientes quirúrgicos.

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## Abbreviations

BCM: Body Cell Mass.  
BIA: Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis.  
BMI: Body Mass Index.  
NRS 2002: Nutritional Risk Screening 2002.  
PA: Phase Angle.  
R: Resistance.  
ROC curve: Receiver Operating Characteristic Curve.  
SGA: Subjective Global Assessment.  
SGA A: Well-nourished according to Subjective Global Assessment.  
SGA B: Suspected or moderate malnutrition according to Subjective Global Assessment.  
SGA C: Severe malnutrition according to Subjective Global Assessment.  
SPA: Standardized Phase Angle.  
TLC: Total Lymphocytes Count.  
UFSC: Federal University of Santa Catarina.  
Xc: Reactance.

## Introduction

Hospital malnutrition has become a concern and a challenge throughout the world,<sup>1,2,3</sup> since it has numerous negative consequences including increased morbidity and mortality, extended hospitalization, and, in addition, increased costs for the health care system.<sup>3,4</sup> Hospital malnutrition is related to both a higher frequency and higher severity of post-operative complications,<sup>5</sup> especially following surgery of the digestive tract.<sup>6</sup>

The application of a method to detect malnutrition has been made difficult by the absence of a universally accepted criterion for its identification.<sup>5</sup> At present, there is no gold-standard method to identify patients with malnutrition or at nutritional risk.<sup>6</sup>

Bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA) is a sensitive, reliable, safe and inexpensive method<sup>4,6</sup> that is rarely used for the determination of nutritional status.<sup>7</sup> This method may overcome some limitations presented by other methods by incorporating both functional and morphological assessment.<sup>6</sup> BIA measures body component resistance (R) and reactance (Xc) by recording a voltage drop in applied current.<sup>7</sup> Resistance is related to the water content in the tissues, while reactance is the resistive effect produced by the tissue interfaces and cell membranes.<sup>7,8</sup>

The phase angle (PA), is calculated directly from R and Xc, so it reflects the relative contributions of fluid (R) and cell membranes (Xc).<sup>7,9</sup> This measure has a number of advantages, such as independence from regression equations,<sup>10</sup> and the fact that it can be calculated even in situations in which it is not possible to estimate the body composition.<sup>7,8</sup> Furthermore, it can be performed even in patients in whom the current weight and height cannot be measured.<sup>6,11</sup> Thus, interest in comparing the PA with other methods used in the nutritional assessment of hospitalized patients is

clearly justified, in order to obtain evidence on its performance as an indicator of nutritional status.

The aim of this study was to evaluate the utility of standardized PA (SPA) in the determination of the nutritional status of surgical patients by investigating the agreement, as well as the association between SPA and nutritional status diagnosed by Nutritional Risk Screening 2002 (NRS 2002), Subjective Global Assessment (SGA), Body Mass Index (BMI) and Total Lymphocytes Count (TLC).

## Materials and methods

### *Patients and procedure*

This was a cross-sectional study, carried out between March and August 2007 with patients of both sexes, aged  $\geq 18$  years and admitted for elective gastrointestinal surgery or for hernia repair, hospitalized in Surgical Clinic 1 at the University Hospital of the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC), Florianópolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil.

Patients who were admitted for bariatric surgery, those fitted with pacemakers, pregnant women, those who were breastfeeding or those presenting difficulty in engaging with the interviewer for data collection were excluded from the study. The following variables were assessed in all patients: sex, age, main diagnosis and associated diseases.

The study was approved by the Committee for Ethics in Research in Humans at UFSC and, prior to data collection, each participant signed a term of free and informed consent.

### *Nutritional assessment*

Nutritional status was evaluated during the preoperative period by the same investigator, according to NRS 2002, SGA, BMI, TLC and SPA.

### *Nutritional Risk Screening 2002*

The NRS 2002 was performed according to the recommendations set forth by Kondrup et al.<sup>12</sup> Nutritional risk was through two components: impaired nutritional status and disease severity. Nutritional status was determined from three variables: BMI, recent weight loss, and food intake during the week before admission, taking into account the worst indicator. The disease severity was analyzed as an indicator of metabolic stress and increased nutritional requirements. A score between 1 and 3 was given according to the recommendations for each component. Patients with a total score of three or more (when the age of the patient was  $\geq 70$  years, a value of one was added to the total score) were considered at nutritional risk.

### Subjective Global Assessment

The SGA was carried out using the protocol developed by Detsky et al.<sup>13</sup> This relies on the patient's history regarding weight loss, dietary intake, gastrointestinal symptoms, functional capacity, and physical signs of malnutrition (loss of subcutaneous fat or muscle mass, oedema, ascites). Patients were classified as well nourished (A), moderately or suspected of being malnourished (B) or severely malnourished (C). For the purpose of statistical analysis, patients were grouped in well-nourished (SGA A) and malnourished (SGA B and C).

### Body Mass Index

The BMI was calculated as: current weight (kg)/height<sup>2</sup> (m)<sup>14</sup> and classified according to World Health Organization.<sup>14,15</sup> Subjects were grouped in well-nourished (BMI  $\geq 18.5$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>) and malnourished (BMI  $< 18.5$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>) patients.

### Total Lymphocytes Count

The TLC was analyzed automatically by an ABX PENTRA 120 automated haematological analyser (Kyoto, Japan). The TLC value (units per mm<sup>3</sup>) was obtained from the medical records of each patient, considering the cut-off points described by Blackburn & Thornton.<sup>16</sup> The patients were grouped in well-nourished (lymphocytes  $\geq 1,200$  mm<sup>3</sup>) and malnourished (lymphocytes  $< 1,200$  mm<sup>3</sup>) for the purposes of statistical analysis.

### Phase Angle

Tetrapolar BIA was performed using a calibrated Biodynamics portable apparatus, model 310e (Seattle, WA, USA), which applies a current of 800  $\mu$ A at a single frequency of 50 kHz. The measurements were made early in the morning, with patients fasting for at least 4 h. BIA was conducted while patients were lying supine on a bed, with legs apart and arms not touching the torso. Those who were able to urinate were asked to do so before the measurements were carried out. The examination procedures, as well as control of other variables affecting the validity, reproducibility and precision of the measurements were carried out according to standards of the National Institutes of Health.<sup>17</sup> Resistance (R) and reactance (Xc) were directly measured in ohms, with a single assessment being made of each. The phase angle was calculated using the following equation:  $[\arctan(Xc/R)] \times (180/\pi)$ .

Before employing the PA as a nutritional parameter, it was first standardized using the reference values for sex and age of a Swiss population,<sup>18</sup> since there are still

no published data for the Brazilian population. The SPA was calculated from the equation: [(observed PA-mean PA for sex and age)/standard deviation of PA for sex and age], where a SPA  $< 0.8$  was considered as an indicator of malnutrition.<sup>6</sup>

### Statistical Analysis

Statistical analysis was performed using Stata, version 9.0 for Windows (Stata Corporation, College Station, TX, USA). Results are expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation. Association among the categorical variables was determined with Fisher's test. The agreement between SPA and NRS 2002, SGA, BMI and TLC in the diagnosis of malnutrition was investigated using the kappa coefficient, with the following criteria being applied in the interpretation of values:  $k \leq 0.20$  (poor agreement);  $0.21 \leq k \leq 0.40$  (weak agreement);  $0.41 \leq k \leq 0.60$  (moderate agreement);  $0.61 \leq k \leq 0.80$  (good agreement);  $k > 0.80$  (very good agreement).<sup>19</sup>

Quantitative variables with normal distributions were analyzed with Student's *t* test and non-parametric variables were analyzed with the Mann-Whitney test to compare SPA values according to the categories of NRS 2002, SGA, BMI and TLC. A level of significance of  $p < 0.05$  was used.

The sensitivity and specificity of cut-off points for the PA were analyzed by constructing a ROC (Receiver Operator Characteristic) curve, considering the SGA as the reference method.

### Results

During the data collection period, 98 of 416 patients admitted to the clinic were enrolled in the study, following the pre-specified eligibility criteria. The main reason for the exclusions was the high number of patients admitted for surgical procedures other than those included in this study (gastrointestinal or hernia repair).

These 98 patients were aged between 20 and 85 years ( $46.3 \pm 13.6$  yr). Men had a higher mean age ( $49.3 \pm 13.5$  yr) than women ( $44.8 \pm 13.5$  yr). Table I presents the general characteristics of the patients. Women comprised 67.3% of the sample, and the majority of the sample consisted of adults (84.7%). According to the main diagnosis, women predominantly presented benign diseases of the pancreas or biliary tract (74.2%), while amongst men the most common conditions were gastrointestinal cancer (25%) and abdominal hernia (31.3%). Two-thirds of all patients did not present any associated disease.

Table II shows the nutritional risk and the nutritional status of the patients, according to NRS 2002, SGA, BMI, TLC and SPA. The prevalence of nutritional risk and malnutrition in the whole sample varied markedly according to the method used, as follows: 27.5% (NRS 2002), 29.6% (SGA), 4.1% (BMI), 11.5% (TLC) and

| <b>Table I</b><br><i>Socio-demographic and clinical characteristics of the patients, by sex (n = 98)</i> |            |     |        |       |        |                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----|--------|-------|--------|----------------------|
| Variable                                                                                                 | N (%)      | Men |        | Women |        | p-value <sup>a</sup> |
|                                                                                                          |            | N   | (%)    | N     | (%)    |                      |
| <i>N patients</i>                                                                                        | 98 (100.0) | 32  | (32.7) | 66    | (67.3) | < 0.001              |
| <i>Age (years)</i>                                                                                       |            |     |        |       |        | 0.6                  |
| < 60                                                                                                     | 83 (84.7)  | 26  | (81.3) | 57    | (86.4) |                      |
| ≥ 60                                                                                                     | 15 (15.3)  | 6   | (18.8) | 9     | (13.6) |                      |
| <i>Main diagnosis</i>                                                                                    |            |     |        |       |        | < 0.001              |
| Gastrointestinal cancer                                                                                  | 14 (14.3)  | 8   | (25.0) | 6     | (9.1)  |                      |
| Benign disease of the pancreas or biliary tract                                                          | 60 (61.2)  | 11  | (34.4) | 49    | (74.2) |                      |
| Benign disease of the oesophagus                                                                         | 10 (10.2)  | 3   | (9.4)  | 7     | (10.6) |                      |
| Abdominal hernia                                                                                         | 14 (14.3)  | 10  | (31.3) | 4     | (6.1)  |                      |
| <i>Associated diseases</i>                                                                               |            |     |        |       |        | 1.0                  |
| No                                                                                                       | 65 (66.3)  | 21  | (65.6) | 44    | (66.7) |                      |
| Yes                                                                                                      | 33 (33.7)  | 11  | (34.4) | 22    | (33.3) |                      |

<sup>a</sup>Fisher's exact test for association with sex.

23.5% (SPA). There was no difference by sex in the prevalence of malnutrition based on these methods. According to SGA, 18.4% of the patients presented moderate malnutrition or suspected malnutrition and 11.2% severe malnutrition. With regard to BMI, 3.1% of the patients exhibited mild thinness (BMI 17.0-

18.49 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) and 1.0% moderate thinness (BMI 16.0-16.99 kg/m<sup>2</sup>). In relation to TLC, 7.7% presented moderate malnutrition and 3.9% severe malnutrition. It should be noted that TLC values were unavailable for 20 patients, so this parameter was analyzed in 78 individuals only.

| <b>Table II</b><br><i>Nutritional status of the patients according to Nutritional Risk Screening (NRS 2002), Subjective Global Assessment (SGA), Body Mass Index (BMI), Total Lymphocytes Count (TLC) and standardized phase angle (SPA), according to sex (n = 98)</i> |           |     |        |       |        |                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----|--------|-------|--------|----------------------|
| Variable                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | N (%)     | Men |        | Women |        | p-value <sup>a</sup> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |           | N   | (%)    | N     | (%)    |                      |
| <i>NRS 2002</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |           |     |        |       |        | 0.3                  |
| < 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 71 (72.5) | 21  | (65.6) | 50    | (75.8) |                      |
| ≥ 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 27 (27.5) | 11  | (34.4) | 16    | (24.2) |                      |
| <i>SGA</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |           |     |        |       |        | 0.8                  |
| A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 69 (70.4) | 22  | (68.8) | 47    | (71.2) |                      |
| B + C                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 29 (29.6) | 10  | (31.3) | 19    | (28.8) |                      |
| <i>BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |           |     |        |       |        | 0.3                  |
| ≥ 25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 53 (54.1) | 14  | (43.8) | 39    | (59.1) |                      |
| 18.5-24.99                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 41 (41.8) | 16  | (50.0) | 25    | (37.9) |                      |
| < 18.5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 4 (4.1)   | 2   | (6.3)  | 2     | (3.0)  |                      |
| <i>TLC<sup>b</sup> (mm<sup>3</sup>)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |           |     |        |       |        | 1.0                  |
| ≥ 1,200                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 69 (88.5) | 24  | (88.9) | 45    | (88.2) |                      |
| < 1,200                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 9 (11.5)  | 3   | (11.1) | 6     | (11.8) |                      |
| <i>SPA</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |           |     |        |       |        | 0.8                  |
| ≥ 0.8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 75 (76.5) | 24  | (75.0) | 51    | (77.3) |                      |
| < 0.8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 23 (23.5) | 8   | (25.0) | 15    | (22.7) |                      |

NRS 2002, Nutritional Risk Screening 2002: NRS 2002 < 3 normal nutrition; NRS 2002 ≥ 3: nutritional risk; SGA, Subjective Global Assessment: SGA A: normal nutrition; SGA B + C malnutrition; BMI, Body Mass Index: BMI ≥ 18 kg/m<sup>2</sup>: normal nutrition; BMI < 18.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> malnutrition; TLC; Total Lymphocytes Count TLC ≥ 1,200 mm<sup>3</sup>: normal nutrition; TLC < 1,200 mm<sup>3</sup>: malnutrition; SPA, Standardized Phase Angle: SPA ≥ 0.8: normal nutrition and SPA < 0.8 malnutrition.

<sup>a</sup>Fisher's exact test for association with sex.

<sup>b</sup>There were 20 values ignored for this variable.

**Table III**  
Agreement between the standardized phase angle (SPA) and Nutritional Risk Screening (NRS 2002), Subjective Global Assessment (SGA), Body Mass Index (BMI) and Total Lymphocytes Count (TLC), in diagnosing malnutrition, according to sex (n = 98)

| Definition criteria for malnutrition | Kappa coefficient (CI <sup>a</sup> ) |                   |                    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
|                                      | Total                                | Men               | Women              |
| NRS 2002 ≥ 3                         | 0.25 (0.04-0.46)                     | 0.33 (-0.01-0.68) | 0.20 (-0.06-0.046) |
| SGA B + C                            | 0.27 (0.06-0.48)                     | 0.39 (0.04-0.73)  | 0.21 (-0.04-0.47)  |
| BMI < 18.5 kg/m <sup>2</sup>         | 0.01 (-0.13-0.14)                    | 0.11 (-0.21-0.43) | -0.06 (-0.13-0.02) |
| TLC < 1,200 mm <sup>3b</sup>         | 0.22 (-0.02-0.46)                    | 0.29 (-0.11-0.69) | 0.19 (-0.10-0.47)  |

NRS 2002, Nutritional Risk Screening 2002; NRS 2002 ≥ 3: nutritional risk; SGA, Subjective Global Assessment; SGA B + C: malnutrition; BMI, Body Mass Index; BMI < 18.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup>: malnutrition; TLC, Total Lymphocytes Count; TLC < 1,200 mm<sup>3</sup>: malnutrition; SPA, Standardized Phase Angle; SPA < 0.8: malnutrition.

<sup>a</sup>95% confidence interval.

<sup>b</sup>There were 20 values ignored for this variable.

The agreement between the SPA and NRS 2002, SGA, BMI and TLC in the diagnosis of malnutrition is shown in table III. The results show poor to weak agreements. The highest (weak) agreement was found between SPA and SGA (0.27; CI95% 0.06-0.48), followed by NRS 2002 and TLC [(0.25; CI95% 0.04-0.46) and (0.22; CI95% -0.02-0.46), respectively]. The lowest (poor) agreement was seen between SPA and BMI (0.01; CI95% -0.13-0.14). Men presented weak agreement between SPA and NRS 2002, SGA and TLC [(0.33; CI95% -0.01-0.68), (0.39; CI95% 0.04-0.73) and (0.29; CI95% -0.11-0.69), respectively]. Meanwhile, among women only the SGA presented weak agreement with SPA (0.21; CI95% -0.04-0.47).

Table IV shows the mean values for SPA according to categories of nutritional status based on parameters of nutritional status assessment. Malnourished patients diagnosed by NRS 2002, SGA and TLC had a significantly lower mean SPA (-0.7, -0.7 and -1.0, respectively) as compared to those who were well-nourished (0.0, 0.0 and -0.2, respectively). Men who were malnourished according to NRS 2002, SGA and TLC had significantly lower mean SPA than well-nourished men. Among women, just those diagnosed as malnourished by NRS 2002 had significantly lower mean SPA values than the well-nourished women.

The cut-off point of 0.8 for standardized phase angle presented a sensitivity of 82.6% (CI95% 65.0-100.0%) and a specificity of 40.6% (CI95% 23.0-58.2) (fig. 1).

## Discussion

The importance of the phase angle (PA) is evident in many clinical situations.<sup>20</sup> The PA, as a predictor of body cell mass (BCM), has been evaluated as a marker of nutritional status in adults and children,<sup>10,21,22</sup> making it relevant to investigate whether lower values for PA could be interpreted as malnutrition,<sup>11</sup> as proposed in our study.

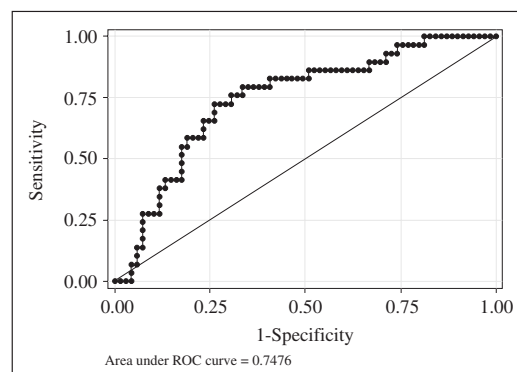


Fig. 1.—ROC (Receiver Operating Characteristic) curve for the best cut-off point of the phase angle for malnutrition, using SGA as the reference method (n = 98).

We found a percentage of 23.5% of malnourishment by means of standardized PA (SPA), while in another study the prevalence of malnutrition was 73.9%.<sup>6</sup> Other work has shown that in patients undergoing elective gastrointestinal surgery, for whom a cut-off point of PA < 5 was considered, the prevalence of malnutrition was 18.5%.<sup>23</sup> It should be noted that it is difficult to assess such patients due to the lack of reference values for this parameter.<sup>24</sup> As a result, different cut-off points have been used for the diagnosis of malnutrition in each study, which in turn makes it difficult to compare the results of different studies.

The most notable agreement in the diagnosis of malnutrition, although still weak, was found between SPA and SGA (0.27), with this being greater amongst men than women. The study by Barbosa-Silva and colleagues [23] reported an agreement of 0.39 between PA and SGA, which was similar (0.33) to that obtained in a study conducted in patients with advanced colorectal cancer.<sup>25</sup>

In our study, malnutrition defined by a SPA below 0.8 did not show good agreement with the methods investigated. The higher agreement found between

**Table IV**  
Mean values of the standardized phase angle (SPA) according to the classes of nutritional status diagnosed by Nutritional Risk Screening (NRS 2002), Subjective Global Assessment (SGA), Body mass index (BMI) and Total Lymphocytes Count (TLC), according to sex (n = 98)

| Method                              | PA<br>(whole sample) |                    | p-Value            | PA<br>(men) |                    | p-Value            | PA<br>(women) |                    |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|
|                                     | Mean                 | (CI <sup>a</sup> ) |                    | Mean        | (CI <sup>a</sup> ) |                    | Mean          | (CI <sup>a</sup> ) |
| NRS 2002                            |                      |                    | 0.001 <sup>b</sup> |             |                    | 0.03 <sup>b</sup>  |               |                    |
| < 3                                 | 0.0                  | (-0.2-0.3)         |                    | 0.0         | (-0.4-0.4)         |                    | 0.0           | (-0.3-0.3)         |
| ≥ 3                                 | -0.7                 | (-1.2-0.2)         |                    | -0.9        | (-1.9-0.0)         |                    | -0.6          | (-1.2-0.0)         |
| SGA                                 |                      |                    | 0.001 <sup>b</sup> |             |                    | 0.002 <sup>b</sup> |               |                    |
| A                                   | 0.0                  | (-0.2-0.3)         |                    | 0.1         | (-0.4-0.6)         |                    | 0.0           | (-0.3-0.3)         |
| B + C                               | -0.7                 | (-1.1-0.4)         |                    | -1.2        | (-1.8-0.6)         |                    | -0.5          | (-0.9-0.1)         |
| BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )            |                      |                    | 0.2 <sup>c</sup>   |             |                    | 0.3 <sup>c</sup>   |               |                    |
| ≥ 18.5                              | -0.2                 | (-0.4-0.1)         |                    | -0.2        | (-0.7-0.2)         |                    | -0.1          | (-0.4-0.1)         |
| < 18.5                              | -0.8                 | (-2.1-0.4)         |                    | -1.2        | (-10.0-8.4)        |                    | -0.5          | (-4.4-3.5)         |
| TLC <sup>d</sup> (mm <sup>3</sup> ) |                      |                    | 0.03 <sup>c</sup>  |             |                    | 0.02 <sup>c</sup>  |               |                    |
| ≥ 1,200                             | -0.2                 | (-0.4-0.1)         |                    | -0.1        | (-0.6-0.4)         |                    | -0.2          | (-0.5-0.1)         |
| < 1,200                             | -1.0                 | (-2.0-0.1)         |                    | -1.8        | (-4.7-1.1)         |                    | -0.7          | (-1.8-0.5)         |

NRS 2002, Nutritional Risk Screening 2002; NRS 2002 < 3 normal nutrition; NRS 2002 ≥ 3: nutritional risk; SGA, Subjective Global Assessment; SGA A: normal nutrition; SGA B + C malnutrition; BMI, Body Mass Index; BMI ≥ 18 kg/m<sup>2</sup>: normal nutrition; BMI < 18.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> malnutrition; TLC; Total Lymphocytes Count TLC ≥ 1,200 mm<sup>3</sup>: normal nutrition; TLC < 1,200 mm<sup>3</sup>: malnutrition; SPA, Standardized Phase Angle;

<sup>a</sup>95% confidence interval.

<sup>b</sup>Student's *t*-test for comparison of values between categories for independent variables.

<sup>c</sup>Mann-Whitney test for comparison of values between categories for independent variables.

<sup>d</sup>There were 20 values ignored for this variable.

SPA and SGA might be explained by the fact that SGA is associated with abnormal tissue structure as well as loss of body mass, and that these altered electrical tissue properties are not detected by the other methods.<sup>6,9,11</sup> In addition, both techniques have revealed a prognostic function in previous work in the literature. SGA predicted complications related to nutritional status in numerous populations of hospitalized patients, including surgical patients.<sup>5,13</sup> The PA, in turn, was described as a prognostic index for complications in patients undergoing elective gastrointestinal surgery,<sup>6</sup> as well as for patients on haemodialysis,<sup>20,21</sup> on peritoneal dialysis,<sup>26</sup> with cancer,<sup>7</sup> with cirrhosis<sup>28</sup> and who were HIV+ (human immunodeficiency virus positive).<sup>29</sup> However, it has been questioned whether SGA and PA are indicators of the severity of disease merely because of their relationship with malnutrition.<sup>21</sup> Thus, other studies should seek to determine whether SGA and the PA represent wider indicators of general health or simply nutritional markers.

The lowest value for agreement was found between SPA and BMI. This result was probably due to the elements of BIA, such as PA, and anthropometric markers, such as BMI, that express different aspects and stages of nutritional deficiency. According to Edefonti

et al.,<sup>30</sup> BIA is more sensitive than anthropometry in detecting changes in body composition, and consequently cases of malnutrition may be identified at an earlier stage using this method. This is supported by the fact that in patients with tumours of the head and neck, with normal BMI, the PA was reduced before the appearance of ostensible signs of cachexia and weight loss.<sup>31</sup>

Considering the distribution of the mean values of SPA according to the classes of nutritional status of patients diagnosed by the investigated methods, a decrease in the mean SPA values became apparent in malnourished patients, with a significant difference in relation to patients identified as well-nourished by NRS 2002, SGA and TLC. Among women, this difference in mean SPA was seen only for categories of NRS 2002. These results could be associated with a large number of the male patients having malignant gastrointestinal tumours, while women presented a higher proportion of benign pancreatic or biliary tract disease.

To our knowledge this is the first study to show an association between the PA and TLC and with the screening instrument NRS 2002. In relation to TLC, although this was determined in a smaller number of patients, the difference in mean SPA values between

malnourished and well-nourished patients might be explained by the effect on this marker of non-nutritional conditions, such as the presence of an underlying disease. As a result we cannot state with certainty that the PA is indicating the patients' nutritional status exclusively. SPA decreased significantly with poor nutritional status, according to SGA and NRS 2002, indicating the ability of PA to detect changes in nutritional status prior to any alteration in anthropometrical measurements. With regard to the SGA, this finding had been previously shown in other studies.<sup>9,23,25</sup> Meanwhile, although our study did not find significant differences in mean SPA values between patients diagnosed as malnourished and well-nourished by BMI, a study conducted in surgical patients,<sup>24</sup> one in patients with benign gastrointestinal disease<sup>9</sup> and another performed in patients undergoing haemodialysis,<sup>21</sup> reported that the mean PA was significantly lower in patients with a lower BMI, when compared to those with higher BMI.

The lower mean SPA values observed in malnourished patients may indicate its tendency to reflect a compromised nutritional status. According to Maggiore and colleagues,<sup>21</sup> BIA parameters, including the PA, tend to be altered in the presence of severe malnutrition resulting from various pathological states. In this way, although the PA did not present good agreement with methods of assessment of nutritional status, our findings do suggest the capacity of BIA, through the PA, to detect changes in nutritional status.

A specific cut-off level of PA that would help in the assessment of hospitalized patients and to identify if patients are either well-nourished or malnourished remains unavailable. Therefore, it is necessary to choose a cut-off point that closely matches the sensitivity and specificity of the traditional nutritional tests. In the present study, this goal was achieved by evaluating PA against SGA.

The use of SPA, in the present study, in diagnosing malnutrition showed greater sensitivity than specificity. According to Barbosa-Silva et al.,<sup>23</sup> the cut-off point of 5 for both sexes exhibited sensitivity of 31% and 47%, and specificity of 97% and 94% for men and women, respectively. In patients undergoing haemodialysis, the relationship between SGA and the quartiles for PA, when analysis was limited to the lower quartile, presented a sensitivity of 67% and a specificity of 78%.<sup>21</sup>

In our study, considering the cut-off point of 0.8 for SPA, we could not find simultaneously high levels of sensitivity and specificity. The cut-off point for SPA that showed the best result for the whole sample was 0.63 (72.4% sensitivity and 68.1% specificity).

Overall, it is difficult to provide a complete explanation of the results found since the biological significance of the PA has yet to be thoroughly elucidated.<sup>6,21,26</sup> One explanation that might be considered is that PA and SGA capture different aspects of nutritional status and, thus, they should be used as complementary tests to each other in nutritional assessment.<sup>25</sup>

The limitations of the present investigation include the size of the sample, which was relatively small, and the fact that it was composed of a specific group of patients, thereby restricting the generalization of the findings. It has been suggested that the direct bioimpedance measures (R, Xc and PA) vary depending on age, gender and body mass characteristics of the study population.<sup>17</sup> Nevertheless, the use of the SPA, in the present study, was important in order to make the values comparable with different populations. In addition, the *k* test performed better in men than women suggesting that different cut-off points for each sex would result in better findings.

Considering that treatment should maintain or lead to a gain of BCM, as a metabolically active component of the lean tissue,<sup>10</sup> PA may be a useful parameter to assess the effectiveness of nutritional therapy.<sup>8</sup>

In conclusion, the SPA presented a weak agreement with the methods of nutritional assessment investigated, as well as low specificity, and could not be recommended as a marker of nutritional status according to our results, despite the fact that the lowest values for SPA were found in malnourished patients.

These data will need to be corroborated by future studies for a more complete understanding of the exact value of PA as an indicator of nutritional status, as well as for monitoring dietary interventions. Finally, it is necessary to produce reference values for different populations.

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Original

## Determination of temperature variation during the individual steps of the production of hospital diets of modified consistency

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### Abstract

**Background & aim:** Many disease outbreaks of food origin are caused by foods prepared in Food Service and Nutrition Units of hospitals, affecting hospitalized patients who, in most cases, are immunocompromised and therefore at a higher risk of severe worsening of their clinical status. The aim of this study was to determine the variations in temperature and the time-temperature factor of hospital diets.

**Methods:** The time and temperature for the preparation of 4 diets of modified consistency were determined on 5 nonconsecutive days in a hospital Diet and Nutrition Unit at the end of preparation and during the maintenance period, portioning and distribution at 3 sites, i.e., the first, the middle and the last to receive the diets.

**Results and discussion:** All foods reached an adequate temperature at the end of cooking, but temperature varied significantly from the maintenance period to the final distribution, characterizing critical periods for microorganism proliferation. During holding, temperatures that presented a risk were reached by 16.7% of the meats and 59% of the salads of the general diet, by 16.7% of the garnishes in the bland diet and by 20% of the meats and garnishes in the viscous diet. The same occurred at the end of distribution for 100% of the hot samples and of the salads and for 61% of the desserts. None of the preparations remained at risk temperature for a time exceeding that established by law.

**Conclusion:** The exposure to inadequate temperature did not last long enough to pose risks to the patient.

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Key words: Time-temperature factor. Critical control points. Hospital diets.

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### DETERMINACIÓN DE LAS VARIACIONES DE TEMPERATURA DURANTE LOS DISTINTOS PASOS DE LA PRODUCCIÓN DE LAS DIETAS DEL HOSPITAL CON MODIFICACIÓN EN LA CONSISTENCIA

### Resumen

**Antecedentes y objetivos:** muchas epidemias de origen alimentario están causadas por alimentos preparados en las unidades de alimentación y nutrición de los hospitales y afectan a pacientes hospitalizados que, en su mayoría, están inmunodeprimidos y presentan, por lo tanto, un mayor riesgo de empeoramiento grave de su estado clínico. El objetivo de este estudio fue determinar las variaciones en la temperatura y el factor tiempo-temperatura en las dietas de los hospitales.

**Métodos:** se determinó el tiempo y la temperatura de preparación de 4 dietas de consistencia modificada durante 5 días consecutivos en una Unidad de alimentación y nutrición, al final de la preparación y durante el periodo de mantenimiento, racionamiento y distribución en 3 sitios, es decir, el primer sitio en recibir la dieta, el intermedio y el último.

**Resultados y discusión:** todos los alimentos alcanzaron una temperatura adecuada al final de su preparación, pero la temperatura varió significativamente desde su periodo de mantenimiento hasta su distribución final, caracterizando periodos críticos para la proliferación de microorganismos. Durante su almacenamiento, las temperaturas que representaron un riesgo se dieron en el 16,7% de las carnes y el 59% de las ensaladas de la dieta general, en el 16,7% de las guarniciones de la dieta blanda y en el 20% de las carnes y las guarniciones de la dieta viscosa. Lo mismo ocurrió al final de la distribución en el 100% de las muestras calientes y de las ensaladas y en el 61% de los postres. Ninguna de las preparaciones permaneció a una temperatura de riesgo durante un tiempo que excediese el tiempo establecido por ley.

**Conclusión:** La exposición a una temperatura inadecuada no fue lo suficientemente prolongada para presentar un riesgo para el paciente.

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Palabras clave: Factor tiempo-temperatura. Puntos de control críticos. Dietas hospitalarias.

## Abbreviations

FNU: Food Service and Nutrition Units.

CVS-6: Center of Sanitary Vigilance of the State Health Secretariat.

## Introduction

Many disease outbreaks of food origin are caused by foods prepared in Food Service and Nutrition Units (FNU) of hospitals.<sup>1</sup> These diseases are particularly important because they affect hospitalized patients who, in most cases, are immunocompromised and therefore at a higher risk of severe worsening of their clinical status due to the ingestion of contaminated foods compared to healthy individuals.<sup>2</sup> About 50% of the infections occurring in hospitalized patients are caused by pathogens that colonize the gastrointestinal tract. Nevertheless, little importance is attributed to food as the source of microorganisms that can cause hospital infections.<sup>3</sup>

In order to be a safe source of maintenance and recovery of health, food must be processed within a system of stage control, using materials of good quality, satisfactory hygienic-sanitary conditions and proper storage and transportation. When these conditions are not met, food may possibly become a source of disease.<sup>4</sup>

An indispensable procedure for the control of food quality is the adoption of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP), whose objective is to identify and prevent sites, situations and actions involving hazards of food contamination by pathogens with consequent proliferation.<sup>5</sup> According to Oliveira et al.,<sup>6</sup> the implantation of the HACCP system during the stages of food processing for hospital diets results in a significant improvement of their microbiological quality.

Among the tools used by the HACCP for the identification and prevention of contamination is the control of food temperature, which is considered to be a critical control point. Several pathogenic microorganisms may multiply in food that is not kept at an appropriate temperature. Thus, depending on the microbiological load present in food and on the nutritional status of an individual, the contaminated food may provoke clinical

manifestations ranging from mild symptoms that resolve spontaneously within a few hours such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea to more severe and potentially fatal disorders such as botulism, salmonellosis and hepatitis A.<sup>7</sup>

According to the Judicial Directive CVS-6/99 of the Center of Sanitary Vigilance of the State Health Secretariat,<sup>8</sup> which is currently in effect in the state of São Paulo, hot foods are safe when they are kept at 65°C or more for a maximum of 12 hours, at 60°C for 6 hours, or below 60°C for 3 hours, and cold foods are adequate when kept at a maximum of 10°C for up to 4 hours or between 10 to 21°C for up to 2 hours. By controlling the temperature and time of food processing, maintenance and distribution, improved food quality can be obtained and the risks of outbreaks of foodborne disease can be minimized.<sup>9</sup>

On this basis, the objective of the present study was to determine the variation in temperature at the end of preparation and during the maintenance, portioning and distribution of hospital diets of modified consistency, and the adequacy of the time-temperature factor throughout the process, with the identification of critical control points for the management of quality related to the monitoring of temperature.

## Materials and methods

The study was conducted at a Food and Nutrition Unit (FNU) of the University Hospital of Ribeirão Preto, State of São Paulo, Brazil. The measurements of meal handling time and temperature were made in the area of general production responsible for the general diet, and in the dietary area responsible for the bland, viscous and liquid diets. The preparations were assessed individually for each diet and are presented in table I, which lists the menu to be distributed for lunch.

Temperature was measured with an Incoterm insertion thermometer, model 9790. The technique for the measurement of food temperature was based on the recommendations of the International Association of Milk, Food and Environmental Sanitarians,<sup>10</sup> which determine the geometrical center as the point where the highest temperature of a food is recorded during cooling and the lowest temperature is recorded during heat-

**Table I**  
*Standard menu of the diets*

| <i>Diet</i>  | <i>General</i> | <i>Bland</i> | <i>Viscous</i> | <i>Liquid</i> |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Preparations | Rice           | Rice         | Rice           | Soup          |
|              | Beans          | Beans        | Beans          | Dessert       |
|              | Meat           | Meat         | Meat           |               |
|              | Garnish        | Garnish      | Garnish        |               |
|              | Salad          | Dessert      | Dessert        |               |
|              | Dessert        |              |                |               |

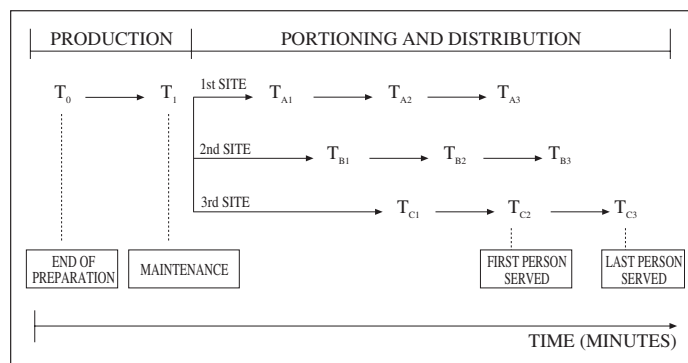


Fig. 1.—Study design.  $T_0$ : End of preparation;  $T_1$ : beginning of the maintenance period;  $T_{A1}$ : beginning of portioning for the first site;  $T_{A2}$ : first dish to be distributed at the first site;  $T_{A3}$ : last dish to be distributed at the first site;  $T_{B1}$ : beginning of portioning for the site at half the time of distribution;  $T_{B2}$ : first dish to be distributed at half the time of distribution;  $T_{B3}$ : last dish to be distributed at half the time of distribution;  $T_{C1}$ : beginning of portioning for the last site;  $T_{C2}$ : first dish to be distributed at the last site;  $T_{C3}$ : last dish to be distributed at the last site.

ing. The rod of the sensor was disinfected with 70% alcohol between the measurements of the different preparations. Temperature and time of measurement were recorded simultaneously.

Temperature and time were recorded at three stages of the production process. First, immediately at the end of preparation (corresponding to  $T_0$  temperature), then during the maintenance period ( $T_1$ ), corresponding to the mean time elapsed between the end of preparation and the beginning of distribution, and at the beginning of distribution, when the foods were duly portioned in an appropriate place in the FNU according to previous clinical prescription. Three different sites of destination of the portioned meals were considered (A, B and C): A, first site where distribution was started; B, site that received the meals at half the total time of distribution, and C, last site of meal destination. During the portioning stage, data were collected at the time when portioning was performed in the FNU for site A ( $T_{A1}$ ), site B ( $T_{B1}$ ), and site C ( $T_{C1}$ ), and then at the end of distribution when the meal reached the patient, with two additional times being considered, i.e., the time when the first patient received the meal ( $T_{A2}$ ,  $T_{B2}$  and  $T_{C2}$ ) and the time when the last patient received it ( $T_{A3}$ ,  $T_{B3}$  and  $T_{C3}$ ). The measurements were made in triplicate for each time point and type of modified diet during 5 non-consecutive days. Figure 1 illustrates the design of the study.

The evaluation of the variation in temperature between stages was stratified in order to identify the periods during which the temperature decreased or increased for hot and cold foods, respectively. The following stages were analyzed:  $T_0$  to  $T_1$ ,  $T_0$  to  $T_{A1-B1-C1}$ ,  $T_0$  to  $T_{A2-B2-C2}$ ,  $T_{A1-B1-C1}$  to  $T_{A2-B2-C2}$ ,  $T_{A1-B1-C1}$  to  $T_{A3-B3-C3}$ ,  $T_{A2-B2-C2}$  to  $T_{A3-B3-C3}$ , and  $T_0$  to  $T_{A3-B3-C3}$ .

The total duration of the process, in minutes, was calculated on the basis of the variation in mean time between  $T_0$  and  $T_1$  for each of sites A, B and C. The adequacy of the time-temperature factor was calculated as established by the Judicial Directive CVS-6/99.<sup>8</sup> Thus, the minimum temperature considered to be adequate for  $T_0$  was 74°C, 70°C for 2 minutes or 65°C for 15 minutes in the geometric center of a hot food. The temperature

considered to be adequate for the holding, portioning and distribution steps was a minimum of 65°C for a maximum of 12 hours (720 minutes), a minimum of 60°C for 6 hours (360 minutes) or a value below 60°C for 3 hours (180 minutes) in the geometrical center of hot foods. For cold foods, the adequate temperature was considered to be a maximum of 10°C for a maximum time of 4 hours (240 minutes) or a value between 10 and 21°C for 2 hours (120 minutes) in the geometrical center.

Methodology similar to that for foods was used for the measurement of the temperature of the water in the thermal containers used to hold the foods before they are distributed. Water temperature was measured on five non-consecutive days at the time when the first foods were stored in the container for later distribution. It should be pointed out that not all foods were packed in these containers due to insufficient size of the latter.

Data were analyzed statistically by the mixed effect linear regression model (random and fixed effects), with the level of significance set at  $p < 0.05$  regarding temperature variation between processes. The analysis was carried out using the PROC MIXED feature of the SAS® 9 software.<sup>11</sup>

## Results

The number of temperature measurements performed in all foods of all diets by the end of the 5 days of collection was 180 for the production stage, 270 for the portioning stage, and 1.620 for the distribution stage, for a total of 2.070 determinations.

During the first stage ( $T_0$  to  $T_1$ ), except for meat which suffered variation in all diets, only rice and the garnish of the bland and viscous diets and the beans of the bland diet suffered a reduction of temperature. During the last stage ( $T_2$  to  $T_3$ ), between the beginning and the end of distribution, there was little or no variation in temperature, with a significant change only occurring in rice and beans in some diets. The liquid diet did not vary in temperature during any of the stages cited above.

During all the other stages, many foods underwent a significant variation in temperature. During the stages

**Table II**  
Foods with variation in temperature ( $p < 0.05$ ) according to stage for each diet of modified consistency

| Stage of temperature determination                                | Process                | Foods with variation in temperature ( $p < 0.05$ ) |                                                     |                |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------|
|                                                                   |                        | General                                            | Bland                                               | Viscous        | Liquid |
| From the end of preparation to the beginning of holding           | $T_0$ to $T_1^b$       | M <sup>c</sup>                                     | R <sup>d</sup> , B <sup>e</sup> , M, G <sup>f</sup> | R, M, G        | –      |
| From end of preparation to the beginning of portioning            | $T_0$ to $T_{A1}^g$    | R, B, M, G, Sa <sup>h</sup> , De <sup>i</sup>      | R, B, M, G, De                                      | R, B, M, G, De | De     |
|                                                                   | $T_0$ to $T_{B1}^k$    | R, B, M, G, Sa, De                                 | R, B, M, G, De                                      | R, B, M, G, De | De     |
|                                                                   | $T_0$ to $T_{C1}^l$    | R, B, M, G, De                                     | R, B, M, G, De                                      | R, B, M, G, De | De     |
| From end of preparation to the beginning of distribution          | $T_0$ to $T_{A2}^m$    | R, B, M, G, De                                     | R, B, M, G, De                                      | R, B, M, G, De | Sp, De |
|                                                                   | $T_0$ to $T_{B2}^n$    | R, B, M, G, De                                     | R, B, M, G, De                                      | R, B, M, G, De | Sp, De |
|                                                                   | $T_0$ to $T_{C2}^o$    | R, B, M, G, De                                     | R, B, M, G, De                                      | R, B, M, G, De | Sp, De |
| From the beginning of portioning to the beginning of distribution | $T_{A1}$ to $T_{A2}$   | R, B, M, G, Sa                                     | R, B, M, G                                          | R, B, M, G, De | Sp, De |
|                                                                   | $T_{B1}$ to $T_{B2}$   | R, B, G                                            | R, B, M, G                                          | R, B, M, G, De | Sp     |
|                                                                   | $T_{C1}$ to $T_{C2}$   | R, B, G                                            | R, B, M, G                                          | R, B, M, G     | –      |
| From the beginning of portioning to the end of distribution       | $T_{A1}$ to $T_{A3}^p$ | R, B, M, G, Sa                                     | R, B, M, G                                          | R, B, M, G, De | Sp, De |
|                                                                   | $T_{B1}$ to $T_{B3}^q$ | R, B, M, G                                         | R, B, M, G                                          | R, B, M, G, De | Sp     |
|                                                                   | $T_{C1}$ to $T_{C3}^r$ | R, B, M, G, Sa                                     | R, B, M, G                                          | R, B, M, G     | Sp     |
| From the beginning to the end of distribution                     | $T_{A2}$ to $T_{A3}$   | R                                                  | B                                                   | R, B           | –      |
|                                                                   | $T_{B2}$ to $T_{B3}$   | R                                                  | –                                                   | R              | –      |
|                                                                   | $T_{C2}$ to $T_{C3}$   | –                                                  | –                                                   | R              | –      |
| <b>Total process</b>                                              | $T_0$ to $T_{A3}$      | R, B, M, G, De                                     | R, B, M, G, De                                      | R, B, M, G, De | Sp, De |
| From the end of preparation to the end of distribution            | $T_0$ to $T_{B3}$      | R, B, M, G, De                                     | R, B, M, G, De                                      | R, B, M, G, De | Sp, De |
|                                                                   | $T_0$ to $T_{C3}$      | R, B, M, G, De                                     | R, B, M, G, De                                      | R, B, M, G, De | Sp, De |

<sup>a</sup>End of preparation; <sup>b</sup>beginning of the maintenance period; <sup>c</sup>meat; <sup>d</sup>rice; <sup>e</sup>beans; <sup>f</sup>garnish; <sup>g</sup>beginning of portioning for the first site; <sup>h</sup>salad; <sup>i</sup>dessert; <sup>j</sup>beginning of portioning for the site at half the time of distribution; <sup>k</sup>beginning of portioning for the last site; <sup>l</sup>first dish to be distributed at the first site; <sup>m</sup>first dish to be distributed at half the time of distribution; <sup>n</sup>first dish to be distributed at the last site; <sup>o</sup>last dish to be distributed at the first site; <sup>p</sup>last dish to be distributed at half the time of distribution; <sup>q</sup>last dish to be distributed at the last site.

from  $T_0$  to  $T_2$  and from  $T_0$  to  $T_3$ , except for salad in the general diet, all the foods of all diets underwent a significant change of temperature. From stage  $T_1$  to  $T_2$  and  $T_1$  to  $T_3$ , the foods that predominantly showed a significant variation in temperature were rice, beans and garnish in the general diet, rice, beans, meat and garnish in the bland and viscous diets, and soup in the liquid diet. Table II lists the foods with a significant variation in temperature during the preparation, maintenance, portioning and distribution stages ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Mean variation in temperature and mean duration of the process evaluated from the end of preparation to the end of distribution for each food in each diet are listed in table III. The foods that suffered the greatest reduction of temperature were those with the longest holding times, such as rice and garnish of the bland diet, meat of the general diet, and rice, chopped meat and garnish of the viscous diet.

At the end of the preparation, all foods of all diets were at a temperature of more than 74°C, except for soup in the liquid diet. However, the temperature of the soup was above 65°C, with the period of more than 15 minutes at this temperature being respected. Starting during the distribution stages, all hot foods were below 60°C, but none of them exceeded the maximum tolerated time of 360 minutes at this temperature. The minimum and maximum waiting times were 124 and 231 minutes.

Among the cold foods, only salad exceeded 21°C during a holding time ranging from 140 to 145 minutes. In contrast, dessert remained at temperatures ranging from 10°C to 21°C in all diets. However, dessert did exceed the maximum tolerable time of 120 minutes within this temperature range, with maximum holding times of 172 and 286 minutes.

During holding, temperatures that presented a risk were reached by 16.7% of the meats and 59% of the salads of the general diet, by 16.7% of the garnishes in the bland diet and by 20% of the meats and garnishes in the viscous diet. The same occurred at the end of distribution for 100% of the hot samples and of the salads and for 61% of the desserts. For all foods of all diets tested, the greatest variation in temperature during the period from holding to final distribution caused these stages of the production process to be of great importance as critical control points. The mean temperature of the water in the thermal containers used to hold the foods waiting for distribution was 66.9°C.

## Discussion

In the present study, all foods suffered significant variations in temperature considering the whole process, except for the salad of the general diet. At the

**Table III**  
Variation in time and temperature from the end of preparation to the end of distribution at three sites according to food and to a diet of modified consistency

| Food    | Process                        | General Diet           |                    | Bland Diet             |                    | Viscous Diet           |                    | Liquid Diet            |                    |
|---------|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
|         |                                | $T_0-T_3$ (°C)         | Duration (minutes) | $T_0-T_3$ (°C)         | Duration (minutes) | $T_0-T_3$ (°C)         | Duration (minutes) | $T_0-T_3$ (°C)         | Duration (minutes) |
| Rice    | $T_0$ to $T_{A3}$ <sup>c</sup> | 82.4 (7.4)-37.8 (1.8)  | 138.8 (16.8)       | 90.6 (7.5)-33.6 (1.3)  | 209.8 (6.7)        | 87.4 (4.7)-36.2 (1.3)  | 214.2 (7.9)        | –                      | –                  |
|         | $T_0$ to $T_{B3}$ <sup>d</sup> | 82.4 (7.4)-39.5 (3.5)  | 140.6 (18.1)       | 90.6 (7.5)-37.7 (2.9)  | 203.0 (8.7)        | 87.4 (4.7)-39.7 (2.0)  | 200.0 (11.1)       | –                      | –                  |
|         | $T_0$ to $T_{C3}$ <sup>e</sup> | 82.4 (7.4)-38.0 (2.7)  | 155.8 (22.7)       | 90.6 (7.5)-38.2 (1.5)  | 221.0 (5.1)        | 87.4 (4.7)-40.0 (2.9)  | 222.5 (4.1)        | –                      | –                  |
| Beans   | $T_0$ to $T_{A3}$              | 85.0 (8.0)-35.0 (2.1)  | 129.0 (33.1)       | 83.2 (8.1)-31.8 (1.5)  | 172.8 (31.6)       | 83.2 (8.1)-33.4 (1.1)  | 179.2 (31.9)       | –                      | –                  |
|         | $T_0$ to $T_{B3}$              | 85.0 (8.0)-37.3 (3.1)  | 130.8 (29.2)       | 83.2 (8.1)-34.5 (1.5)  | 166.0 (23.0)       | 83.2 (8.1)-36.5 (0.7)  | 165.0 (25.8)       | –                      | –                  |
|         | $T_0$ to $T_{C3}$              | 85.0 (8.0)-34.7 (2.2)  | 138.5 (33.4)       | 83.2 (8.1)-33.7 (0.5)  | 183.5 (36.8)       | 83.2 (8.1)-35.2 (2.2)  | 187.5 (36.4)       | –                      | –                  |
| Meat    | $T_0$ to $T_{A3}$              | 78.6 (11.1)-36.4 (2.6) | 186.8 (38.5)       | 82.0 (9.7)-32.8 (3.1)  | 130.8 (25.2)       | 87.0 (8.0)-34.4 (1.3)  | 172.2 (26.9)       | –                      | –                  |
|         | $T_0$ to $T_{B3}$              | 78.6 (11.1)-39.5 (5.9) | 188.6 (36.4)       | 82.0 (9.7)-34.3 (1.0)  | 124.0 (29.5)       | 87.0 (8.0)-37.2 (1.3)  | 158.0 (28.6)       | –                      | –                  |
|         | $T_0$ to $T_{C3}$              | 78.6 (11.1)-33.7 (2.5) | 213.3 (32.9)       | 82.0 (9.7)-37.5 (2.6)  | 148.5 (32.3)       | 87.0 (8.0)-36.0 (1.4)  | 181.3 (33.0)       | –                      | –                  |
| Garnish | $T_0$ to $T_{A3}$              | 78.2 (7.0)-35.6 (1.1)  | 147.4 (30.3)       | 79.6 (11.7)-32.0 (1.6) | 217.4 (9.6)        | 74.2 (11.3)-34.2 (1.3) | 218.8 (15.1)       | –                      | –                  |
|         | $T_0$ to $T_{B3}$              | 78.2 (7.0)-37.1 (4.0)  | 149.2 (26.8)       | 79.6 (11.7)-35.4 (1.1) | 210.6 (19.9)       | 74.2 (11.3)-36.7 (3.2) | 204.6 (22.3)       | –                      | –                  |
|         | $T_0$ to $T_{C3}$              | 78.2 (7.0)-36.0 (1.8)  | 162.8 (33.3)       | 79.6 (11.7)-35.5 (1.3) | 231.0 (17.2)       | 74.2 (11.3)-36.7 (4.0) | 230.0 (19.9)       | –                      | –                  |
| Salad   | $T_0$ to $T_{A3}$              | 23.8 (1.9)-22.4 (2.4)  | 139.8 (49.9)       | –                      | –                  | –                      | –                  | –                      | –                  |
|         | $T_0$ to $T_{B3}$              | 23.8 (1.9)-24.5 (0.9)  | 141.6 (47.1)       | –                      | –                  | –                      | –                  | –                      | –                  |
|         | $T_0$ to $T_{C3}$              | 23.8 (1.9)-22.5 (1.9)  | 145.3 (52.9)       | –                      | –                  | –                      | –                  | –                      | –                  |
| Dessert | $T_0$ to $T_{A3}$              | 16.8 (3.2)-21.4 (3.6)  | 171.6 (53.4)       | 16.8 (3.2)-22.0 (3.2)  | 197.5 (2.1)        | 16.2 (5.0)-22.6 (2.5)  | 199.0 (20.7)       | 10.0 (1.0)-25.8 (8.1)  | 280.0 (12.7)       |
|         | $T_0$ to $T_{B3}$              | 16.8 (3.2)-21.9 (3.6)  | 173.4 (46.1)       | 16.8 (3.2)-22.2 (2.2)  | 186.5 (4.9)        | 16.2 (5.0)-23.5 (2.0)  | 191.0 (6.1)        | 10.0 (1.0)-20.9 (2.6)  | 264.5 (6.4)        |
|         | $T_0$ to $T_{C3}$              | 16.8 (3.2)-20.5 (3.7)  | 182.0 (57.9)       | 16.8 (3.2)-21.7 (2.2)  | 213.0 (1.0)        | 16.2 (5.0)-22.0 (2.2)  | 225.5 (12.0)       | 10.0 (1.0)-20.2 (4.5)  | 286.5 (2.1)        |
| Soup    | $T_0$ to $T_{A3}$              | –                      | –                  | –                      | –                  | –                      | –                  | 69.6 (8.8)-32.8 (7.4)  | 173.0 (41.1)       |
|         | $T_0$ to $T_{B3}$              | –                      | –                  | –                      | –                  | –                      | –                  | 69.6 (8.8)-39.5 (4.1)  | 166.0 (20.4)       |
|         | $T_0$ to $T_{C3}$              | –                      | –                  | –                      | –                  | –                      | –                  | 69.6 (8.8)-46.5 (12.1) | 197.3 (23.4)       |

<sup>a</sup>End of preparation; <sup>b</sup>end of distribution; <sup>c</sup>last dish to be distributed at the first site; <sup>d</sup>last dish to be distributed at the half time of distribution; <sup>e</sup>last dish to be distributed at the final site. Data are reported as mean (standard deviation).

end of preparation, all foods reached the recommended temperatures, except the salad of the general diet which in general was 3.8°C above the temperature recommended. All foods of the general, viscous and liquid diets suffered variations in temperature from the end of preparation to the beginning of portioning, whereas this occurred only for the dessert of the liquid diet.

The foods continued to vary considerably in temperature during the stage from the end of preparation to the beginning of distribution, including the soup of the liquid diet, which had not shown an important fall in temperature up to this stage, and with the exception of the salad of the general diet, which remained at an inadequate temperature. All foods of all diets suffered variations in temperature during the stage from the beginning of portioning to the beginning of distribution, whereas this occurred only for rice and beans between the beginning and the end of distribution. At the end of the process, all hot foods had suffered a reduction of temperature (reaching less than 40°C), whereas the cold foods had become warmer (reaching more than 20°C).

Ehiri et al.<sup>12</sup> and Rosa et al.,<sup>13</sup> like in the present study, also observed the temperatures at the end of cooking were adequate (reached from 70 to 89°C), whereas during holding until the end of distribution all hot foods lost heat (reached from 39 to 54°C) and cold

foods reached a higher temperature, in analysis of 120 meals prepared at home<sup>12</sup> and in meat preparations in schools.<sup>13</sup> During the time of distribution of hot preparations in self-service restaurants, temperature was inadequate for 33.3% of the meals,<sup>14</sup> and around 25.0% were below 60°C,<sup>15</sup> and some products such as fried fish and chicken were exposed to ambient temperature for prolonged periods of time (about 2 hours), and meats and garnishes were also at temperatures of less than 60°C on both heated counters<sup>16</sup>. Including, Silva et al.<sup>17</sup> noted that the school diets not submitted to reheating at the time of distribution presented temperatures of less than 50°C.

Inadequate food temperatures can favor the development and proliferation of bacteria such as *S. aureus*, *Listeria*, *Yersinia*, and *Salmonella* and of anaerobic microorganisms, possibly causing foodborne disease outbreaks.<sup>7,18-21</sup> Even if these foods reach the correct temperature during preparation, according to Rosa et al.<sup>13</sup>, heat destroys in part or in full the bacterial flora but does not have a residual effect, i.e., once its action ends, recontamination and/or microorganism multiplication may occur. For this reason, products submitted to heat treatment should be consumed immediately.

The possible reasons for the undesired variation in temperature throughout the process of production of

most foods, both cold and hot, were: an insufficient number of thermal containers holding the preparations during the stages of maintenance, portioning and distribution, their inadequate temperature and/or delay in the delivery of the meal.<sup>7</sup> In the present study, the mean water temperature of the thermal distribution containers was found to be 66.9°C, a value below the 80°C recommended by the CVS-6 Judicial Directive<sup>8</sup>. Although in the present study the calculated time-temperature factor was not considered inadequate to the point of causing the proliferation of microorganisms according to the recommended by the sanitary health agencies,<sup>8</sup> it is possible to state that time may have contributed to this variation in temperature.

Regarding the limitations of the present study, some variables could not be controlled. At the end of preparation, the diets were divided into small portions and packaged in different places from the holding period to the time of distribution, a fact that caused different variations in temperature at each site. For example, foods placed in their own pans underwent a greater variation in temperature than those placed in the thermal container. Also, in the containers in which a smaller amount of food was placed the foods underwent a greater variation compared to the containers with larger amounts, and the food lying on the surface presented a much greater variation than the food in the middle and at the bottom of the container. In parallel, the thermometer used for the measurements took 1 to 3 minutes to correctly determine the temperature of the food and since all the preparations of 4 different diets were evaluated at the same time, it was not possible to determine the temperature of all foods simultaneously, with a delay of a few minutes between measurements.

Additionally, hospitalized patients usually have less appetite<sup>22</sup> and a preconceived notion of dissatisfaction with hospital meals,<sup>23</sup> thus, the temperature of the meal is strongly associated with its degree of acceptance.<sup>23-26</sup> Since we did not measure the sensory quality of the foods, we cannot make any comment about this important parameter.

In conclusion, the evaluation of the various stages of production revealed that, for hot foods, the cooking temperature was adequate in all determinations, but was followed by a significant fall during the subsequent stages (holding and distribution). For cold foods, the temperature was inadequate from the very beginning of evaluation. However, the time-temperature factor was adequate for all foods evaluated, i.e., the exposure to inadequate temperature did not last long enough to pose risks to the patient.

The determination and recording of time and temperature in different steps of meal production at a particular service may help in detecting the problems related to the risk of pathological microorganisms proliferation in that specific service, in order to propose more efficient corrective acts to avoid foodborne diseases in patients from the corresponding Hospital Food Service and Nutrition Unit.

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Original

# Dynamics of the components of energy intake between Spanish and Mexican preschool children: energy density and food volume in two contexts

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**Abstract**

**Objective:** To determine the differences in the dynamics of dietary energy density (ED), food volume (FV) and energy intake (EI) between two groups of healthy children, in normal conditions, from Spain and Mexico.

**Methods:** Crosssectional study which analyses the habitual diet of two healthy children groups, 1-4 years old, from Reus (Spain, n = 203) and Guadalajara (Mexico, n = 147). Dietary intake was assessed using the 24-hour recall. Anthropometric data were also obtained. We estimated Z-score of weight, height and BMI, and EI (kcal/day), ED (kcal/g), FV (g/day), EI/kg body weight (kcal/kg/day) and FV/kg body weight (g/kg/day).

**Results:** The Spanish children consumed significantly more cereals ( $p < 0.05$ ), vegetables, meat, fish and eggs than the Mexican children ( $p < 0.001$ ), while the latter consumed significantly more sweets ( $p < 0.001$ ). The mean EI/kg body weight was  $107.7 \pm 36.2$  kcal/kg/day in the children from Reus, and  $102.4 \pm 38.8$  kcal/kg/day in the children from Guadalajara, without significant differences. While the ED was significantly higher ( $p < 0.001$ ) in the Spanish sample ( $1.41 \pm 0.35$  kcal/g) than in the Mexican one ( $1.19 \pm 0.37$  kcal/g), we observed the contrary on FV per kilogram of weight: it was significantly ( $p < 0.001$ ) greater in Mexicans ( $91.0 \pm 36.1$  g/kg/day) than in Spanish ( $79.5 \pm 27.5$  g/kg/day).

**Conclusion:** In two populations with different contexts, the balance between energy intake and energy requirements is achieved in different ways, allowing energy intake per unit of weight and growth to be adequate. Future studies are needed to clarify the factors of a possible alteration of this equilibrium through time, in such a way, that it would probably contribute to the development of overweight and obesity in several environments.

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Key words: Energy intake. Preschool children. Diet. Cross cultural comparison.

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## DINÁMICA DE LOS COMPONENTES DE LA INGESTA ENERGÉTICA ENTRE NIÑOS PREESCOLARES DE ESPAÑA Y MÉXICO: DENSIDAD ENERGÉTICA Y VOLUMEN ALIMENTARIO EN DOS CONTEXTOS

**Resumen**

**Objetivo:** Determinar las diferencias en la dinámica de la densidad energética (DE), volumen de alimentos (FV) e ingesta energética (IE), entre dos grupos de niños sanos, en condiciones de vida habitual, de España y México.

**Metodología:** Estudio transversal que analiza la dieta habitual de niños sanos, entre 1-4 años, originarios de Reus (España, n = 203) y Guadalajara (México, n = 147). La ingesta dietética fue evaluada con el recordatorio de 24 horas. Se valoraron algunos parámetros antropométricos. Se calculó puntuación-Z para el peso, talla e IMC, y la IE (kcal/día), DE (kcal/g), FV (g/día), IE/kg de peso corporal (kcal/kg/día) y FV/kg de peso corporal (g/kg/día).

**Resultados:** Los niños españoles presentaron una mayor ingesta de cereales ( $p < 0.05$ ), verduras, carne, pescado y huevo, que los mexicanos ( $p < 0.001$ ), mientras que estos últimos tuvieron una mayor ingesta de azúcares ( $p < 0.001$ ). La media de IE/kg de peso fue de  $107.7 \pm 36.2$  kcal/kg/día en niños de Reus, y  $102.4 \pm 38.8$  kcal/kg/día en niños de Guadalajara, sin diferencias significativas. Mientras la DE fue significativamente mayor ( $p < 0.001$ ) en los españoles ( $1.41 \pm 0.35$  kcal/g) que en los mexicanos ( $1.19 \pm 0.37$  kcal/g), observamos lo contrario en FV/kg de peso: este fue significativamente mayor ( $p < 0.001$ ) en los niños mexicanos ( $91.0 \pm 36.1$  g/kg/día) que en los españoles ( $79.5 \pm 27.5$  g/kg/día).

**Conclusión:** En dos poblaciones con contextos diferentes, el equilibrio de la IE se logra por diferentes vías, permitiendo un aporte energético por unidad de peso y crecimiento adecuados. Se precisan futuros estudios que aclaren los factores mediante los cuales este equilibrio se altera a través del tiempo, y que quizá, contribuye al desarrollo de sobrepeso u obesidad, en diversos entornos.

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Palabras clave: Ingesta energética. Niños preescolares. Dieta. Comparación transcultural.

## Abbreviations

BMI: Body mass index.  
ED: Energy density.  
EI: Energy intake.  
FV: Food volume.

## Introduction

The mechanisms by which human beings adequate their energy intake (EI) from food to cope with their energy requirements have been the point of interest of several studies. These mechanisms are surely affected by physiological, emotional and environmental factors. One of these factors is represented by food intake and its components: energy density (ED) and volume of food consumed. There is also, the influence of the nutrients from where energy is obtained (fats, proteins and carbohydrates) on EI. The interaction between all of them allows achieving an EI according to the requirements of each individual, although it is not clear how and to what extent human beings can regulate these factors.<sup>1</sup>

The conclusions of previous studies who have analyzed these interactions differ so far, due to the different conditions in which they were applied. It seems that adults, in *ad libitum* conditions,<sup>2,3</sup> tend to consume an almost constant food volume (FV), so the ED of the food becomes the main factor that influences the total EI.<sup>4</sup> Other studies, on the other hand, support the hypothesis that young children have a greater capacity to regulate the amount of food that they consume, thus adjusting the energy contribution and adapting it to their somatic needs and the variations in the ED of the diet.<sup>5,6</sup>

Nowadays, however, there is an abundance of food, and this adaptive mechanism of taking the maximum energy from food can lead to an energy imbalance, favouring the increase in body weight.<sup>7,8</sup> This takes part in the phenomenon of nutritional transition in developed and developing countries,<sup>9,10</sup> where the prevalence of obesity in adults and children is reaching alarming proportions and becoming an important health issue. Although various studies suggest that this increase in the prevalence of obesity is closely related to sedentarism and, therefore, to a decrease in energy expenditure,<sup>11</sup> it is also certain that in some countries the daily EI has also increased considerably.<sup>12</sup>

So far, the effect of FV and ED on EI has been evaluated with intervention studies which have controlled one of them.<sup>13,14</sup> However, there is not too much information available about what happens in children in "normal" conditions,<sup>15</sup> put in other words, with spontaneous intakes and with no controlled intervention of the amount of food consumed, nor on the energy density of the diet, to identify the habitual dynamics or processes that produce different adequacy inside this system.<sup>16</sup>

In addition, foods that have a high ED are often more palatable than those with a high water content and lower ED. Therefore, it is also important to know which are the main food groups where energy is obtained, according to a certain context.

In this study, we aim to determine the diet characteristics, energy and nutritional intake of two groups of apparently healthy children living in normal conditions, with different food systems—preschool children from Reus (Spain) and Guadalajara (Mexico)—, in order to analyse the habitual dynamics between ED and FV in these samples, to achieve the recommended daily EI.

## Materials and methods

This study was conducted from 2003 to 2004, with a sample consisting of a group of healthy non hospitalised children, aged between 1 and 4.5 years old. We selected those children with a birthweight greater than 2,500 g and who had no disease that might interfere in any way in their growth, development or nutrition. The children from Guadalajara (Mexico) (n = 147) were included at random from those who attended routine review at the *Hospital General de Occidente*. The children from Reus (Spain) (n = 203) were randomly recruited from several nursery schools in this same city. The children whose mothers (or the people in charge of looking after them most of the time) did not speak the local languages were not included in the study.

Dietary intake was assessed using the 24-hour recall method. During the interviews, a photograph album showing standard dishes in which the food has been previously weighed was used to help in the quantification of food consumption. Some foods were measured in units (e. g. pieces of fruit of different varieties and sizes) and others were measured using previously established measures (glass, spoonful, teaspoonful, etc.) and different portion sizes. To evaluate the amount of some ingredients (such as the oil used to prepare the meals), we used tables showing the amounts used in standard recipes as a reference value.

We obtained the intake values of each one of the foods (grams/day), which were subsequently grouped in the following categories:

- Meat, fish and eggs: all sorts of meat, cold meats and viscera, fish, shellfish and eggs.
- Dairy products: milk, yoghurt and other fermented products, cheeses and dairy desserts.
- Visible fat: oil, butter, margarine, lard.
- Cereals: pasta, bread, breakfast cereals, pastries, flour, etc.
- Vegetables: greens, roots, tubers and pulses.
- Fruit.
- Sweets: sugar, chocolate, sweets, honey and sweet drinks.

In order to estimate the nutritional content of the intake, we used the INSERM-ISTNA and Mataix food composition tables.<sup>17,18</sup> For the most commonly consumed Mexican foods, we also used the table for the Chemical Composition and Nutritional Value of the Most Frequently Consumed Foods in Mexico.<sup>19</sup> These tables were used to quantify the daily intake of energy and macronutrients.

Body weight was determined using a scale (Seca) with 0.1 kg precision. The height was measured with a stadiometer (Seca) with precision of 0.1 cm.

We estimated EI (kcal/day), total FV (g/day), ED of the diet (kcal/g), EI per unit of body weight (kcal/kg/day), FV per unit of body weight (g/kg/day) and the percentage of the total energy provided by each macronutrient. Body Mass Index (BMI = weight (kg)/height<sup>2</sup> (m)) was also calculated. The Z scores of weight and height variables were determined according to the standard values of the two countries.<sup>20,21</sup> In order to analyse if anthropometric measures of the studied populations were different from those of each reference table, the mean of Z scores was compared. The Z scores for BMI were also calculated with respect to Spanish standard values,<sup>20</sup> as there are no BMI Mexican reference tables.

All ethical principles were observed according to the Research Committees and Declaration of Helsinki being in force at the moment of the study.

For statistical analysis, we used the statistical package SPSS 10.0 for Windows (Chicago, Inc. 1999). Student t-test was used to study the differences between the two countries regarding the variables analysed. The 2-sided level of significance was set at  $p < 0.05$ . The results of the variables are presented as mean (standard deviation).

## Results

Table I shows some general characteristics of the studied children. It can be seen that the two groups of children are comparable in terms of age. The mean weight of the Spanish children is significantly greater ( $p < 0.05$ ) than that of the Mexicans, and height is also

**Table I**  
Characteristics of the sample

|                          | Reus          | Guadalajara  | <i>p</i> between countries |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| N                        | 203           | 147          |                            |
| Age (years)              | 2.86 (1.08)*  | 2.74 (1.06)  | 0.302                      |
| Weight (kg)              | 14.75 (3.40)  | 13.92 (2.72) | <b>0.017</b>               |
| Height (cm)              | 94.14 (10.28) | 91.95 (9.98) | 0.053                      |
| BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) | 16.57 (2.00)  | 16.60 (2.11) | 0.896                      |

\*Data expressed as mean (standard deviation).

BMI = Body Mass Index.

*p* value calculated with Student t-test.

**Table II**  
Z-score of the anthropometric values

|                                                 | Reus         | Guadalajara  | <i>p</i> between countries |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Z-score of weight with Spanish reference values | 0.54 (1.15)* | 0.35 (1.23)  | 0.139                      |
| Z-score of weight with Mexican reference values | 0.94 (1.67)  | 0.65 (1.64)  | 0.107                      |
| Z-score of height with Spanish reference values | 1.08 (1.56)  | 0.88 (1.85)  | 0.275                      |
| Z-score of height with Mexican reference values | 1.03 (1.55)  | 0.80 (1.86)  | 0.209                      |
| Z-score of BMI with Spanish reference values    | -0.15 (1.45) | -0.19 (1.60) | 0.808                      |

\*Data expressed as mean (standard deviation).

BMI = Body Mass Index.

*p* value calculated with Student t-test.

somewhat greater, although in this case the difference is not significant ( $p = 0.053$ ). Mean BMI is similar in children from both countries.

When comparing Z scores of weight and height variables between Spanish and Mexican children according to both of their reference values (table II), neither of them showed significant differences between the two groups studied. BMI Z scores of both groups compared with the Spanish references (in the absence of availability of Mexican tables, as said before), did not showed significant differences either.

Table III shows the results obtained from the comparison of the EI, FV and ED of the diet, between Spanish and Mexican children. The mean EI of the Spanish sample is significantly greater ( $p < 0.01$ ) than that of Mexicans. The same is observed when comparing the diet's ED of the two countries, since this variable is significantly greater in the case of Spanish children's diet ( $p < 0.001$ ). On the other hand, the volume of food consumed is significantly greater in the Mexican children studied ( $p < 0.01$ ).

**Table III**  
Energy intake, energy density of the diet and food volume consumed

|                          | Reus               | Guadalajara       | <i>p</i> between countries |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Energy intake (kcal/day) | 1,542.67 (464.03)* | 1,389.92 (484.97) | <b>0.003</b>               |
| Energy density (kcal/g)  | 1.41 (0.35)        | 1.19 (0.37)       | <b>&lt;0.001</b>           |
| Food volume (g/day)      | 1,112.97 (286.07)  | 1,217.84 (402.61) | <b>0.005</b>               |

\*Data expressed as mean (standard deviation).

*p* value calculated with Student t-test.

**Table IV**  
Energy intake and food volume as a function of body weight

|                                                     | Reus            | Guadalajara    | <i>p</i> between countries |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Energy intake per unit of body weight (kcal/kg/day) | 107.72 (36.20)* | 102.40 (38.84) | 0.197                      |
| Food volume per unit of body weight (g/kg/day)      | 79.47 (27.48)   | 91.00 (36.10)  | <b>&lt;0.001</b>           |

\*Data expressed as mean (standard deviation).  
*p* value calculated with Student t-test.

Table IV shows the EI and the FV for these children, expressed in each case per unit of body weight. The EI relative to weight is slightly greater in children from Reus, although the difference is not significant. The FV per kg of weight, however, is significantly greater ( $p < 0.001$ ) in children from Guadalajara.

**Table V**  
Percentage of total energy provided by each macronutrient

|                                 | Reus          | Guadalajara   | <i>p</i> between countries |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Proteins (%)                    | 16.86 (3.25)* | 16.88 (9.73)  | 0.978                      |
| Lipids (%)                      | 36.85 (8.32)  | 34.86 (10.27) | <b>0.044</b>               |
| Saturated fatty acids (%)       | 14.67 (4.27)  | 13.69 (5.02)  | <b>0.049</b>               |
| Monounsaturated fatty acids (%) | 17.61 (5.79)  | 14.26 (5.74)  | <b>&lt;0.001</b>           |
| Polyunsaturated fatty acids (%) | 4.55 (1.44)   | 6.86 (4.15)   | <b>&lt;0.001</b>           |
| Carbohydrates (%)               | 45.77 (9.09)  | 47.61 (10.92) | 0.085                      |

\*Data expressed as mean (standard deviation).  
*p* value calculated with Student t-test.

Regarding nutritional balance (table V), there were noticeable differences between both groups concerning fat distribution and also, fat subtypes. The contribution of fats to EI is 36.85% in the Spanish children and slightly lower in the Mexican children at about 35% ( $p = 0.044$  between both countries). The percentage of total energy provided by saturated fatty acids is slightly higher in the Spanish sample (14.7% vs 13.7%,  $p = 0.049$ ). In addition, in children from the Mediterranean city of Reus, monounsaturated fatty acids provided 17.6% of energy, in comparison to 14.3% in the children from Guadalajara ( $p < 0.001$  between both countries). In the Mexican children, however, polyunsaturated fatty acids provide a significantly higher percentage of EI than in the Spanish sample ( $p < 0.001$ ).

The percentage of total energy provided by proteins is very similar in both countries (about 16.9%). The percentages of energy provided by carbohydrates are 47.6% in the Mexican children and 45.8% in the Spanish ones, though the difference is not statistically significant.

Figure 1 shows the mean consumption of the main food groups in both countries. Spanish children have a

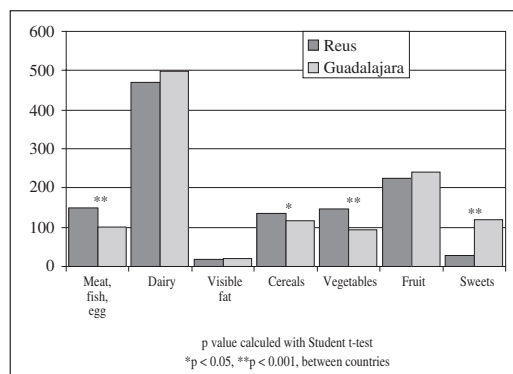


Fig. 1.—Daily intake (g/day) of the main food groups.

significantly greater consumption of meat, fish and eggs group ( $p < 0.001$  between both countries) and they also consume more vegetables ( $p < 0.001$ ) and cereals ( $p < 0.05$ ) than their Mexican counterparts. On the other hand, children from Guadalajara have a much higher consumption of sweets ( $p < 0.001$ ). In both cases, there is considerable variability in the consumption of this latter food group. The intake of dairy products is similar in the children from both countries, as well as the intake of fruit and visible fat.

## Discussion

The present study is the first in our knowledge that compares different components of EI between Spanish and Mexican healthy preschool children in free-living conditions. Our findings suggest that energy requirements fulfilled by EI are accomplished through different ways for each population, in which are involved the energetic density of foods, FV, and remarkably food groups and food composition.

When analysing EI, it showed by itself, several points that need to be consider. We observed significant differences in EI between compared children from Reus and Guadalajara. However, this evaluation was not sufficiently adequate, so we decided to adjust it for unit of body weight. When calculating the EI per unit body weight (kcal/kg/day) and volume of food per unit weight (g/kg/day), it was intended to have more objective parameters based on individual needs.

Moreover, the observed significant differences in weight and height (table I), become imperceptibles when showed in Z score (table II). This suggests that finally, there are not established differences that may affect the growing and development process in these two groups of children. In addition, the absence of differences in EI when it is estimated in relation to body weight (table III), permits us to assume that the dynamics conforming the EI of each group are appropriate to achieve growing according to their potential.

Spanish children had a mean EI that is in accordance with -and even slightly above- the recommendations for their age and sex.<sup>22</sup> In Mexican children between 1 and 3 years old, the mean intakes are also similar to the recommended ones for these ages, while the mean intake of children older than three years is below the 1,500 kcal/day recommended for children in this age.<sup>23</sup>

Regarding FV and ED, there are two findings worth to be underlined. Firstly, in the Spanish children, ED of the diet was significantly higher ( $p < 0.001$ ), than in Mexican children. Second of all, in the Mexican sample the FV was significantly greater ( $p < 0.001$ ) than in the Spanish one. But at the end, apparently these significant differences in both, FV and ED, do not affect directly EI, since there was no significant difference in the latter when estimated per kg of weight. These findings are consistent to support previous studies hypothesis which have pointed out the capacity of young children to regulate their energy consumption according to their somatic needs.<sup>5,6,15</sup> However, this point needs further research, since this mechanism seems to work differently in adults. Studies have observed that FV in adults remained more or less constant so is the ED that in this case, determines the total IE.<sup>4</sup>

It would be also interesting to conduct longitudinal studies to find out what happens with the relationship between these three elements through the years, assessing how and when this regulation mechanism begins to be altered, considering different approaches. For example, since the Mexican children studied consume a bigger FV than the Spanish ones, probably this volume would be maintained or increased through the years. However, given the multiplicity of food choices and the development of preferences and habits in taste (including more palatable and high ED foods) ED would probably be increased through the years, potentially affecting also the EI. On the other hand, Spanish children have access to high ED foods since they are young. Certainly, energy requirements continue to increase until a certain age of growth and development. If along with these requirements, FV also increases and they keep maintaining this highly ED intakes, when having lower requirements (in adulthood), they would probably have a positive energy balance.

Concerning the macronutrients from where energy is obtained, we observed differences in their distribution in the diet between the two countries. Protein intake represented more than 16% of the total EI. This coincides with the results of other Spanish<sup>24</sup> and Mexican studies, such as the National Survey on Nutrition in Mexico,<sup>25</sup> which found that the intake of protein in children was higher than the intake recommendations. The percentage of energy provided by lipids in the total consumption is high in both countries, but slightly higher in the Spanish children, as reported in other studies.<sup>24,25</sup> Therefore in the two groups, lipid and protein contribution is to the detriment of energy's percentage provided by the carbohydrates. The contribution of carbohydrates is slightly greater in Mexican

children, although the difference is not significant, and in both cases it is below 50%, which is the minimum percentage recommended for contribution to total EI.

Existing differences between the diets of both groups are certainly implied by their different food systems, which include physiological, sociological, cultural, economic and psychological factors.

Diet of children from Reus is characterised by a high consumption of cereals (particularly wheat), vegetables and by the use of olive oil as the main added fat. The intake of dairy products, meat and fish is also important.<sup>26</sup> Diet of children of Guadalajara, is rich in complex carbohydrates, provided mainly by maize and maize-based products (*tortillas*, *tacos*, *tamales*, etc.), beans, rice and, occasionally, bread; the protein content of this diet is mainly provided by eggs, meat and pulses, while the consumption of fish is notably lower.

Little information has been published on the intake of different food groups in the Mexican child population. The different methodology and older population used in the study by Jiménez Cruz et al.<sup>27</sup> makes it difficult to be compared with the present study; however, their results showed that, *grosso modo*, the intakes of the different food groups are similar, with the exception of fruits, which are higher in the present study. This could be partly explained because their population was from the north of the country and inter-regional food landscape of Mexico has a large diversity.

As far as the Reus population is concerned, the intake of the different food groups is similar to the intake found in children aged between 2 and 5 years old in the enKid study, which analysed the dietary and nutritional intake of Spanish children and young people between 2 and 24 years old.<sup>28</sup>

There were also considerable differences observed in the consumption of sugars and sweet foods between the children of the two countries. Mexicans had a significantly greater intake due to the frequent consumption of sweets, but also to the high intake of sweetened drinks<sup>27,29</sup> and the widespread habit of drinking *agua fresca* —water combined with blended fruits (or aromas) and sweetened with sugar—, instead of natural water.

One limitation of this study is the determination of food intake by the 24 hour recall. As it is well known, this method depends on subject's capacity to remember not only the foods they consumed a day before, but also the amounts of them.

## Conclusion

These data show that existing differences concerning the consumption of food groups, ED and FV, and furthermore, belonging to a certain food system, contribute to achieve an underlying balance in EI that allows adequate growth.

Further studies are needed to understand how these mechanisms interact with the environment, in order to

explain how this equilibrium does take place. The interest of its characterization is also to identify how it may be altered through the years in certain subjects, so that appropriately made interventions would reach this balance, preventing the development of potential health problems (as obesity, diabetes, metabolic syndrome, etc.).

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Original

## Disfagia orofaríngea en ancianos ingresados en una unidad de convalecencia

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### Resumen

**Objetivo principal:** Describir la prevalencia de disfagia orofaríngea al alta en ancianos ingresados en una Unidad de Subagudos (USA) usando el Método de Evaluación Clínica Volumen-Viscosidad (MECV-V) y una versión adaptada en demencia grave (MECV-V-G).

**Metodología y diseño:** Estudio transversal, descriptivo; periodo: 50 días. Datos de la historia clínica de todos los pacientes al alta hospitalaria: demográficos, clínicos, factores de riesgo y complicaciones de disfagia, evolución funcional y resultados del MECV-V y MECV-V-G. Se describen comparando características de los grupos con y sin disfagia.

**Resultados:** 86 pacientes (60% mujeres), edad media  $83,8 \pm 6,7$  años. La anamnesis dirigida detectó disfagia orofaríngea previa en 23 pacientes (26%). El MECV-V detectó disfagia orofaríngea en 46 pacientes (53,5%). De ellos 30 pacientes (65,21%) tuvieron trastorno mixto de deglución, 15 (32,6%) trastorno aislado de eficacia y 1 (2,17%) trastorno aislado de seguridad.

Aquellos con test de disfagia positivo, tenían, de manera estadísticamente significativa, mayor prevalencia de deterioro cognitivo, mayor edad, más antecedentes de disfagia previa, peor evolución funcional y de movilidad y más complicaciones durante su estancia en USA.

**Conclusiones:** La disfagia es altamente prevalente en este grupo de ancianos hospitalizados. Mediante la anamnesis dirigida sólo se diagnóstica la mitad de los casos. El MECV-V detectó una alta prevalencia de disfagia que recomienda su uso rutinario especialmente en pacientes de riesgo teniendo en cuenta las peculiaridades de utilización en ancianos. Dicha población de riesgo vendría definida por características como mayor edad, deterioro cognitivo y/o funcional.

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Palabras clave: Disfagia orofaríngea. Ancianos. Neumonía aspirativa. Prevalencia. Trastornos deglutorios.

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### OROPHARYNGEAL DYSPHAGIA IN ELDERLY INPATIENTS IN A UNIT OF CONVALESCENCE

#### Abstract

**Main objective:** To describe the prevalence of oropharyngeal dysphagia at hospital discharge in elderly patients admitted to a Subacute Care Unit (SACU) using the Volume-Viscosity Swallow Test (V-VST) and an adapted version for severe dementia (V-VST-G).

**Methodology and design:** Descriptive cross-sectional study; duration; 50 days. Data gathered from the clinical chart at hospital discharge: demographical, clinical, risk factors, and complications of dysphagia, functional course, and V-VCAM and V-VCAM-G outcomes. The results are described comparing the data of the groups with and without dysphagia.

**Results:** 86 patients (60% women), mean age  $83.8 \pm 6.7$  years. The specific clinical history detected previous oropharyngeal dysphagia in 23 patients (26%). The V-VCAM detected oropharyngeal dysphagia in 46 patients (53.5%). Of them, 30 patients (65.21%) had mixed swallowing disorder, 15 (32.6%) had isolated efficacy disorder, and 1 (2.17%) had isolated safety disorder. Those patients with a positive dysphagia test had a statistically significant higher prevalence of cognitive disorder, higher age, and more positive history of previous dysphagia, worse functional course and mobility impairment, and more complications during their staying at the SACU.

**Conclusions:** dysphagia is highly prevalent among this group of elderly patients. Only half of the cases are diagnosed through the specific anamnesis. The V-VCAM detected a high prevalence of dysphagia so that its routine use is recommended specially in patients at risk taking into account the peculiarities of using it in the elderly. This at-risk population would be defined by characteristics such as higher age, cognitive and/or functional impairment.

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Key words: Oropharyngeal dysphagia. Elderly. Pneumonia aspiration. Prevalence. Deglutition disorders.

## Abreviaturas

USA: Unidad de Subagudos.  
HGUGM: Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Marañón.  
FAC: Functional Ambulation Categories.  
FAST: Functional assessment stages.  
MECV-V: Método de Evaluación Clínica Volumen-Viscosidad.  
MECV-V-G: Versión adaptada para pacientes ancianos con demencia moderada severa del Método de Evaluación Clínica Volumen-Viscosidad.  
AVD: actividades básicas de la vida diaria.

## Introducción

La disfagia es un importante problema en pacientes ancianos. La disfagia orofaríngea de carácter funcional es la más prevalente (56-78%)<sup>1</sup> en ancianos institucionalizados y en aquellos que deben ser hospitalizados<sup>2</sup>. Las alteraciones de nivel de conciencia, cardiorrespiratorias (tos, expectoración, aumento de secreciones), y otros trastornos secundarios a la enfermedad que provoca el ingreso están implicados en la aparición o agravamiento de la disfagia funcional del anciano.

Las infecciones respiratorias son una complicación frecuente y grave dentro de las complicaciones nosocomiales del anciano. Un porcentaje no desdeñable son de origen aspirativo. Aproximadamente la mitad de las aspiraciones provocan neumonías, las cuales ocasionan una mortalidad en torno al 50%<sup>3</sup>. La utilización de programas de detección, diagnóstico y tratamiento de la disfagia orofaríngea en pacientes vulnerables puede conseguir una importante reducción de morbilidad mejorando la evolución, tanto a corto plazo en forma de disminución del número de infecciones nosocomiales y complicaciones respiratorias, como a medio y largo plazo detectando trastornos de desnutrición o deshidratación secundarios y mejorando la calidad de vida<sup>4</sup> y el estado nutricional<sup>5,6,7</sup>, incluso con menor coste hospitalario<sup>8</sup>.

Para la evaluación clínica de la disfagia orofaríngea el método más empleado es la anamnesis dirigida, que consiste en una serie de preguntas sobre síntomas de disfagia, (tos durante la comida, problemas al tragar, etc). Sin embargo su rentabilidad es muy baja. Recientemente se han descrito otras herramientas más útiles<sup>9,10</sup> como el Método de Evaluación Clínica Volumen-Viscosidad (MECV-V)<sup>11</sup>. Comparándolo con la videofluoroscopia como "gold estándar" diagnóstico tiene una sensibilidad del 100% para detectar aspiraciones y del 83.7% para las penetraciones de material en vestíbulo laríngeo con una especificidad del 64.7% en este caso<sup>12</sup>. Además esta prueba permite elaborar recomendaciones terapéuticas sobre la dieta más adecuada para el paciente con disfagia, individualizando el volumen y viscosidad del bolo óptimo. Ha demostrado una clara correlación entre las alteraciones de la prueba y la gravedad de las complicaciones nutricionales y respiratorias<sup>11,12</sup>. La realización de

la prueba presenta peculiaridades en pacientes con deterioro cognitivo en los que a veces se hace difícil conseguir el grado de colaboración necesario.

La Unidad de Subagudos (USA) del Servicio de Geriátrica del Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Marañón (HGUGM) está diseñada para la convalecencia de ancianos que necesitan prolongar su estancia hospitalaria durante unos pocos días para terminar el tratamiento, sin precisar alta tecnología. En muchos casos, al detectar deterioro funcional producido durante la hospitalización, se inicia además un programa de recuperación para intentar conseguir recuperar la situación funcional que tenían antes del ingreso. Recibe ancianos hospitalizados principalmente de Servicios Médicos (medicina interna, cardiología, digestivo, geriatría,...) y en mucha menor proporción, quirúrgicos. En la USA se realiza una "Valoración Geriátrica Integral" en la cual también se valora de forma sistemática y exhaustiva la capacidad de deglución. En nuestro medio existen pocos estudios que relacionen la disfagia orofaríngea con la situación funcional, habiéndose publicado sólo uno sobre el manejo de la disfagia orofaríngea en unidades geriátricas de media-larga estancia<sup>13</sup>.

En este estudio pretendemos describir la prevalencia de disfagia orofaríngea al alta hospitalaria en los pacientes de una Unidad de Subagudos de Geriátrica utilizando el MECV-V. Además valoramos la adaptación de esta escala al subgrupo de ancianos con demencia moderada-grave. Posteriormente describimos las características de los pacientes comparando ancianos con y sin disfagia orofaríngea para identificar aquellos pacientes que más se pueden beneficiar de esta valoración.

## Metodología y diseño

### Diseño

Estudio transversal, descriptivo, de prevalencia de disfagia orofaríngea al alta hospitalaria de la USA en el Servicio de Geriátrica del HGUGM.

### Población

Se incluyeron todos los pacientes dados de alta de la USA durante un periodo de 50 días. Al alta, se recogieron sistemáticamente de la historia clínica y de forma individualizada datos clínicos relacionados con el trastorno de disfagia, y se realizó el MECV-V o una versión adaptada para pacientes con demencia (MECV-V-G).

### Variables analizadas

1. *Variables clínicas*: número de enfermedades (las diagnosticadas durante el ingreso hospitalario y las ya

conocidas previamente), características demográficas, estancia hospitalaria en agudos y en USA.

2. *Síndromes geriátricos activos*: deterioro cognitivo, estreñimiento, caídas, incontinencia de esfínteres, alteraciones del sueño, dolor crónico, trastorno del ánimo, disminución de la visión y/o audición, síndrome de inmovilidad, úlceras por presión. Para valorar el grado de demencia utilizamos la escala FAST<sup>14</sup> (Functional assessment stages).

3. *Valoración funcional*. Se analizó el grado de independencia para la realización de las seis actividades básicas de la vida diaria (AVD) y la movilidad.

Las AVD (alimentación, aseo, uso de WC, continencia, vestido y capacidad de trasladarse) se valoraron mediante el índice de Barthel<sup>15,16</sup> que considera 0 como dependencia total y 100 como independencia total. El índice de Barthel se midió basalmente (15 días antes del ingreso hospitalario que en estudios previos se considera como la situación que mejor se correlaciona con la situación basal)<sup>17</sup>, al ingreso y al alta de la USA.

A partir de estos datos se calculó el deterioro funcional producido durante el ingreso hospitalario (Barthel basal menos Barthel al ingreso en USA); la recuperación funcional durante la estancia en la USA (Barthel al alta de USA menos Barthel al ingreso en USA); y el balance funcional total (Barthel basal menos Barthel al alta de USA) para valorar la repercusión funcional que ha provocado el ingreso hospitalario en sus distintas fases.

Para la valoración de la movilidad empleamos la escala Funcional Ambulation Categories (FAC)<sup>18</sup>, que clasifica la capacidad de marcha en 6 niveles, siendo el 0 la incapacidad total para caminar y el 5 la capacidad de caminar independientemente y sin ayudas, incluso para salvar escaleras. Al igual que para las AVD, obtuvimos el FAC de cada paciente en tres momentos (basal, en el ingreso y en el momento del alta de la USA), para así poder analizar el deterioro, la recuperación y el balance de la movilidad.

Una vez analizada la evolución funcional y de la movilidad, valoramos su relación con la presencia de disfagia al alta hospitalaria.

Además se analizó específicamente los pacientes que mantenían una alimentación independiente y su evolución en el hospital. Dado que el paso a la dependencia en la alimentación puede suponer una serie de cambios en la maniobra de deglución que presumimos podría favorecer la disfagia orofaríngea en un grado mayor que otros factores implicados en el deterioro funcional (incontinencia, dependencia para el aseo,...) quisimos estudiar de manera más específica este factor implicado en el deterioro funcional del anciano hospitalizado.

4. *Factores de riesgo de disfagia*: analizamos la presencia de factores de riesgo de disfagia descritos en la literatura<sup>19,20</sup>:

a) Anamnesis dirigida. Valora la existencia de disfagia previa o durante el actual ingreso. Considera que

tal existía si se referían episodios de atragantamientos previos o dificultad para tragar, infecciones respiratorias aspirativas entre los antecedentes o la utilización de espesante/agua gelificada o dieta adaptada para disfagia.

b) Trastornos buco-dentales: edentulismo total o parcial, prótesis dental mal ajustada, sialorrea, sequedad mucosa bucal, lesiones estructurales en cavidad orofaríngea y boca séptica.

c) Textura de la dieta, tanto habitual como la utilizada durante el ingreso hospitalario (normal, blanda, triturada o enteral).

d) Utilización de psicofármacos en domicilio y durante el ingreso.

e) Nivel de conciencia: Se registró si existió durante el ingreso algún trastorno del nivel de conciencia (incluyendo cuadro confusional, hipersomnia o agitación) que favoreciera la aparición de disfagia.

f) Situación nutricional e hidratación. Se consideró deshidratación si existía clínica de deshidratación con datos analíticos compatibles con déficit de agua (sodio plasmático > 150 mmol/l; Osmolaridad plasmática > 300 mosm/kg) y desnutrición si existían criterios analíticos de desnutrición (Albúmina < 3.5 g/dl, Colesterol Total < 150 mg/dl)<sup>21</sup>.

g) Infección respiratoria: Se valoró si durante el ingreso en USA había existido infección respiratoria y si ésta asociaba broncoaspiración, confirmada radiológicamente con un infiltrado pulmonar en las localizaciones típicas (segmentos basales de lóbulo inferior derecho o segmento apical de lóbulo inferior derecho y segmento posterior de lóbulo superior derecho si el paciente está en decúbito).

#### *Test clínico de disfagia*

Unas 24-48 horas antes del alta, a todos los pacientes se les realizó el *test clínico de disfagia*. El MECV-V<sup>11</sup> es una prueba que trata de salvaguardar al paciente de posibles aspiraciones durante su realización. Evalúa signos clínicos que se relacionan con alteraciones en la eficacia (residuo faríngeo, residuo oral, deglución fraccionada y trastorno del sello labial) y en la seguridad (tos, cambio de voz y desaturación de oxígeno en saturímetro > 5%) de la deglución. Utiliza una jeringuilla para la administración de 3 volúmenes de 5, 10 y 20 ml en 3 viscosidades diferentes (néctar, líquido y agua) empezando por el bolo más seguro (5 ml néctar) e incrementando progresivamente la dificultad. El test se detiene si aparece un signo de alteración en la seguridad.

Dada la alta dificultad técnica para la administración del MECV-V en pacientes con demencia grave, básicamente por la apraxia deglutoria y la escasa colaboración para algunas fases del test, elaboramos una versión adaptada (MECV-V-G) para pacientes con demencia de grado 6c o mayor en la escala de severidad FAST<sup>14</sup>. En esta versión se utilizan sólo dos volúmenes. Se sustituye la jeringuilla por dos tamaños de cuchara

(cuchara de café con un volumen de 3-5 ml y cuchara grande que recoge volúmenes de 5-10 ml) de acuerdo con estudios previos donde se señala la mayor seguridad en la alimentación con cuchara para pacientes con demencia<sup>22</sup>. Se mantiene la valoración de las tres viscosidades y el desarrollo del test. Dada la ausencia de colaboración del paciente, no es posible de forma habitual valorar en esta versión la existencia de residuo faríngeo.

En ambas versiones, el test se consideró positivo (trastorno deglutorio compatible con disfagia orofaríngea) si aparece alguno de los signos de alteración de seguridad o eficacia.

#### Análisis estadístico

Se realizó un estudio descriptivo de la muestra analizando sus características de manera que las variables cuantitativas aparecen con la media y desviación típica y las cualitativas con las frecuencias y proporciones. Dividimos la muestra en dos grupos en función de la existencia de disfagia determinada por los test clínicos (MECV-V y MECV-V-G). Posteriormente comparamos las características de estos 2 grupos de pacientes. Se comprobó la distribución de las variables frente a los modelos teóricos. Las variables cuantitativas se compararon con el test de la U de Mann Whitney y las cualitativas mediante la Chi cuadrado o el test exacto de Fisher cuando más del 25% de las casillas esperadas tienen una frecuencia inferior a 5. Se muestra el riesgo relativo y su intervalo de confianza del 95% en caso de que las diferencias de la muestra entre grupos fuesen significativas. Los datos fueron almacenados en Access y el análisis estadístico se llevó a cabo con el paquete estadístico SPSS 16.0.

#### Resultados

Estudiamos 86 pacientes de  $83,8 \pm 6,7$  años de edad media (rango 66-98 años). El 60% fueron mujeres y el 94,2% procedían de servicios médicos. Como puede verse en la tabla I se trata de una muestra de perfil geriátrico con pluripatología y una elevada prevalencia de síndromes geriátricos.

La anamnesis dirigida detectó disfagia en el 26,7% de la muestra. Sólo un 9% había utilizado espesantes previamente. Hay que destacar una elevada prevalencia de trastornos buco-dentales (41,9%) a pesar de que utilizaban una dieta de textura normal, sin adaptaciones un 54,6% de pacientes antes del ingreso (fig. 1).

La evolución de la situación funcional y de movilidad queda resumida en la tabla II. Los pacientes de USA tenían una buena situación funcional antes del ingreso (basal): casi un 78% eran independientes en la alimentación. Más del 65% de la muestra tenía un índice de Barthel superior a 60 puntos en su domicilio, estando la mediana de la muestra en 85 puntos. Ade-

| <b>Tabla I</b><br><i>Características generales (n = 86)</i> |                                   |              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
|                                                             | <i>Media <math>\pm</math> DT*</i> | <i>% (n)</i> |
| Edad (años)                                                 | 83,79 $\pm$ 6,7                   |              |
| Sexo (mujer)                                                |                                   | 60,5 (52)    |
| Enfermedades (número)                                       | 6,72 $\pm$ 3                      |              |
| Estancia en agudos (días)                                   | 10,3 $\pm$ 11                     |              |
| Estancia en USA (días)                                      | 15,63 $\pm$ 10,9                  |              |
| Síndromes geriátricos (número)                              | 3,33 $\pm$ 2,1                    |              |
| Déficit sensorial                                           |                                   | 53,5 (46)    |
| Estreñimiento                                               |                                   | 47,7 (41)    |
| Incontinencia Urinaria                                      |                                   | 45,3 (39)    |
| Deterioro Cognitivo                                         |                                   | 41,9 (36)    |
| Síndrome de Inmovilidad                                     |                                   | 32,6 (28)    |
| Dolor crónico                                               |                                   | 31,4 (27)    |
| Caídas                                                      |                                   | 27,9 (24)    |
| Trastorno del Ánimo                                         |                                   | 26,7 (23)    |
| Trastorno del Sueño                                         |                                   | 25,6 (22)    |
| Úlceras por presión                                         |                                   | 12,8 (11)    |
| Trastornos bucodentales                                     |                                   | 41,9 (36)    |
| Usaba espesantes                                            |                                   | 9,3 (8)      |

\*DT: Desviación típica.

más un 67,4 % no necesitaban la ayuda de otra persona para caminar (puntuación FAC 3,4 o 5).

La situación funcional empeoró de manera considerable en la mayoría de los pacientes tras el paso por el hospital de agudos. Así, a su ingreso en la USA sólo un 43% mantuvo alimentación independiente; El deterioro funcional medio fue de 35 puntos en el índice de Barthel. Un 80% de la muestra tuvo un índice de Barthel inferior a 60 puntos, estando la mediana en 25 puntos; De media, el deterioro de movilidad fue de más de 2 puntos en la escala FAC. El 75% necesitó la ayuda de al menos una persona para caminar (puntuación FAC 0, 1 o 2). Durante la estancia en USA hubo una alta prevalencia de complicaciones relacionadas con la disfagia: desnutrición 48,8% (42 pacientes), deshidratación 15,1% (13 pacientes), infecciones respiratorias nosocomiales 37,2% (32 pacientes), aspiraciones confirmadas mediante radiografía 4,7% (4 pacientes) y trastornos de nivel de conciencia 34,9% (30 pacientes).

Al alta de la USA la situación funcional de los pacientes había mejorado sustancialmente y hasta un 67,4% mantenían una alimentación independiente. La recuperación funcional media fue de casi 20 puntos en el índice de Barthel. Un 44,2% había recuperado totalmente la situación funcional previa en el momento del alta. De media el déficit residual funcional (Balance funcional) fue de 16 puntos en este índice y el 64% de los pacientes caminaban sin el apoyo físico de una persona (puntuación FAC 3,4 o 5). Un 83,7% de los pacientes volvieron al domicilio habitual siendo institucionalizados un 10%.

Al alta de la USA y mediante el MECV-V la prevalencia de disfagia orofaríngea fue del 53,5%. El 65,21% (30) tuvieron un trastorno mixto, el 32,6% (15) un tras-

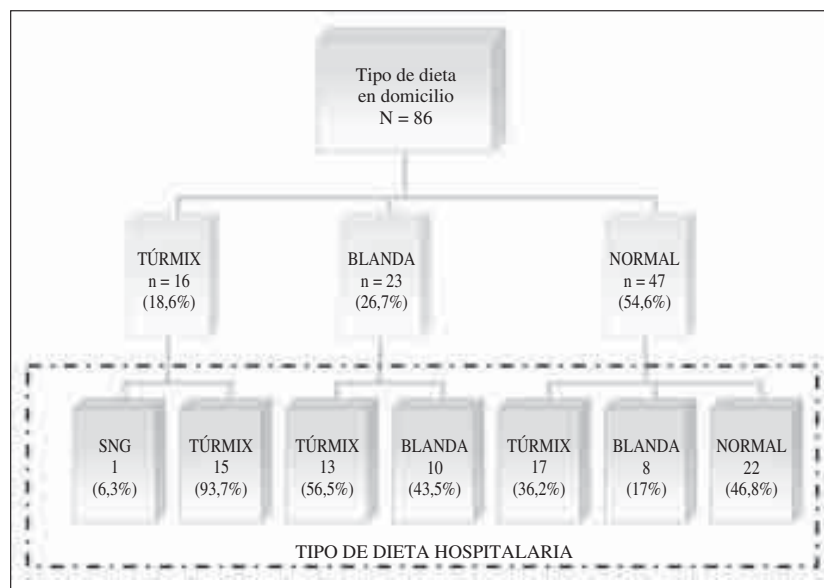


Fig. 1.—Tipo de dieta en domicilio y modificaciones tras el ingreso hospitalario.

**Tabla II**  
Evolución funcional

|                                      | En domicilio                |           | Al ingreso en USA |         | Al alta de USA   |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------------|---------|------------------|-----------|
|                                      | Media $\pm$ DT <sup>a</sup> | % (n)     | Media $\pm$ DT    | % (n)   | Media $\pm$ DT   | % (n)     |
| Independiente para Alimentación      |                             | 77,9 (67) |                   | 43 (37) |                  | 67,4 (58) |
| Índice de Barthel                    | 67,66 $\pm$ 34,9            |           | 32,12 $\pm$ 30,5  |         | 51,26 $\pm$ 34,4 |           |
| Escala FAC                           | 3,41 $\pm$ 1,7              |           | 1,29 $\pm$ 1,4    |         | 2,72 $\pm$ 1,6   |           |
| Deterioro Funcional*                 |                             |           | 35,54 $\pm$ 29,8  |         |                  |           |
| Recuperación Funcional**             |                             |           |                   |         | 19,1 $\pm$ 23,7  |           |
| Deterioro Movilidad <sup>#</sup>     |                             |           | 2,11 $\pm$ 1,5    |         |                  |           |
| Recuperación Movilidad <sup>##</sup> |                             |           |                   |         | 1,4 $\pm$ 1,3    |           |
| Balance funcional <sup>§</sup>       |                             |           |                   |         | 16,4 $\pm$ 27,6  |           |
| Balance movilidad <sup>§§</sup>      |                             |           |                   |         | 0,68 $\pm$ 1,3   |           |

<sup>a</sup>DT: Desviación típica.

\*Deterioro funcional (Barthel basal menos Barthel al ingreso en USA).

\*\*Recuperación funcional (Barthel alta menos Barthel ingreso en USA).

<sup>#</sup>Deterioro de Movilidad (FAC basal menos FAC al ingreso en USA).

<sup>##</sup>Recuperación de Movilidad (FAC alta menos FAC ingreso en USA).

<sup>§</sup>Balance Funcional (Barthel basal menos Barthel alta de USA).

<sup>§§</sup>Balance de movilidad (FAC basal menos FAC al alta de USA).

torno aislado de eficacia y tan sólo 1 paciente (2,17%) un trastorno aislado de la seguridad. La deglución fraccionada fue el trastorno deglutorio más prevalente (tabla III). Se observó una tendencia a aumentar con el aumento en el volumen y en la viscosidad del bolo. Los trastornos en el sello labial y la aparición de residuo oral también fueron muy prevalentes. La tos fue el signo clínico más frecuente a la hora de detectar trastornos de seguridad. También se observó la tendencia de aumentar a volúmenes altos y a viscosidades inferiores.

En relación con el test MECV-V-G realizado a 11 pacientes con demencia grave, la prevalencia de disfagia fue del 90,9% (la anamnesis dirigida detectó disfagia previa solo en el 54,5% de estos pacientes) apareciendo un trastorno mixto en el 70%, un trastorno aislado de eficacia en el 30% y en ningún caso hubo un trastorno aislado de la seguridad. Hay que destacar en el MECV-V-G que el trastorno de la voz, en lugar de la tos, fue el signo clínico más prevalente a la hora de detectar trastornos de seguridad.

| <b>Tabla III</b><br><i>Test clínico de disfagia</i> |                                                                      |                                                            |                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                     | <i>N = 86</i><br><i>Test disfagia* (+):</i><br><i>n = 46 (53,5%)</i> | <i>N = 75</i><br><i>MECV-V (+):</i><br><i>n = 36 (48%)</i> | <i>N = 11</i><br><i>MECV-V-G (+):</i><br><i>n = 10 (90,9%)</i> |
| <i>Trastorno de Eficacia</i>                        | 45 (97,8%)                                                           | 35 (97,2%)                                                 | 10 (100%)                                                      |
| Sello labial alterado                               | 17 (37,7%)                                                           | 10 (28,6%)                                                 | 7 (70%)                                                        |
| Residuo oral                                        | 16 (35,5%)                                                           | 9 (25,7%)                                                  | 7 (70%)                                                        |
| Residuo Faríngeo                                    | 8 (17,7%)                                                            | 8 (22,8%)                                                  | –                                                              |
| Deglución Fraccionada                               | 41 (91,1%)                                                           | 33 (94,3%)                                                 | 8 (80%)                                                        |
| <i>Trastorno de Seguridad</i>                       | 31 (67,4%)                                                           | 24 (66,6%)                                                 | 7 (70%)                                                        |
| Desaturación en saturímetro                         | 8 (26,6%)                                                            | 7 (29,2%)                                                  | 1 (14,3%)                                                      |
| Tos                                                 | 23 (76,6%)                                                           | 20 (83,3%)                                                 | 3 (42,8%)                                                      |
| Voz alterada                                        | 18 (60%)                                                             | 12 (50%)                                                   | 6 (85,7%)                                                      |

Frecuencia de aparición de los diferentes signos clínicos de disfagia que valora el test en relación al total de la muestra (incluye los resultados del MECV-V y del MECV-V-G).

| <b>Tabla IV</b><br><i>Características de pacientes con y sin disfagia<sup>a</sup></i> |                  |                    |                       |              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
|                                                                                       | <i>Disfagia</i>  | <i>No disfagia</i> | <i>RR</i>             | <i>P*</i>    |
| Edad                                                                                  | 85,39 ± 6,2      | 81,95 ± 6,1        |                       | 0,012        |
| Sd. Geriátricos: Estreñimiento                                                        | 54,3 (25)        | 40 (16)            |                       | NS           |
| Déficit sensorial                                                                     | 58,7 (27)        | 47,5 (19)          |                       | NS           |
| Incontinencia                                                                         | 54,3 (25)        | 35 (14)            |                       | NS           |
| Deterioro Cognitivo                                                                   | 56,5 (26)        | 25 (10)            | 3,9 (1,5-9,8)         | 0,004        |
| Síndrome de Inmovilidad                                                               | 43,5 (20)        | 20 (8)             | 3,07 (1,2-8,1)        | 0,023        |
| Trastornos bucales                                                                    | 47,8 (22)        | 35 (14)            |                       | NS           |
| Antecedente de disfagia en Anamnesis dirigida                                         | <b>41,3 (19)</b> | <b>10 (4)</b>      | <b>6,3 (1,9-20,8)</b> | <b>0,001</b> |
| Tipo de dieta en domicilio                                                            |                  |                    |                       | NS           |
| Túrmix                                                                                | 28,3 (13)        | 5 (2)              |                       | 0,043        |
| Blanda                                                                                | 21,6 (10)        | 32,5 (13)          |                       | NS           |
| Normal                                                                                | 47,8 (22)        | 62,5 (26)          |                       | NS           |
| Modificada en el hospital,                                                            | 47,8 (22)        | 42,5 (17)          |                       | NS           |
| Espesantes antes del ingreso                                                          | 17,4 (8)         | 0                  | 1,2 (1,1-1,4)         | 0,006**      |
| Psicofármacos previo al ingreso                                                       | 43,5 (20)        | 40 (16)            |                       | NS           |
| Trastorno del nivel de conciencia en USA                                              | 47,8 (22)        | 20 (8)             | 3,67 (1,4-9,6)        | 0,007        |
| Psicofármacos en USA                                                                  | 43,5 (20)        | 37,5 (15)          |                       |              |
| Infección respiratoria en USA                                                         | 52,2 (24)        | 20 (8)             | 4,36 (1,7-11,5)       | 0,002        |
| Aspiración confirmada***                                                              | 8,7 (4)          | 0                  | 1,09 (1-1,2)          | 0,077**      |
| Deshidratación                                                                        | 17,4 (8)         | 12,5 (5)           |                       | NS           |

<sup>a</sup>Disfagia según el MECV-V y MECV-V-G.

\*Análisis Univariante: U Mann Whitney en variables cuantitativas y Chi cuadrado (o test exacto de Fisher) para cualitativas. Riesgo Relativo con Intervalo de Confianza del 95% (Razón de ventajas).

NS: No significativa.

\*\*Se ha utilizado el test exacto de Fisher.

\*\*\*Aspiración confirmada radiológicamente.

Al comparar las características de los pacientes con y sin disfagia (tabla IV) vemos que, de forma estadísticamente significativa, los pacientes con disfagia son mayores, y con mayor frecuencia tienen deterioro cognitivo, inmovilidad, infecciones respiratorias nosoco-

miales y trastornos del nivel de conciencia. Sólo los pacientes con disfagia presentaron aspiraciones clínicas confirmadas mediante radiografía.

Los pacientes con disfagia utilizaban espesantes o una dieta túrmix en domicilio con mayor frecuencia.

| <b>Tabla V</b><br><i>Evolución funcional en pacientes con y sin disfagia*</i> |                                                  |                                         |                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>N = 86</i>                                                                 | <i>Disfagia</i><br><i>Media ± DT<sup>a</sup></i> | <i>No disfagia</i><br><i>Media ± DT</i> | <i>P<sup>a</sup></i> |
| <i>Índice de Barthel</i>                                                      |                                                  |                                         |                      |
| Basal                                                                         | 55,98 ± 35,6                                     | 81,1 ± 9,2                              | <0,005               |
| Ingreso                                                                       | 20,26 ± 25,1                                     | 45,75 ± 30,7                            | <0,001               |
| Alta                                                                          | 35,33 ± 30,8                                     | 69,58 ± 29,1                            | <0,001               |
| <i>Escala FAC</i>                                                             |                                                  |                                         |                      |
| Basal                                                                         | 2,78 ± 1,8                                       | 4,12 ± 1,3                              | <0,001               |
| Ingreso                                                                       | 0,76 ± 1,2                                       | 1,9 ± 1,5                               | <0,001               |
| Alta                                                                          | 1,96 ± 1,7                                       | 3,6 ± 1,2                               | <0,001               |
| Deterioro Funcional*                                                          | 35,71 ± 28,2                                     | 35,35 ± 31,9                            | >0,05                |
| Recuperación Funcional**                                                      | 15,06 ± 22,9                                     | 23,82 ± 23,9                            | 0,024                |
| Deterioro Movilidad <sup>#</sup>                                              | 2,02 ± 1,5                                       | 2,22 ± 1,6                              | >0,05                |
| Recuperación Movilidad <sup>##</sup>                                          | 1,19 ± 1,5                                       | 1,7 ± 1,7                               | 0,071                |
| Balance funcional <sup>§</sup>                                                | 20,65 ± 29,3                                     | 11,52 ± 25,1                            | >0,05                |
| Balance movilidad <sup>§§</sup>                                               | 0,82 ± 1,6                                       | 0,52 ± 0,8                              | >0,05                |

<sup>a</sup>Comparación de medias U de Mann Whitney  
<sup>a</sup>DT: Desviación típica.  
<sup>\*</sup>Deterioro funcional (Barthel basal menos Barthel al ingreso en USA)  
<sup>\*\*</sup>Recuperación funcional (Barthel alta menos Barthel ingreso en USA)  
<sup>#</sup>Deterioro de Movilidad (FAC basal menos FAC al ingreso en USA)  
<sup>##</sup>Recuperación de Movilidad (FAC alta menos FAC ingreso en USA)  
<sup>§</sup>Balance Funcional (Barthel basal menos Barthel alta de USA)  
<sup>§§</sup>Balance de movilidad (FAC basal menos FAC al alta de USA).

Sin embargo, al comparar los grupos con y sin disfagia se observó como el porcentaje de pacientes que había modificado su dieta en el hospital era muy similar en los dos grupos, sin diferencias estadísticamente significativas.

En el análisis específico de la evolución funcional de la muestra y su relación con la disfagia, (tabla V), se observa en el grupo de disfagia una peor evolución de los parámetros funcionales y de movilidad: Así, tienen una peor situación previa al ingreso y un menor grado de recuperación funcional (tanto de las AVD como de la movilidad) tras el ingreso por USA. Sin embargo el deterioro en la unidad de agudos fue similar en ambos grupos.

La dependencia en la alimentación es más frecuente en pacientes con disfagia tanto en domicilio, como al alta de agudos y al alta de subagudos, de manera estadísticamente significativa (tabla VI). Además, el paso a la dependencia en la alimentación también es más frecuente en el grupo de disfagia de forma significativa.

## Discusión

En nuestra muestra de pacientes geriátricos hemos encontrado, utilizando el MECV-V/MECV-V-G, una prevalencia de disfagia orofaríngea del 53,5% más del doble que la detectada utilizando la anamnesis dirigida (26,7%).

| <b>Tabla VI</b><br><i>Alimentación dependiente en pacientes con y sin disfagia</i> |                       |                          |                 |                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| <i>Alimentación dependiente</i>                                                    | <i>Disfagia % (n)</i> | <i>No disfagia % (n)</i> | <i>RR</i>       | <i>P<sup>a</sup></i> |
| Prevía                                                                             | 32,6 (15)             | 10 (4)                   | 4,35 (1,3-14,5) | 0,012                |
| Al ingreso en USA                                                                  | 78,3 (36)             | 32,5 (13)                | 7,47 (2,8-19,6) | 0,0001               |
| Al alta de USA                                                                     | 47,8 (22)             | 15 (6)                   | 5,19 (1,8-14,7) | 0,001                |
| Se vuelven dependientes en el hospital                                             | 45,6 (21)             | 22,5 (9)                 | 2,89 (1,1-7,4)  | 0,025                |
| Recuperan la independencia                                                         | 30,4 (14)             | 17,5 (7)                 |                 | NS                   |

<sup>a</sup>Chi cuadrado con riesgo relativo e intervalo de confianza del 95%.  
 NS: No significativa.

A pesar de que la anamnesis dirigida consiguió detectar un elevado porcentaje de pacientes con disfagia (1 de cada cuatro), más de la mitad de aquellos con trastornos deglutorios en el test clínico (MECV-V/MECV-V-G) no fueron reconocidos como tales mediante la anamnesis. Si consideráramos el MECV-V como "gold standar" de disfagia la anamnesis dirigida tendría en nuestra muestra una sensibilidad de tan sólo el 41,3% y una especificidad del 90% para detectar disfagia (Valor Predictivo Positivo 82,6% y Valor Predictivo Negativo 57,1%).

En un amplio estudio en ancianos institucionalizados la prevalencia de disfagia fue ligeramente superior a la de nuestra muestra (56-78%)<sup>1</sup>. Estimamos que las prevalencias obtenidas en nuestra muestra mediante anamnesis o a través del MECV-V (53,5%), a pesar de ser elevadas y aunque se han medido al alta, una vez alcanzada la estabilidad clínica, son ligeramente menores que la que deberíamos encontrar en ancianos institucionalizados en residencias de asistidos o en Unidades de media Estancia donde el deterioro funcional estaría establecido. No existen estudios previos sobre prevalencia de disfagia orofaríngea en unidades de convalecencia/ subagudos. En nuestro medio existen pocos estudios. En un estudio sobre unidades de media-larga estancia la prevalencia encontrada fue mucho menor (15%) aunque los propios autores la consideran subestimada<sup>13</sup>. En ancianos ingresados por neumonía en una Unidad de Agudos de Geriátrica encontraron una prevalencia de disfagia similar a la nuestra (55%)<sup>23</sup>.

Un estudio de corte demostró en población sana anciana una prevalencia de haber tenido trastornos deglutorios previamente del 38%<sup>24</sup> y aunque la prevalencia de disfagia antes del ingreso hospitalario es elevada en nuestro estudio, como se deriva de los datos de anamnesis dirigida y existe una alta prevalencia de trastornos bucales, en domicilio un alto porcentaje de la muestra mantenía una dieta de textura normal y sólo un 9% utilizaba espesantes, sin encontrarse diferencias entre los ancianos con y sin disfagia. Estos datos corroboran la sospecha de que actualmente no existe una conciencia clara de los problemas que puede ocasionar la disfagia<sup>25</sup>.

El manejo de la disfagia a nivel hospitalario es muy heterogéneo. En general los pacientes con un diagnóstico médico de disfagia tienen una dieta adaptada o utilizan espesantes o agua gelificada<sup>26</sup>. En nuestra muestra el grupo con disfagia no transformó la textura de su dieta en un porcentaje mayor que los del grupo sin disfagia, es decir no adaptó la dieta a su nueva situación. Estos hallazgos sugieren la necesidad de una mayor intervención nutricional en ancianos con disfagia, tanto a nivel ambulatorio como hospitalario. El manejo de la disfagia del anciano institucionalizado debe ser multidisciplinar y ha de ser abordado de manera institucional, protocolizada y la intervención del logopeda, el dietista y el Servicio de Nutrición es fundamental.

Desde el punto de vista funcional y de movilidad los pacientes de la muestra parten de una aceptable situación basal, experimentan un deterioro funcional y una pérdida de movilidad significativos durante su estancia en el hospital de agudos recuperando gran parte de lo perdido durante su etapa de convalecencia en USA. El diseño del estudio no permite valorar la evolución de la disfagia orofaríngea pero presumimos que seguramente guarde algún grado de relación con esta evolución funcional. Conviene recordar que la disfagia orofaríngea es un problema dinámico, no exclusiva de ningún momento evolutivo<sup>27</sup> que debe ser evaluado en el tiempo adaptando las intervenciones a la situación actual.

Respecto a las características específicas de la disfagia orofaríngea de los ancianos de la muestra, destaca una alta prevalencia de trastornos mixtos (seguridad y eficacia) y una baja frecuencia de trastornos aislados de seguridad. Sólo un paciente demostró un trastorno aislado de seguridad sin que se asociara ningún trastorno de eficacia. Al igual que en estudios previos que utilizan el MECV-V los trastornos de seguridad aparecen con viscosidades menores y a mayores volúmenes<sup>11,13</sup>.

Los trastornos de la conducta alimentaria son complicaciones muy frecuentes en la evolución de la demencia<sup>28</sup>. En nuestra muestra, la prevalencia de disfagia en los pacientes con demencia moderada-grave fue mucho mayor (90,9% en nuestra muestra). El 63,6% tuvo trastornos de seguridad porcentaje muy similar al encontrado en pacientes con demencia FAST 6 en estudios previos<sup>22</sup>. Además en pacientes con demencia avanzada la tos es un signo clínico menos habitual cuando hay trastornos de seguridad que el trastorno en la voz. En algunos estudios en los que utilizan videofluoroscopia se ha descrito que más del 48% de los pacientes que presentan aspiraciones silentes objetivadas mediante este método no presentan tos<sup>29</sup>. Este hecho apoyaría la existencia de una mayor disminución de la sensibilidad hipofaríngea y de las estructuras supraglóticas asociada a la edad<sup>30</sup> y tal vez del reflejo tusígeno más marcada en este tipo de enfermos. Así, en ancianos en general existe una prolongación del tiempo de respuesta motora orofaríngea durante la deglución (con prolongación de los intervalos hasta el cierre del vestíbulo laríngeo y la apertura del esfínter esofágico superior) así como una disminución de la propulsión del residuo deglutorio oral y faríngeo<sup>27,31</sup>. A diferencia de estudios con personas más jóvenes<sup>12</sup>, el ítem menos frecuentemente encontrado durante la realización del test clínico fue el residuo faríngeo, tal vez por la disminución de la sensibilidad orofaríngea asociada al envejecimiento o por ser el que más dificultades técnicas presenta al explorador al ser el que requiere mayor colaboración por parte del enfermo.

En nuestra muestra, los pacientes con disfagia tienen con mayor frecuencia una serie de características que podrían definir a este grupo de enfermos ya relacionadas con la disfagia en estudios previos<sup>24</sup>: mayor edad, mayor prevalencia de deterioro cognitivo, utilizan con

más frecuencia una dieta adaptada o líquidos con espesante. Además desarrollan con más frecuencia complicaciones como trastornos del nivel de conciencia e infecciones respiratorias. Sin embargo el diseño del estudio no permite establecer relaciones de causalidad con estos factores. Desde un punto de vista clínico estos factores se encuentran íntimamente relacionados. Por ejemplo, la disfagia puede desencadenar alteraciones de nivel de conciencia secundarias a las complicaciones clínicas de la disfagia y al mismo tiempo los trastornos del nivel de conciencia pueden desencadenar o exacerbar problemas de disfagia. Sería interesante valorar en profundidad esta relación y determinar el grado de causalidad que la disfagia tiene en su aparición y viceversa.

Existe una relación indudable entre la situación funcional y la disfagia. En estudios previos la disfagia se ha asociado a peor situación y resultados funcionales<sup>24,32,33</sup> y en un estudio en unidades de media-larga estancia, la disfagia se asoció a una peor recuperación funcional<sup>13</sup>. Así en nuestra muestra hemos encontrado como los pacientes con disfagia tienen una peor situación funcional basal y una mayor frecuencia de síndrome de inmovilidad, por lo que estas dos variables podrían considerarse como un marcador de riesgo de disfagia en el anciano hospitalizado. Además los pacientes con disfagia empeoran funcionalmente más durante la hospitalización y tienen una peor situación funcional al alta de la USA que los que no tienen disfagia. Por esto la disfagia podría considerarse un factor de riesgo de deterioro funcional hospitalario y de mal pronóstico de recuperación funcional.

En un estudio Enomoto et al.<sup>34</sup> plantean como factores de riesgo independientes asociados a la supervivencia en pacientes con disfagia las ABVD y la asistencia en la alimentación. La dependencia en la alimentación podría ser la actividad de la vida diaria más relacionada con la disfagia. Así en nuestra muestra, el paso a la dependencia en la alimentación es más frecuente en nuestro grupo de disfagia. Probablemente el deterioro funcional y específicamente el encamamiento, la pérdida de capacidad para mantenerse sentado correctamente y la pérdida de autonomía en la alimentación sean algunos de los factores más importantes a la hora de que aparezca o se exacerbe la disfagia orofaríngea en el paciente anciano hospitalizado. El paso a la dependencia en la alimentación puede suponer una serie de cambios en la maniobra de deglución que presumimos podría favorecer la disfagia orofaríngea en un grado mayor que otros factores implicados en el deterioro funcional (incontinencia, dependencia para el aseo,...) del anciano hospitalizado. Por otro lado, la existencia de una dependencia en la alimentación previa al ingreso presupone la existencia concomitante de una "metodología" especial en la alimentación del enfermo que podría no adaptarse de forma adecuada al periodo de hospitalización exacerbando una presbifagia o desencadenando la disfagia en el hospital.

Nuestro estudio tiene algunas limitaciones como el pequeño tamaño de la muestra especialmente para la versión adaptada a pacientes con demencia severa y factores que no hemos podido valorar como tiempo de encamamiento, tipo de fármacos con posibles efectos sobre la deglución del enfermo (anticolinérgicos, diuréticos,...), patología relacionada (enfermedad cerebro-vascular previa, Parkinson, etc.).

Nuestro estudio demuestra la elevada prevalencia de disfagia en ancianos hospitalizados y como puede ser fácilmente diagnosticada a la cabecera de la cama con un método sencillo, como el MECV-V, incluso en pacientes con demencia moderada-severa donde diversos autores desaconsejan el empleo de la videofluoroscopia<sup>22</sup>, permitiendo a la vez iniciar una intervención precoz en la adaptación de la dieta del enfermo.

También hemos encontrado algunas características que nos pueden ayudar a identificar ancianos con riesgo de desarrollar disfagia durante la hospitalización: deterioro cognitivo, trastornos de nivel de conciencia, infecciones respiratorias y una adversa evolución funcional y de movilidad de manera que la situación funcional basal podría utilizarse como factor de riesgo de disfagia y al mismo tiempo la existencia de disfagia podría considerarse un marcador pronóstico de recuperación funcional.

Son necesarios nuevos estudios que traten de valorar la incidencia de disfagia en ancianos hospitalizados, las ventajas de su detección y manejo multidisciplinar intrahospitalario así como estudios que permitan analizar de manera pormenorizada la relación que existe entre disfagia y deterioro funcional.

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Original

# **Análisis del contenido en nitrógeno y proteínas de leche materna, día vs noche**

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**Resumen**

La leche materna es un fluido que va variando tanto durante la lactancia como durante las 24h del día. Nuestro objetivo fue determinar el efecto del día y la noche en el contenido de nitrógeno y proteínas en leche humana de tipo: calostro, transición y madura. Para ello se recogieron durante los meses de enero de 2008 a diciembre de 2008 muestras de leche materna de mujeres sanas de la Comunidad de Extremadura (España), con menos de dos meses de lactancia. Dividimos las muestras en tres grupos en función del tipo de leche: grupo de calostro (1-5 días postparto), grupo de transición (6-15 días postparto) y grupo de leche madura (> 15 días postparto). Todas las muestras se almacenaron congeladas a -80° C. Consideramos período de noche al comprendido entre las 20:00-08:00 horas y período diurno al comprendido entre las 08:00-20:00 horas. El análisis de las muestras de leche materna estuvo basado en el método Kjeldahl. El contenido proteico fue calculado partiendo del nitrógeno total x 6,25. El estudio estadístico fue descriptivo (media ± desviación estándar) e inferencial (test *T-Student*). El valor medio de nitrógeno total y contenido proteico de cada grupo fue el siguiente: Nitrógeno total de los grupos de calostro, transición y madura fue 0,30 ± 0,06 g/dL (período nocturno), 0,29 ± 0,05 g/dL (período diurno); 0,26 ± 0,04 g/dL (período nocturno), 0,25 ± 0,04 g/dL (período diurno); 0,22 ± 0,05 g/dL (período nocturno), 0,20 ± 0,04 g/dL (período diurno) respectivamente, produciéndose en este grupo variación estadística (*P* < 0,05). El contenido proteico de los grupos de calostro, transición y madura fue 1,88 ± 0,4 g/dL (período nocturno), 1,81 ± 0,3 g/dL (período diurno); 1,62 ± 0,3 g/dL (período nocturno), 1,59 ± 0,3 g/dL (período diurno); 1,35 ± 0,3 g/dL (período nocturno), 1,26 ± 0,3 g/dL (período diurno) respectivamente, produciéndose de nuevo en este grupo una variación estadística (*P* < 0,05). Aunque se observaron diferencias intergrupales de los valores de nitrógeno total y proteínas, es sólo en la población de madres con lactancia madura, donde los componentes analizados variaron significativamente entre el día y la noche.

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Palabras clave: Proteína. Nitrógeno total. Kjeldahl. Leche materna. Cronobiología.

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## **NITROGEN AND PROTEIN CONTENT ANALYSIS OF HUMAN MILK, DIURNALITY VS NOCTURNALITY**

**Abstract**

Breast milk is changing with the progression of lactation and during a 24-h period. To determine the effect of diurnality or nocturnality on total nitrogen and protein content of the breast milk. We collected human milk samples from health mothers living throughout Community of Extremadura (Spain) from January 2008 to December 2008 with less than two months of lactation. We divided the samples in three groups: calostrual group (1-5 days postpartum), transitional group (6-15 days postpartum) and mature group (> 15 days postpartum). All samples were stored in a freezer at -80°C. We considered as day period between 08:00-20:00h and night period 20:00-08:00h. Analysis of the human milk samples was based on the Kjeldahl method. Protein contents were calculated from total nitrogen x 6,25. The statistical analysis of the data was descriptive (mean ± standard deviation) and inferential (*T-Student* test). No differences (*P* > 0,05) were found to exist among the contents of individual human milk samples. The mean contents of each component were as follows: Total nitrogen of calostrual, transitional and mature group was 0,30 ± 0,06 g/dL (night period), 0,29 ± 0,05 g/dL (day period); 0,26 ± 0,04 g/dL (night period), 0,25 ± 0,04 g/dL (day period); 0,22 ± 0,05 g/dL (night period), 0,20 ± 0,04 g/dL (day period) respectively, in this mature group with a statistical variation (*P* < 0,05). Protein content of calostrual, transitional and mature group was 1,88 ± 0,4 g/dL (night period), 1,81 ± 0,3 g/dL (day period); 1,62 ± 0,3 g/dL (night period), 1,59 ± 0,3 g/dL (day period); 1,35 ± 0,3 g/dL (night period), 1,26 ± 0,3 g/dL (day period) respectively, in this mature group with a statistical variation (*P* < 0,05). Although we observed differences in the nitrogen and protein content during the individual stages of lactation, it is just in the population of mature lactating women, where the components analyzed varied significantly between day and night.

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Key words: Protein. Total nitrogen. Kjeldahl. Breast milk. Cronobiology.

## Introducción

La leche materna es un alimento natural producido por todos los mamíferos cuyo propósito primordial es su uso para la alimentación del recién nacido. Como tal, en sus componentes nutricionales, es un fluido dinámico y cambiante a lo largo del periodo de lactancia, y en particular, a nivel de su componente proteico.

La concentración de proteínas en la leche materna la debemos diferenciar en cuanto a la cantidad correspondiente en los primeros días de lactancia, entre 1° y el 5°, es decir la etapa de calostro, tiene menos concentración energética y un contenido más elevado de proteínas incluyendo IgA, lactoferrina, diversos minerales, colesterol y ácidos grasos esenciales, que en la leche madura. La leche de transición que está presente entre el 6° y el 15° día con respecto al calostro, disminuye la cantidad de inmunoglobulinas y aumenta las de lactosa, grasa y vitaminas. Por último la leche madura que es la que se produce desde el 15° hasta el final de la lactancia se caracteriza por poseer un nivel de proteínas reducido<sup>1,2,3</sup>.

En la leche madura el contenido de proteína se encuentra establecido de un modo regular a la lactogénesis. En diversos mamíferos se ha observado la relación directa entre el crecimiento de sus crías y el contenido de proteínas y cenizas en la leche materna. La caseína constituye entre el 10 y el 50% del total de las proteínas y el lactosuero entre el 90 y el 50%. Siendo la caseína la principal fuente de aminoácidos, calcio y fósforo para el recién nacido. A su vez la concentración de proteínas del lactosuero va descendiendo a lo largo de la lactancia con lo que se produce un cambio en dicha proporción, aumentando en la leche madura el porcentaje de caseínas frente a lactosuero.

Pero, ¿qué ocurre con esa variación temporal a lo largo del día? Es decir, sobre un periodo de 24 horas, ¿los niveles proteicos son constantes o cambian sus niveles nocturnos frente a los diurnos? En el caso de otros nutrientes de la leche materna como monosacáridos, minerales y aminoácidos ya han sido descritos estos cambios<sup>4</sup>, con lo que deducimos que también podrían existir en las proteínas lácteas. A su vez, cabe indicar que determinadas hormonas y sustancias tampoco mantienen sus niveles estáticos a lo largo del día en la leche humana<sup>5,6,7</sup>, en particular la hormona prolactina para la cual se describen en contrastadas referencias bibliográficas los cambios entre sus niveles nocturnos y diurnos en mujeres lactantes<sup>8</sup>, causa por la que dicha hormona podría generar con toda seguri-

dad cambios cuantitativos en la leche materna, pero ¿hasta qué punto dichos cambios hormonales podrían ejercer cambios cualitativos y en ese caso cuáles ocurrirían a nivel proteico? Deducimos que de producirse dicha variabilidad diurna y nocturna, ésta ocurriría cuando el periodo de lactancia es más prolongado, es decir, en leche madura, periodo en el cual la lactogénesis puede estar encarrilada a un ritmo de tomas ya constante.

## Métodos

Se recogieron muestras de leche materna de madres sanas (n = 69) con menos de dos meses de lactancia, procedentes del Servicio de Neonatología del Hospital Materno Infantil (S.E.S.) de Badajoz, (España) de enero de 2008 a diciembre de 2008 (tabla I). Se les solicitó la recolección de muestras en todas las tomas administradas al bebé durante un periodo de 24 horas, obteniendo una media de 6 muestras al día por madre. Todas ellas fueron informadas previamente del estudio, entregando su consentimiento firmado para la participación en el mismo.

Dicho estudio fue aprobado por el Comité Ético de la Universidad de Extremadura y se siguieron las directrices de la Declaración de Helsinki.

Las muestras recogidas fueron divididas en tres grupos: grupo calostrado (1-5 días postparto), grupo de transición (6-15 días postparto) y grupo de leche madura (> 15 días postparto). Todas las muestras fueron almacenadas bajo congelación a -80 °C. Consideramos como el periodo de día entre 08:00-20:00h y el periodo de la noche 20:00-08:00h.

## Análisis de N total y Proteína

Entre los componentes de la leche materna se encuentran la fracción nitrogenada no proteica (también conocida como NNP, en la que se incluyen los nucleótidos)<sup>9</sup> y la fracción nitrogenada proteica. Para analizar el contenido proteico de las muestras a estudio, nos basamos en el método Kjeldahl, con el cual se obtiene el valor del nitrógeno de la leche (valor de nitrógeno total) siendo posteriormente multiplicado por un factor (6,25 en el caso de la leche materna) para llegar al valor de proteína. Para ello se usó un sistema digestor (Bloc Digest20, P-Selecta®) y un sistema destilador (Pro-NitroII, P-Selecta®).

**Tabla I**  
*Características antropométricas de la población a estudio (n = 69)*

| Grupo      | N  | Días de lactancia | Edad (años) | Peso (kg) | Altura (m) | IMC (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) |
|------------|----|-------------------|-------------|-----------|------------|--------------------------|
| Calostro   | 11 | 3 ± 1             | 35 ± 8      | 76 ± 8    | 1,64 ± 0,1 | 28,3 ± 4,0               |
| Transición | 27 | 8 ± 2             | 33 ± 5      | 73 ± 13   | 1,65 ± 0,1 | 26,9 ± 5,4               |
| Madura     | 31 | 29 ± 20           | 34 ± 4      | 68 ± 11   | 1,64 ± 0,1 | 25,2 ± 3,9               |

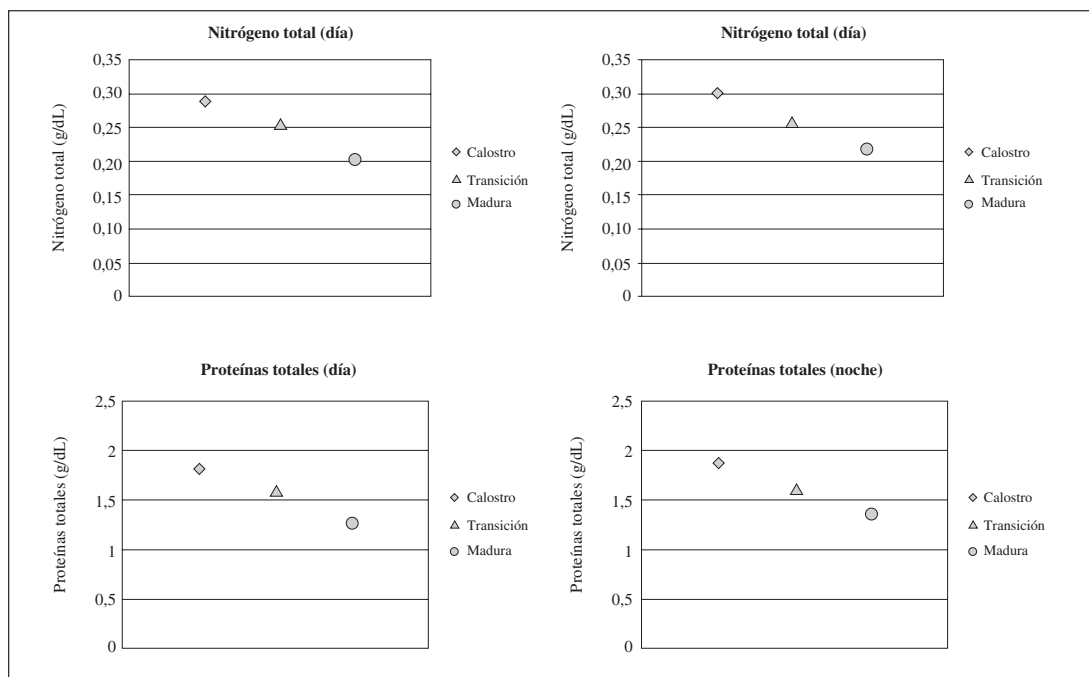


Fig. 1.—Cambios durante la lactancia (leche de calostro, transición y madura) y el día-noche de los valores de nitrógeno total y proteínas totales ( $n = 69$ ).

#### Análisis estadístico

Se hallaron la media aritmética ( $\bar{x}$ ) y la desviación estándar (DE) de todos los datos.

El estudio de la normalidad se realizó mediante el test de *Kolmogorov-Smirnoff*. Posteriormente se compararon las medias para distribuciones homogéneas de dos grupos apareados (día y noche) mediante el test *T-Student*. Se consideraron significativos los datos que presentaran un valor  $P < 0,05$ . El paquete estadístico utilizado fue SPSS® v.15.

#### Resultados

Tras el análisis de las muestras indicar que las variaciones no mostraron cambios estadísticamente significativos. Se considera como el período de día entre 08:00-20:00h y el período de la noche 20:00-08:00h. El contenido de nitrógeno total, encontrado en cada tipo de leche en dicha población a estudio, dividido a su vez en diurno y nocturno, fue el siguiente: Para el nitrógeno total del periodo calostro la concentración fue de  $0,30 \pm 0,06$  g/dL (nocturna) y  $0,29 \pm 0,05$  g/dL (diurna), para el grupo de periodo de transición  $0,26 \pm 0,04$  g/dL (nocturna) y  $0,25 \pm 0,04$  g/dL (diurna). Y para el grupo con leche madura fue de  $0,22 \pm 0,05$  g/dL (nocturna) y  $0,20 \pm 0,04$  g/dL (diurna) respectivamente, siendo en este grupo donde se produce una variación estadística ( $P < 0,05$ ), en los niveles de nitrógeno total, aumentando en las muestras nocturnas respecto a las diurnas (fig. 1).

Acerca del contenido de proteína láctea en esta población a estudio, para el grupo con leche de calostro se cuantificó una concentración de  $1,88 \pm 0,4$  g/dL (nocturna) y  $1,81 \pm 0,3$  g/dL (diurna), para el grupo de transición fue  $1,62 \pm 0,3$  g/dL (nocturna) y  $1,59 \pm 0,3$  g/dL (diurna). Y por último para el grupo con leche madura  $1,35 \pm 0,3$  g/dL (nocturna) y  $1,26 \pm 0,3$  g/dL (diurna) respectivamente, siendo en este grupo de nuevo donde se produce un incremento estadísticamente significativo ( $P < 0,05$ ) en los niveles de proteína, entre las muestras diurnas y nocturnas (fig. 1).

#### Discusión

Con respecto a los resultados de nitrógeno total y proteína, observamos diferencias entre las tres etapas de lactancia, obteniéndose los mayores valores de ambos parámetros durante la etapa calostro. En las etapas posteriores, es decir, en transición y madura, aparece una disminución progresiva de estas variables, encontrándose las concentraciones mínimas en la leche madura.

Respecto a la variabilidad en un periodo de 24 horas entre muestras diurnas y nocturnas, cabe incidir que los valores de nitrógeno total y proteínas en las muestras nocturnas superaron ligeramente a los valores diurnos, coincidiendo con lo descrito por Cregan y cols.<sup>8</sup> para la prolactina donde se observó un aumento de dicha hormona en la leche materna durante el periodo comprendido entre las 22:00 y las 10:00 horas. Por ello podría

ser consistente la idea de la variación de componentes en proteínas<sup>9</sup>, ya que existen cambios circadianos para otros macronutrientes como la lactosa, cuya menor concentración acontece en una población analizada a las 19:00 h<sup>10</sup>, mientras que para otros oligosacáridos dicha hora coincide con el momento de mayor concentración. A su vez para otros micronutrientes de la leche humana, dicha variabilidad circadiana ya ha quedado patente, como fue el caso de los minerales sodio y potasio y de elementos traza como: hierro, cobre y zinc<sup>11,12</sup>.

Dicho incremento en las muestras del periodo nocturno, sobre todo en muestras pertenecientes a madres con lactancia instaurada y donde el periodo de tomas a lo largo del día se encuentra muy regulado y establecido de forma constante, podría deberse al balance energético de la madre y a su regulación hormonal a través de la lactancia, donde por ejemplo la leptina juega un papel determinante al disminuir sus niveles tras el periodo de lactancia, aumentando en modelo animal durante el periodo nocturno<sup>13</sup>.

Otra de las causas podría ser la pauta de temporalidad pandrial establecida por el lactante, donde en una lactancia madura son mayores las tomas durante el periodo diurno lo cual podría suponer que tras ese mayor número de ingestas el aporte proteico es menor que durante la noche, donde el periodo postpandrial es mayor debido al menor número de tomas, aunque como hándicap para el lactante, tendría menor digestibilidad y mayor carga renal durante la noche por los solutos derivados de la ingesta proteica<sup>14</sup>.

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Original

## Efecto del soporte nutricional sobre la supervivencia en pacientes con esclerosis lateral amiotrófica

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### Resumen

**Introducción:** La desnutrición influye en la morbimortalidad del paciente con ELA. La unidad de nutrición debe evaluar al paciente precoz y periódicamente ofreciendo las medidas necesarias en la evolución de la enfermedad.

**Métodos:** Estudio retrospectivo de cohortes en el que se analizaron 46 pacientes con diagnóstico de ELA, de los cuales 21 se encontraban en tratamiento nutricional. Se estudió la edad, forma de inicio de la enfermedad, fecha de entrada en protocolo nutricional, la colocación o no de PEG, y la supervivencia. Se realizó un test de Breslow comparando pacientes que estuvieron en protocolo nutricional respecto de aquellos que no recibieron terapia nutricional, y de aquellos que entraron antes en protocolo respecto de los que entraron después.

**Resultados:** Existió un aumento en la mediana de supervivencia en los pacientes en tratamiento nutricional tanto en ELA bulbar (452 vs 55 días) como en ELA espinal (1.798 vs 357 días;  $p = 0,002$ ). La mediana de retraso en el inicio de tratamiento nutricional en la ELA espinal fue de 557 días mientras que en la ELA bulbar fue de 230 días; en la ELA espinal los que entraron en protocolo nutricional antes de la mediana tuvieron una supervivencia de 325 días respecto a 181 días ( $p = 0,09$ ); en la ELA bulbar los que entraron antes de la mediana tuvieron una supervivencia de 435 días respecto a 177 días ( $p = 0,38$ ).

**Conclusiones:** La entrada de los pacientes con ELA en un protocolo nutricional conlleva un aumento de la supervivencia. Existe una ventaja en la evolución en los pacientes que comienzan antes el tratamiento nutricional.

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Palabras clave: Esclerosis lateral amiotrófica. Nutrición. Gastrostomía endoscópica percutánea. Disfagia.

### EFFECT OF NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT ON SURVIVAL IN PATIENTS WITH AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS

### Abstract

**Introduction:** Malnutrition affects morbidity and mortality of patients with ALS. The nutrition unit should evaluate these patients early and regularly providing the necessary steps in the evolution of the disease.

**Methods:** A retrospective cohort study in which we analyzed 46 patients diagnosed with ALS, 21 of them received nutritional therapy. We studied age, mode of onset, date of entry into a nutritional protocol, placement of PEG and survival. We performed a test of Breslow comparing patients who were at nutritional protocol with those not receiving nutritional support, and those who received early nutritional therapy with those with delayed nutrition.

**Results:** There was an increase in median survival for patients in nutritional therapy in bulbar ALS (452 vs 55 days) and in spinal ALS (1,798 vs 357 days) ( $p = 0.002$ ). The median delay in the initiation of nutritional therapy in spinal ALS was 557 days while in bulbar ALS was 230 days. The survival in the spinal ALS of those who entered into nutritional protocol before the median survival was 325 days to 181 days ( $p = 0.09$ ) while in bulbar ALS those who entered before had a median survival of 435 days to 177 days ( $p = 0.38$ ).

**Conclusions:** The entry of patients with ALS in a nutritional protocol increases survival. There is an advantage in the evolution of patients with early nutritional treatment.

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Key words: Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Nutrition. Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy. Dysphagia.

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## Abreviaturas

ELA: Esclerosis lateral amiotrófica.  
PEG: Gastrostomía endoscópica percutánea.  
GRI: Gastrostomía radiológicamente insertada.

## Introducción

La esclerosis lateral amiotrófica (ELA) es una enfermedad neurológica degenerativa que se produce por una alteración de las neuronas de la vía piramidal lo que da lugar a distintos trastornos motores que van apareciendo de manera progresiva. Se distinguen dos tipos de ELA en función de su forma de inicio: una ELA espinal que se inicia con trastornos motores a nivel de extremidades y una ELA bulbar con trastornos motores a nivel de pares craneales<sup>1</sup>.

La ELA esporádica tiene una incidencia en países occidentales de entre 1,5-2,7 casos nuevos por 100.000 personas/año (en España 1 caso nuevo por 100.000 personas/año)<sup>2</sup> con una prevalencia de entre 2,7-7,4 por 100.000 personas (en España 3,5 casos por 100.000 habitantes)<sup>3</sup>. La distribución es similar en hombres y mujeres, dándose en edades entre 55 y 65 años. La mortalidad varía entre 1,45-2,55 por 100.000 personas/año. La supervivencia media en estos pacientes desde el diagnóstico es de entre 2 y 5 años<sup>3,4</sup>. Aunque la mayoría de los casos son esporádicos un 5% de los pacientes con ELA tienen un componente familiar con una herencia autosómica dominante con alta penetrancia<sup>5</sup>.

Esta enfermedad se caracteriza por una pérdida de fuerza y del tono de la masa muscular, disminuyendo la misma por las consecuentes alteraciones tróficas y por un estado de malnutrición más o menos temprana.

El tratamiento de esta enfermedad puede ser: a) etiológico, basado en el control de la excitotoxicidad sobre las neuronas que produce el daño, con resultados bastante discretos sobre el pronóstico<sup>6</sup>; b) sintomático, en el que tienen especial importancia el soporte respiratorio y nutricional<sup>7</sup>.

La malnutrición es frecuente en este tipo de pacientes caracterizada por una pérdida de peso en relación con la disminución de la ingesta: por la disfagia, anorexia, trastornos gastrointestinales o por debilidad en la extremidad superior; y, por otra parte, un aumento de los requerimientos energéticos por un hipermetabolismo paradójico<sup>8</sup>.

Este déficit nutricional incrementa la pérdida de masa magra y grasa acelerando la atrofia muscular, especialmente de la musculatura respiratoria, por otra parte ocasiona una disfunción del sistema inmune incrementando el riesgo de infecciones. Ambas situaciones desencadenan la muerte de manera más temprana<sup>9</sup>.

Se suele remitir a los pacientes afectados de ELA a la consulta de nutrición ante los primeros indicios de disfagia, lo que suele darse en la mayoría de los casos en fases muy avanzadas de la enfermedad.

Ante los datos expuestos se decidió estudiar si la nutrición influye en la evolución de la enfermedad, planteándonos los siguientes objetivos: 1) Demostrar que la intervención nutricional mejora la supervivencia en el paciente con ELA. 2) Demostrar que la entrada precoz en un protocolo nutricional mejora la supervivencia en pacientes con ELA. 3) Demostrar que la implantación de gastrostomía endoscópica percutánea (PEG) en pacientes con ELA mejora su evolución y supervivencia.

## Material y métodos

### Diseño del estudio

Se realizó un estudio observacional analítico retrospectivo de cohortes. Todos los pacientes se encontraban diagnosticados de ELA y se describió una cohorte de pacientes en seguimiento por el especialista en Endocrinología y Nutrición y otra cohorte de pacientes sin ese seguimiento. Dentro de los pacientes con nutrición se distinguió entre aquellos portadores de PEG y aquellos que no lo eran.

### Pacientes

Los pacientes se reclutaron a partir del servicio de codificación del Complejo Asistencial de León estableciendo como criterio de selección el diagnóstico de esclerosis lateral amiotrófica. Se seleccionaron pacientes desde el año 1995 y, de estos, se excluyeron aquellos cuya supervivencia superaba el intervalo medio de supervivencia (24-60 meses), debido a que se suele tratar de casos que no se corresponden con la evolución natural de la enfermedad. Se estratificaron los pacientes en función de la forma de inicio de la ELA (bulbar o espinal).

Se encontraron un total de 46 pacientes de los cuales se seleccionaron 45 y se desechó 1 paciente. De estos 45 pacientes: 29 tenían diagnóstico de ELA espinal y 16 de ELA bulbar (fig. 1).

Se consideraron pacientes con nutrición aquellos que estuvieron en un protocolo nutricional durante un tiempo mayor de 30 días, de la misma manera consideramos portadores de PEG a los que la tuvieron al menos durante 30 días. Se acotó de esta manera porque la intervención nutricional en un período tan corto no influye en el pronóstico<sup>10,11,12,13</sup>.

### Revisión de los pacientes

A partir de aquí se realizó una revisión sistemática de las historias clínicas de la que se obtuvieron: sexo; fecha de nacimiento; fecha de diagnóstico de la ELA (se tomó la fecha en la que en la historia clínica aparecía el diagnóstico cierto de ELA); fecha de inicio del

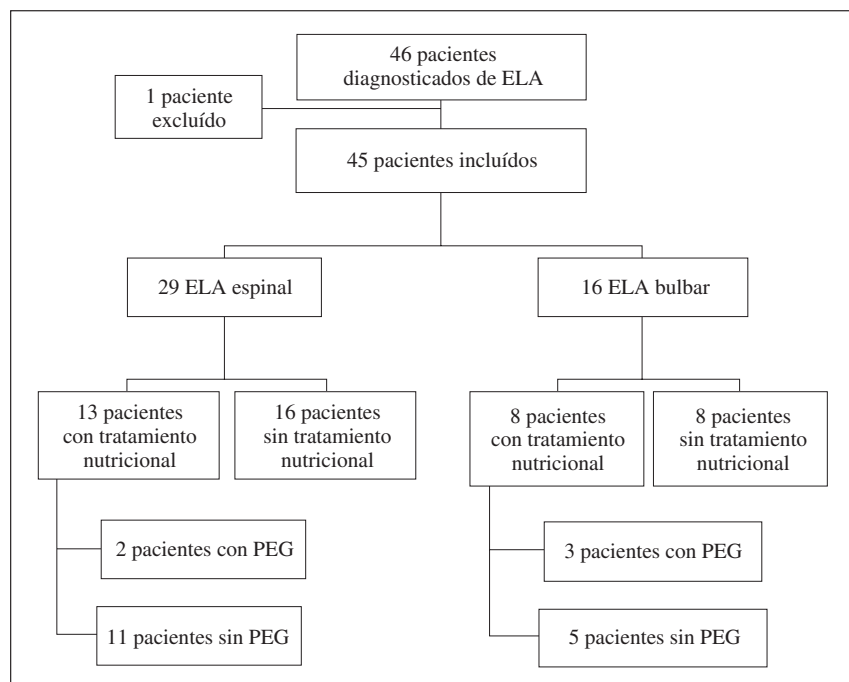


Fig. 1.—Estratificación y distribución de los pacientes estudiados en los distintos grupos.

tratamiento nutricional (se tomó como fecha aquella en la que se realiza la primera consulta con el especialista en Endocrinología y Nutrición); fecha de inicio de tratamiento con gastrostomía endoscópica percutánea (PEG) (en aquellos pacientes en tratamiento nutricional en los que se realizó PEG); última fecha (última fecha a la que se hacía referencia en la historia de neurología o nutrición); fecha de muerte (reflejada en el informe de exitus del paciente; en pacientes con un retraso de más de 6 meses sin causa justificada a la asistencia a la consulta, con mal estado general y/o derivación a centro de larga estancia se le considera fecha de exitus probable).

#### Análisis estadístico

En la estadística descriptiva de los datos recogidos de la historia se calcularon las medias y medianas de edad, de retraso en el inicio de la nutrición, en la implantación de la PEG y de supervivencia en todos los grupos.

La supervivencia se midió calculando los días en función del lapso de tiempo entre el diagnóstico y la última fecha reflejada en la historia o la fecha de éxitus en el caso de que la hubiese.

Se procedió a realizar un análisis de la supervivencia mediante el test de Breslow (Kaplan-Meier) de los datos obtenidos comparando: a) El grupo de pacientes en protocolo nutricional y los que no lo estaban. b) Dentro del grupo de pacientes con nutrición aquellos

portadores de PEG y aquellos que no lo eran. c) Entre los pacientes en protocolo nutricional aquellos que entraron antes de la mediana de retraso de inicio de dicho protocolo y los que entraron después, para valorar si la entrada temprana mejoraba la supervivencia de los pacientes. Se analizó sobre el total de pacientes y estratificando en función del tipo de ELA (espinal o bulbar) ya que cada una tiene un pronóstico diferente.

Los resultados se expresan en forma de media (desviación estándar) y mediana. Se considera estadísticamente significativa un valor  $p < 0,05$ .

#### Resultados

Se analizaron un total de 45 pacientes (26 hombres y 19 mujeres), 29 pacientes (69,44%) padecían ELA espinal y 16 pacientes (35,56%) ELA bulbar. Un 46,67% de los pacientes entraron en protocolo nutricional y a un 11,11% se les implantó PEG: en ELA espinal 13 pacientes (2 pacientes con PEG) y en ELA bulbar 8 pacientes (3 pacientes con PEG).

La media de edad en pacientes con nutrición era de 63,37 (13,17) años [(ELA bulbar: 68,72 (9,22) años; ELA espinal: 59,66 (14,50) años] y en pacientes sin nutrición 68,44 (11,18) años [(ELA bulbar: 69,85 (7,69) años; ELA espinal: 67,73 (12,74) años)]. No se encontró diferencia significativa entre los distintos grupos ( $p = 0,165$ ).

La mediana de retraso entre el diagnóstico y la primera consulta de Nutrición es de 230 días en los

| <b>Tabla I</b><br><b>Mediana de supervivencia en función de la entrada o no en protocolo nutricional, estratificando en función del tipo de ELA</b> |          |            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|
| Supervivencia (mediana)                                                                                                                             | Bulbar   | Espinal    |
| Nutrición                                                                                                                                           | 452 días | 1.798 días |
| No nutrición                                                                                                                                        | 55 días  | 357 días   |

pacientes con ELA bulbar y de 557 días en ELA espinal. Entre estos pacientes los portadores PEG tienen un retraso en la implantación desde el diagnóstico de 933,40 (1.398,58) días [(en ELA bulbar 255,75 (250,58) y en ELA espinal 1.385,17 (1.694,37) días)].

La media de supervivencia en pacientes con ELA que entraron en un protocolo nutricional durante más de 30 días fue 1.568,62 (388,80) días, con una mediana de 873 días (IC 95%: 494,5-1.251,5), mientras que en pacientes que no entraron la media fue 572,05 (136,05) y la mediana 214 días (IC 95%: 0-479,3,  $p = 0,013$ ). La diferencia resultó significativa con  $p = 0,004$ .

Estratificando en función del tipo de ELA también existió una mejora en la supervivencia en pacientes con nutrición de manera significativa con  $p = 0,002$  (tabla I). Observamos un aumento en la probabilidad de supervi-

| <b>Tabla II</b><br><b>Mediana de supervivencia en función de la implantación o no de GEP, estratificando en función del tipo de ELA</b> |          |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Supervivencia (mediana)                                                                                                                 | Bulbar   | Espinal  |
| PEG                                                                                                                                     | 461 días | 873 días |
| No PEG                                                                                                                                  | 330 días | 911 días |

vencia en pacientes con ambos tipos de ELA dentro del grupo que estaban en protocolo nutricional (fig. 2).

Dentro del grupo de pacientes en tratamiento nutricional se colocó PEG en 5 pacientes (2 en ELA espinal y 3 en ELA bulbar) y la tuvieron durante más de 30 días. Al comparar los datos con el resto de pacientes en tratamiento nutricional la mediana de supervivencia fue de 873 días respecto a 513 días en el grupo sin PEG (con y sin nutrición), aunque estos resultados fueron no significativos  $p = 0,258$ . Estratificando en función del tipo de ELA se observó una discreta mejoría en la supervivencia de los pacientes con ELA bulbar (tabla II), pero tampoco resultó significativo.

Entre los pacientes en tratamiento nutricional: a) En ELA bulbar la mediana de retraso de inicio del tratamiento fue de 230 días, aquellos que entraron antes de

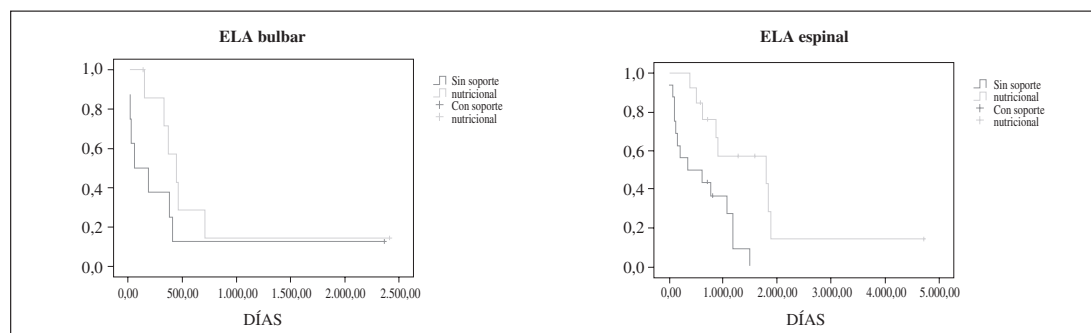


Fig. 2.—Curvas de probabilidad de supervivencia estratificando en función del tipo de ELA.

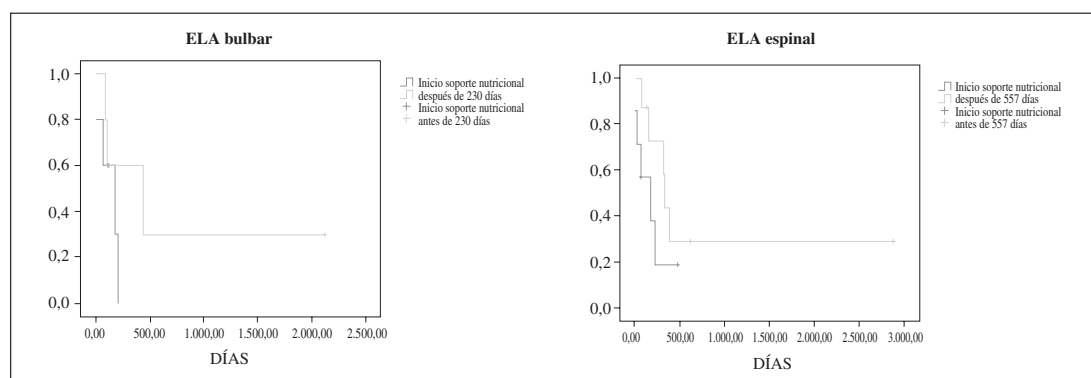


Fig. 3.—Curvas de probabilidad de supervivencia estratificando en función del momento de inicio de la nutrición.

la mediana tuvieron una media de supervivencia de 806,5 (442,15) días respecto a 128,90 (41,82) días en los que entraron después (mediana: 435 vs 177 días). La diferencia no fue significativa  $p = 0,36$ . b) En ELA espinal la mediana de retraso de inicio del tratamiento fue de 557 días, aquellos que entraron antes de la mediana tuvieron una media de supervivencia de 1.024,5 (452,47) días respecto a 185,57 (64,91) días en los que entraron después (mediana: 325 vs 181 días). Los resultados tampoco fueron significativos  $p = 0,09$  (fig. 3).

## Discusión

El beneficio de la nutrición en el paciente con esclerosis lateral amiotrófica es un hecho contrastado y recomendado en las guías clínicas publicadas a este respecto<sup>14,15</sup>. Los objetivos de la intervención nutricional son, en primer lugar, asegurar las necesidades de energía, líquidos, vitaminas y minerales. En segundo lugar, prevenir las complicaciones de la disfagia como la aspiración<sup>7</sup>, para ello usamos las siguientes técnicas: a) Medidas higiénico-dietéticas, para aumentar la ingesta ante el hipercatabolismo existente y mejorar la deglución<sup>9</sup>; consejo dietético; consistencia de la comida; medidas mecánicas. b) Medidas intervencionistas, en pacientes con desnutrición severa: gastrostomía endoscópica percutánea (PEG) (requiere una capacidad vital mayor del 50% y un estado nutricional aceptable); gastrostomía radiológicamente insertada (GRI) (en aquellos pacientes con capacidad vital < 50% se ha mostrado más segura que la GEP y con beneficios en la supervivencia)<sup>16,27</sup>; sonda nasogástrica (en pacientes con mal estado general que no soportan una intervención más agresiva); nutrición parenteral (en el paciente en estado terminal, es una técnica segura y bien tolerada que estabiliza el peso y los parámetros nutricionales)<sup>17</sup>.

El objetivo de este estudio era comprobar el cumplimiento de las guías en nuestro centro e ir un paso más allá evaluando si la precocidad en la implantación de las distintas medidas (más o menos intervencionistas) puede ser un factor que influya en el pronóstico y, por lo tanto la supervivencia de los pacientes.

Este estudio nos ha ayudado a comprobar la situación de la enfermedad en el área de salud de León aunque no fuese el fin último del mismo. La distribución de la población con diagnóstico de ELA en León se corresponde con las características epidemiológicas en el resto de España<sup>2</sup>, con un ligero predominio en varones (26 hombres frente a 19 mujeres) y una media de edad en torno a los 65 años. Menos de la mitad de los pacientes estuvieron en seguimiento por un especialista en Nutrición, al no ser derivados o por ser derivados en etapas demasiado tardías de la evolución en las que la intervención nutricional ya no podía implicar un cambio en el pronóstico y la calidad de vida.

Entre los pacientes que fueron seguidos por el endocrinólogo el retraso de la derivación a la consulta fue muy elevado sobre todo en ELA espinal (557 días) siendo bastante menor en ELA bulbar (230 días), lo que se puede achacar a que el paciente es enviado con la aparición de las primeras manifestaciones de la disfagia (atragantamiento con los líquidos, tos con la ingesta...), cuya aparición y progresión es muy variable<sup>24</sup>. Este retraso en la derivación supone una mayor influencia de los factores que desencadenan la desnutrición, sobre todo en ELA espinal, lo que nos podría empeorar el pronóstico<sup>8</sup>.

Existe un aumento notable de la probabilidad de supervivencia en los pacientes que estuvieron en tratamiento nutricional respecto de los que no lo estuvieron con resultados altamente significativos. Para evitar el sesgo debido a la progresión irregular de la enfermedad se estratificaron los pacientes en dos grupos (ELA bulbar y ELA espinal) obteniendo un incremento en la supervivencia en ambos grupos. Esto demuestra la hipótesis del estudio y corrobora los datos de los distintos estudios realizados a este respecto<sup>18</sup>.

Dentro de los pacientes que entraron en protocolo nutricional, se valoró la utilidad de la entrada precoz en el mismo teniendo en cuenta la mediana de supervivencia en cada uno de los grupos. Se obtuvo una ventaja de la supervivencia en aquellos pacientes que entraron antes pero sin significación estadística, en relación probablemente con el escaso número de pacientes analizados (13 pacientes en ELA espinal y 8 pacientes en ELA bulbar).

No se pudieron comparar los diferentes parámetros nutricionales entre el grupo control y el grupo de estudio<sup>19</sup>, al no existir una valoración de éstos desde el diagnóstico. Tampoco se realizaron cuestionarios de calidad de vida para estimar la situación clínica y social del paciente y la influencia de la nutrición en ellas<sup>20</sup>.

Estos resultados plantean la necesidad de estandarizar la atención al paciente con ELA desde un punto de vista multidisciplinar en la cual la nutrición tiene un papel primordial, más teniendo en cuenta que el tratamiento etiológico con riluzole e IGF-1 recombinante no tiene un impacto importante en la supervivencia (2-3 meses) ni resulta coste-efectivo<sup>21</sup>. Se debería realizar la derivación al especialista en Nutrición al diagnóstico o en estadios iniciales de la enfermedad para evitar los efectos del hipercatabolismo y, sobre todo, antes de la aparición de la disfagia<sup>22</sup>. La disfagia es uno de los hechos que condiciona el pronóstico porque acelera el deterioro nutricional y da lugar a complicaciones, como la neumonía por aspiración que pueden provocar la muerte prematura. Normalmente aparece tarde y de manera muy variable en la ELA espinal, pero suele ser uno de los primeros síntomas en la ELA bulbar<sup>23,24</sup>. Es necesario detectar la disfagia de manera precoz para lo que se utiliza: la realización de una anamnesis detallada, test de disfagia basados en el uso de distintas sustancias de consistencia variable, la manometría esofágica y la videofluoroscopia que es el "gold standard"<sup>25,26</sup>.

Otra de las características estudiadas era valorar la influencia de la PEG en la supervivencia. No existe ningún ensayo aleatorio controlado que demuestre que mejora la supervivencia pero se ha observado una ventaja en la misma en los portadores en estudios de cohortes prospectivos<sup>27</sup>. También ha demostrado que ayuda a la ingesta nutricional adecuada y la estabilización del peso<sup>28</sup>.

El número de pacientes a los que se les implantó PEG y la tuvieron más de 30 días fue muy escaso (5 pacientes (2 en ELA espinal y 3 en ELA bulbar)), con un retraso muy importante desde el diagnóstico y con la disfagia plenamente instaurada. Como consecuencia se obtuvieron resultados muy poco valorables de los que no se pueden sacar conclusiones significativas. La PEG es una técnica que, en esta enfermedad, tiene una utilidad contrastada asegurando la ingesta y manteniendo el peso, pero resultados muy dispares en cuanto a supervivencia y calidad de vida debido a la dificultad de realizar estudios con resultados consistentes<sup>22</sup>. Por otra parte el retraso de la PEG se puede relacionar con el potente componente psicológico de su implantación en el paciente en fases tempranas de la enfermedad donde podría tener un mayor impacto en la supervivencia. Esta situación nos lleva a una ejecución tardía de la técnica, en una fase avanzada de la enfermedad donde los efectos son más modestos y que incluso puede empeorar el curso de la misma<sup>29,30</sup>.

Las principales limitaciones de este estudio son por una parte las debidas a la evolución de la enfermedad al existir una gran dispersión en los datos de supervivencia; por otra parte las relacionadas con el escaso número de pacientes en protocolo nutricional.

## Conclusiones

En conclusión, el soporte nutricional se asocia a un aumento de la supervivencia de los pacientes con ELA. Aunque se hace necesario un estudio prospectivo con un mayor número de casos en el que poder valorar de manera fehaciente que su intervención precoz y la implantación de gastrostomía endoscópica percutánea son actuaciones que pueden mejorar la supervivencia y la calidad de vida de estos pacientes.

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Original

## Estudio de estabilidad de mezclas de nutrición parenteral extemporáneas neonatológicas con lípidos

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### Resumen

La estabilidad de Mezclas de Nutrición Parenteral Extemporáneas (MNPE) es un aspecto fundamental de estas formulaciones, con impacto en la seguridad del paciente y la calidad de la atención. En emulsiones lipídicas, un criterio para determinar su estabilidad física es en base al incremento del número de glóbulos lipídicos de diámetro mayor a 500 nm, generados por coalescencia de glóbulos de pequeño tamaño en el tiempo.

**Objetivos:** Determinar tamaño medio de los glóbulos lipídicos que componen la fase interna en emulsiones de MNPE, a los fines de evaluar su estabilidad y poder establecer el tiempo de vida útil de las mismas. Evaluar perfil de distribución de tamaños de dichos glóbulos en la mezcla y compararlo con el de la emulsión lipídica base.

**Método:** Análisis del tamaño de glóbulo lipídico mediante técnica de dispersión dinámica de la luz en una fórmula neonatológica de uso frecuente, almacenada en diferentes períodos de tiempos y temperaturas.

**Resultados:** En ninguna de las muestras analizadas el diámetro medio de los glóbulos lipídicos de la MNPE supera el límite recomendado en bibliografía de referencia. El tamaño medio de los glóbulos lipídicos y su distribución en la emulsión base no manifiesta cambios significativos al formular la MNPE.

**Discusión:** Los datos obtenidos permiten considerar que la MNPE evaluada poseería una estabilidad mayor al período de vida útil asignado hasta el momento por el Laboratorio productor. Profundizar investigación con otras formulaciones de MNPE para optimizar estimaciones de límites de vida útil de este tipo de emulsiones.

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Palabras clave: Nutrición parenteral. Emulsiones lipídicas. Estabilidad. Mezclado. Triglicéridos de cadena media.

### STABILITY STUDY OF PAEDIATRIC EXTemporANEOUS PARENTERAL NUTRITION WITH LIPIDS

### Abstract

Stability of extemporaneous parenteral nutrition is a critical aspect of these formulations, with impact in patient safety and quality of service. In lipid emulsions physical stability can be assessed by the increase in the number of lipid globules of size superior than 500 nm, generated by coalescence of small globules during time.

**Objectives:** to determine medium size of the lipid globules that compose the internal phase of TNA, in order to evaluate its stability and establish beyond-use date of the parenteral nutrition. To evaluate distribution profile of the lipid globules in the parenteral nutrition and compare it with this of the lipid emulsion used as raw material.

**Method:** globule size assessment by dynamic light scattering in a paediatric extemporaneous parenteral nutrition formula of frequent use, stored in different periods of time and temperatures.

**Results:** medium globule size of the parenteral nutrition analyzed samples did not exceed the limit recommended by literature. Medium size and distribution of the lipid globules in the original lipid emulsion did not have significative changes after the compounding of the parenteral nutrition.

**Discussion:** obtained data allow to consider that the extemporaneous parenteral nutrition evaluated would have a beyond-use date superior than the one now in use. This research must be deepened by the study of other formulas of parenteral nutrition in order to optimize the setting of beyond-use date.

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Key words: Parenteral nutrition. Lipid emulsions. Stability. Compounding. Medium-chain triglycerides.

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## Abreviaturas

ANMAT: Administración Nacional de Medicamentos, Alimentos y Tecnología Médica.  
csp: "cantidad suficiente para".  
DDL: Dispersión dinámica de la luz.  
 $D_{DDL}$ : Tamaño medio de glóbulo lipídico.  
DTG: Distribución de tamaños de los glóbulos lipídicos.  
ECF: Espectroscopia de correlación fotónica.  
EVA: Etilén-vinil-acetato.  
LCT: Triglicéridos de cadena larga.  
MCT: Triglicéridos de cadena media.  
MNPE: Mezclas de Nutrición Parenteral Extemporáneas.  
%P/V: Relación de porcentaje peso en volumen.  
USP 31: United States Pharmacopeia, Edición 31.

## Introducción

El agregado de emulsiones lipídicas a las mezclas de nutrición parenteral brinda un sistema de combustión mixto (hidratos de carbono más lípidos) que evita el exceso de cualquiera de estas dos fuentes de energía y sus complicaciones concomitantes. Su administración continua y conjunta posee múltiples beneficios, ya descritos en diferentes publicaciones, entre ellos: es "más fisiológica", brinda mayor tolerancia, mejora el equilibrio de nitrógeno, disminuye el estado hiperinsulinémico y sus consecuencias negativas, simplifica el tratamiento de soporte nutricional, y disminuye la posibilidad de contaminación por manipulación<sup>1,2</sup>.

Las mezclas de nutrición parenteral extemporáneas (MNPE) son aquellas contenidas en un envase único, compuestas por hidratos de carbono, aminoácidos, lípidos, vitaminas, electrolitos, oligoelementos y/o fármacos, destinadas a un paciente individualizado, y con un reducido período de vida útil<sup>3</sup>.

Estas mezclas son complejas por contener más de cincuenta entidades químicas diferentes, con alto potencial de interacción entre sí y su entorno, tanto durante su elaboración y conservación hasta su posterior administración al paciente. Por lo tanto, la compatibilidad y estabilidad de las mezclas es una responsabilidad que debe asumirse como un aspecto más del cuidado del paciente<sup>4</sup>.

La estabilidad de las mezclas se encuentra afectada por diferentes factores: pH de la solución, concentración de aminoácidos, tipo y concentración de lípidos, concentración de cationes divalentes, orden de mezclado, agregado de oligoelementos traza, presencia de oxígeno, exposición a la luz y temperaturas extremas<sup>5,6,7,8</sup>. El proceso de mezclado ejerce una gran influencia en la seguridad de la mezcla final, durante el mismo se inician procesos de degradación e interacciones químicas que son clínicamente importantes (oxidación, precipitación, coalescencia, entre otros)<sup>9</sup>. En el caso particular de mezclas para

neonatología, el elevado aporte de calcio y de fósforo que requieren estos pacientes, necesario para la osteogénesis, suma posibilidades de alterar la estabilidad, por lo cual debe ser restringido hasta valores considerados seguros desde el punto de vista de la compatibilidad<sup>6,10</sup>.

A lo anterior se suma el hecho de que las emulsiones lipídicas usadas como aporte de ácidos grasos son termodinámicamente inestables, esto se manifiesta como un incremento del número de glóbulos lipídicos de gran diámetro, generados por coalescencia de la población inicial de glóbulos de tamaño inferior a 500 nm, cuando el surfactante falla en mantener una carga de superficie efectiva asociada al potencial zeta<sup>11</sup>. Esto es crucial para la seguridad de la mezcla y del paciente, ya que puede conducir a una obturación de los capilares pulmonares con los glóbulos de gran diámetro. Por lo cual, un criterio propuesto para determinar su estabilidad física es en base al incremento del número de glóbulos lipídicos de diámetro superior a 500 nm en el transcurso del tiempo<sup>12</sup>. Diferentes estudios han demostrado que la utilización como materia prima de mezcla de lípidos MCT-LCT (triglicéridos de cadena media-triglicéridos de cadena larga) otorgan mayor estabilidad, considerándose que los MCT logran una ubicación interfacial más favorable en la superficie del glóbulo<sup>13,14</sup>.

Todo el circuito de utilización de mezclas de nutrición parenteral extemporáneas, desde su prescripción hasta el monitoreo de su administración, debe asegurar sus principales requisitos: estabilidad, compatibilidad y esterilidad, en busca de lograr la efectividad de la nutrición y contribuir a la seguridad del paciente.

Por todo lo anterior, la asignación del tiempo de vida útil de la mezcla se debe basar en la mejor información disponible que asegure que esas reacciones no progresen hasta un punto en que la infusión produzca efectos adversos clínicamente evidentes<sup>9</sup>.

Nuestro estudio busca obtener datos de estabilidad de las mezclas de nutrición parenteral elaboradas, a través de la medición del tamaño medio de los glóbulos lipídicos, a los fines de optimizar la estimación de su tiempo de vida útil.

## Objetivos

Determinar el tamaño medio de los glóbulos lipídicos que componen la fase interna en emulsiones de MNPE, a los fines de evaluar su estabilidad y poder, mediante estudios sucesivos, establecer el tiempo de vida útil de las mismas. A su vez, complementando el objetivo anterior, se propone también evaluar el perfil de distribución de tamaños de dichos glóbulos en la mezcla y compararlo con el correspondiente a la emulsión lipídica base utilizada como materia prima, para evidenciar si existen alteraciones del mismo como consecuencia del proceso de elaboración.

## Métodos

Para comenzar con los estudios de estabilidad se escogió una formulación para nutrición parenteral de tipo neonatológica. Los motivos por los cuales fue elegido este tipo de fórmula son: su mayor frecuencia de prescripción respecto a las fórmulas nutricionales de pediatría y adultos por parte de los servicios de salud atendidos por nuestro laboratorio, y el desafío farmacotécnico en la elaboración de fórmulas que requieren elevadas concentraciones de calcio y fósforo pudiendo generar mayor inestabilidad fisicoquímica de la emulsión. Como consecuencia de esto último, se han desarrollado numerosas investigaciones con el fin de determinar la estabilidad de estas mezclas, que se han considerado para el desarrollo de este estudio<sup>12,15</sup>.

La MNPE seleccionada es del tipo 3 en 1, compuesta por los macronutrientes dextrosa, aminoácidos y lípidos; los micronutrientes calcio, fósforo, sodio, potasio y magnesio; los oligoelementos zinc, manganeso, molibdeno, cromo, cobre y selenio y las vitaminas en forma de complejo multivitamínico que posee una mezcla de las variantes hidrosolubles y liposolubles. Las cantidades o dosis utilizadas de cada uno de los componentes se consideran dentro de las recomendadas para este grupo etáreo por asociaciones de referencia<sup>1,2,7</sup> y que en este caso corresponden a un paciente de 2,00 kilogramos, con un aporte hídrico de 120 ml/kg y un diagnóstico de bajo peso para la edad, sin patologías asociadas. La composición detallada, indicando cantidad y tipo de cada componente, se presenta en la tabla I.

La fase interna oleosa de esta MNPE representa un 2,08% P/V del total de la misma, siendo aportada por la emulsión base de lípidos Lipofundin MCT/LCT 20%E de Laboratorio BBraun Melsungen AG (Alemania).

**Tabla I**  
*Fórmula cuali-cuantitativa de la MNPE estudiada*

| Componente                       | Cantidad    |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Dextrosa                         | 34,00 g     |
| Aminoácidos                      | 5,00 g      |
| Lípidos MCT / LCT                | 5,00 g      |
| Calcio (gluconato de calcio)     | 4,00 mEq    |
| Fósforo (Fosfato de sodio)       | 3,07 mEq    |
| Sodio (cloruro de sodio)         | 4,00 mEq    |
| Potasio (cloruro de potasio)     | 4,00 mEq    |
| Zinc (sulfato de zinc)           | 0,60 mg     |
| Magnesio (sulfato de magnesio)   | 1,00 mEq    |
| Manganeso (sulfato de manganeso) | 2,00 µg     |
| Cromo (cloruro de cromo)         | 0,40 µg     |
| Cobre (sulfato de cobre)         | 0,04 µg     |
| Selenio (ácido selenioso)        | 4,00 µg     |
| Molibdeno (molibdato de amonio)  | 0,50 µg     |
| Multivitamínico pediátrico       | 4,00 ml     |
| Agua para inyección              | csp. 240 ml |

Para la elaboración de la fórmula bajo estudio se utilizó el N° de lote 8065A181, con fecha de vencimiento 01/2010, contenida en envase primario de material vidrio. La composición de la emulsión base, por cada 100 ml, es: aceite de soja 10,00 g, triglicéridos de cadena media 10,00 g, alfa-tocoferol 0,02 g, lecitina de huevo 1,20 g, excipientes y agua inyectable.

La MNPE fue elaborada el día 09/03/09 según Procedimientos Operativos Estándar propios del Laboratorio, establecidos en el Sistema de Gestión de Calidad interno. Estos Procedimientos Operativos consideran los lineamientos presentes en las Disposiciones 2592/03 y 2819/04 de ANMAT (Administración Nacional de Medicamentos, Alimentos y Tecnología Médica, dependiente del Ministerio de Salud de la República Argentina) y en recomendaciones de asociaciones de referencia<sup>6-8,16</sup>.

Se utilizaron para el análisis 5 (cinco) fracciones equivalentes de la mezcla propuesta, de 240 ml cada una, denominadas N1 a N5. La fase acuosa de las mismas fue elaborada como una única mezcla, tanto en su método de preparación como respecto a las especialidades medicinales utilizadas como materias primas (mismos lotes), para evitar diferencias surgidas por mezclado independiente de las mismas. Esta mezcla fue luego fraccionada y trasvasada, mediante filtración esterilizante a través de filtro con tamaño de poro de 0,22 micras, a cinco bolsas vacías estériles de etilen-vinil-acetato (EVA) con posterior agregado individual de los lípidos utilizando una bomba volumétrica. A continuación fueron almacenadas en heladera a temperatura entre 2 y 8 °C durante el período en estudio (representación de las condiciones normales de almacenamiento y transporte de las mezclas), y colocadas posteriormente a temperatura ambiente (establecida en 25 °C) durante 24 horas (representación de las condiciones y tiempo de infusión de la mezcla al paciente). Las muestras para las determinaciones fueron extraídas de cada bolsa EVA con jeringas y agujas esterilizadas, de uso único, a través de un septo para tal fin presente en la bolsa, en el momento previo a la medición.

La determinación del tamaño medio de glóbulos lipídicos ( $D_{DDL}$ ) presentes en la MNPE bajo estudio se llevó a cabo mediante la técnica de dispersión dinámica de la luz (DDL) o espectroscopia de correlación fotónica (ECF), basada en el análisis de las fluctuaciones temporales rápidas en la intensidad de la luz dispersada que se produce debido a la difusión de las gotitas o glóbulos de lípido en la emulsión (USP31 <729> Método I), realizando la medición de dicha intensidad a un ángulo de 90° y el manejo de datos con el método de cumulantes cuadrático<sup>12</sup>.

Se realizaron mediciones diarias de cada fracción (N1 a N5), a diferentes tiempos: luego de ser almacenadas en tiempos de incremento progresivo en heladera y luego de estar las 24 h posteriores a temperatura ambiente. Cada muestra de diferente temperatura y/o tiempo de almacenamiento fue medida por triplicado, e

| <b>Tabla II</b><br><i>Diámetro medio de los glóbulos lipídicos de las muestras analizadas (<math>D_{DDL}</math>)</i> |                                                                                                                                                       |                        |                         |                                                                            |                         |                         |                          |                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Tiempo/Condiciones</i>                                                                                            | <i>EB</i><br>27/02/09                                                                                                                                 | <i>3 h</i><br>09/03/09 | <i>24 h</i><br>10/03/09 | <i>48 h</i><br>11/03/09                                                    | <i>72 h</i><br>12/03/09 | <i>96 h</i><br>13/03/09 | <i>120 h</i><br>14/03/09 | <i>504 h</i><br>(21 días) |
| Temperatura entre 2 y 8 °C (H)                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                       | N1H<br>307             | N2H<br>322              | N3H<br>321                                                                 | N4H<br>317              | N5H<br>318              |                          |                           |
| Temperatura ambiente (TA)                                                                                            | 327                                                                                                                                                   |                        | N1TA<br>324             | N2TA<br>316                                                                | N3TA<br>321             | N4TA<br>318             | N5TA<br>317              | N4TA<br>319 (*)           |
| Referencias:                                                                                                         | – Valores promedio en nanómetros.<br>– Desviación estándar: 3 nm<br>– (*): 18 días a temperatura ambiente (30/03/09)<br>– Mediciones efectuadas a 90° |                        |                         | – pH: 5,20<br>– Osmolaridad teórica: 1082,00 mOsm/l<br>– EB: emulsión base |                         |                         |                          |                           |

identificada con la letra H (heladera) o TA (temperatura ambiente), de la siguiente manera:

- Fracción N1: muestra N1H (3 h a temperatura entre 2 y 8 °C) y muestra N1TA (almacenamiento igual a N1H más 24 h a temperatura ambiente).
- Fracción N2: muestra N2H (24 h a temperatura entre 2 y 8 °C) y muestra N2TA (igual a N2H más 24 h a temperatura ambiente).
- Fracción N3: muestra N3H (48 h a temperatura entre 2 y 8 °C) y muestra N3TA (igual a N3H más 24 h a temperatura ambiente),
- Fracción N4: muestra N4H (72 h a temperatura entre 2 y 8 °C) y muestra N4TA (igual a N4H más 24 h a temperatura ambiente),
- Fracción N5: muestra N5H (96 h a temperatura entre 2 y 8 °C) y muestra N5TA (igual a N5H más 24 h a temperatura ambiente).
- Emulsión base de lípidos (Lipofundín MCT/LCT), almacenada a temperatura ambiente.

A su vez, se realizaron mediciones posteriores de la fracción N4 hasta completar los 21 días de almacenamiento luego de elaborada la mezcla.

Los valores de  $D_{DDL}$  observados, según USP 31, en su capítulo <729>, deben ser menores o igual a 500 nm para que la emulsión sea considerada estable y segura<sup>12</sup>.

Para la determinación de la distribución de tamaños de los glóbulos lipídicos (DTG) por dispersión de luz elástica basada en la teoría de Mie se realizaron mediciones a los ángulos 130°; 110°; 90°; 80°; 70°; 60°; 50°; 40° y 30° sobre la emulsión base (EB) y sobre la fracción N4 de MNPE, luego de ser almacenada 96 hs entre 2 y 8 °C (N4H) y posteriormente 24 h a temperatura ambiente (N4TA). El propósito de estas determinaciones fue evaluar el perfil de distribución de tamaños de dichos glóbulos en la mezcla y compararlo con el correspondiente a la emulsión lipídica base utilizada como materia prima, para evidenciar si existen alteraciones del mismo como consecuencia del proceso de elaboración. En ambos casos,  $D_{DDL}$  y DTG, el equipo utilizado consistió en un fotómetro de dispersión de luz Brookhaven Instruments (BI) Inc., con correlador digi-

tal modelo BI-2000 AT, y fuente láser de He-Ne (632.8 nm) verticalmente polarizado, perteneciente al INTEC (Instituto de Desarrollo Tecnológico para la Industria Química, CONICET y Universidad Nacional del Litoral-Santa Fe-Argentina). La concentración se varió de acuerdo a la muestra y al ángulo de detección, con factores de dilución de 0,00145-0,01844, con agua deionizada y destilada. Temperatura de medición: 30 °C, controlada mediante un baño termostático externo.

La velocidad de conteo fue elegida en el valor sugerido por el fabricante del equipo para evitar la dispersión de luz múltiple. A cada ángulo de detección, se ajustó la concentración de la muestra para obtener una velocidad de conteo de 200 cuentas/segundo.

## Resultados

Los valores de  $D_{DDL}$  observados en todas las muestras obtenidas de las cinco fracciones fueron inferiores a 500 nm, es decir dentro de los límites recomendados en el Capítulo 729 “Distribución del tamaño de glóbulos en emulsiones inyectables de lípidos” USP 31<sup>12</sup>. La tabla II muestra los valores promedio de las tres mediciones efectuadas a cada muestra. Cabe destacar que no se observaron modificaciones en los valores  $D_{DDL}$  en muestras de una misma fracción a diferentes condiciones de temperatura, así como tampoco en los diferentes tiempos de almacenamiento.

En el caso específico de la fracción N4, la muestra de la misma, correspondiente a almacenamiento a temperatura ambiente (N4TA), fue mantenida en tales condiciones hasta 21 días después de su fecha de elaboración. Se efectuaron mediciones sucesivas, a diferentes tiempos, las cuales mostraron que el diámetro medio de los glóbulos lipídicos de la emulsión no manifestó variaciones significativas en el período de tiempo analizado (fig. 1). Se realizaron también mediciones a 30° y 130° de la misma MNPE a lo largo del tiempo, observándose que los diámetros medios tampoco mostraron cambios significativos.

En la figura 2 se presentan las DTGs obtenidas a partir de las mediciones de  $D_{DDL}$  y sus variaciones con el

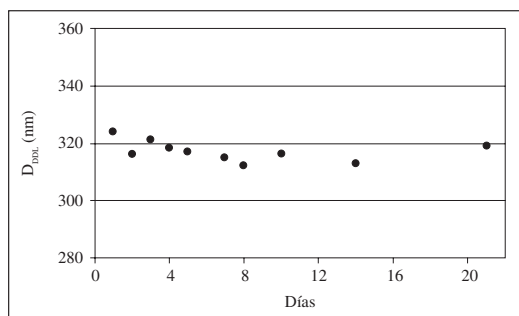


Fig. 1.—Evolución del  $D_{ddl}$  de la emulsión de nutrición parenteral extemporánea, a partir de mediciones efectuadas a  $90^\circ$ , expuesta a temperatura ambiente (N4).

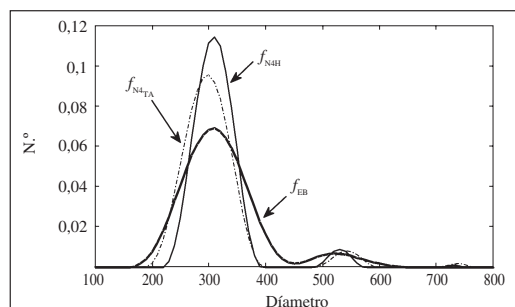
ángulo de medición, para la emulsión base, la muestra N4H y la N4TA. El eje de ordenadas de las DTGs representa la fracción en número de glóbulos con tamaño  $D$ , habiéndose utilizado un incremento de tamaños  $\Delta D = 10$  nm. Las tres muestras analizadas presentaron distribuciones anchas con 2 modos principales centrados alrededor de los 300 y 540 nm, respectivamente. Los valores promedio resultaron muy similares en los tres casos analizados, lo cual indica que dichas fracciones podrían presentar DTGs similares. El método empleado predice también una muy pequeña fracción de gotas de alrededor de 740 nm para las dos fracciones A4 (conservada en heladera y después de 24 hrs. a temperatura ambiente).

## Discusión

En función de los valores observados puede concluirse que en ninguna de las muestras analizadas el diámetro medio de los glóbulos lipídicos de la MNPE superó los límites recomendados en la bibliografía de referencia. Dichos límites fueron establecidos debido a que de ser superados, se produce inestabilidad de la mezcla con posible ruptura de emulsión y el consecuente riesgo para la seguridad del paciente<sup>12</sup>.

En el caso de la emulsión base, es decir la materia prima utilizada como fuente de ácidos grasos (Lipofundin MCT/LCT), el tamaño medio del glóbulo lipídico y la distribución de los mismos no manifiesta cambios significativos al formular la MNPE, ya que se observa el mismo patrón de distribución tanto en dicha emulsión como para las dos fracciones A4 (conservada en heladera y después de 24 hrs. a temperatura ambiente).

Cabe señalar que, según ya ha sido expuesto en publicaciones previas<sup>11,13</sup>, la utilización de mezcla de lípidos MCT/LCT contribuye a la estabilidad fisicoquímica de las MNPE, por lo cual la información obtenida está en concordancia con lo esperado al utilizar mezclas de lípidos MCT/LCT para mejorar la calidad de la nutrición, tanto desde el punto de vista farmacotécnico como clínico, y optimizar así el servicio que se presta.



Ref:  $f_{N4H}$ : fracción almacenada 72 h a  $2-8^\circ\text{C}$ .  
 $f_{N4TA}$ : fracción almacenada 72 h a  $2-8^\circ\text{C}$  y luego 24 h a temperatura ambiente.  
 $f_{EB}$ : emulsión base.

Fig. 2.—Distribuciones de tamaños de glóbulos lipídicos obtenidos para la emulsión base y para la muestra N4 (fracción en número de glóbulos vs diámetro del glóbulo en nm).

La estabilidad de las MNPE depende de numerosos factores, este estudio se enfocó en la estabilidad vinculada al tamaño medio de glóbulos lipídicos debido a su elevado impacto en la seguridad del paciente, por lo cual podría complementarse con estudios posteriores que evalúen la funcionalidad de otros componentes de la mezcla a lo largo del tiempo.

La información obtenida contribuye en la selección de materias primas a utilizar, en la prescripción, elaboración, almacenamiento, distribución y administración de estas especialidades medicinales. Fortaleciendo la estandarización de los procesos involucrados, para prevenir errores, mejorar la seguridad del paciente, la adecuación clínica y el uso eficiente de los recursos, todos ellos objetivos de la calidad en salud<sup>7,17</sup>.

Una limitación de este trabajo es la no disponibilidad en la región de instrumental analítico que permita medir rangos de tamaño de glóbulos lipídicos más amplios, mayores a 2 micras, para poder así establecer los límites de la fase dispersa de los glóbulos de lípidos de diámetro mayor a 5 micras<sup>12,15</sup>. En dicho caso se requerirían traslados superiores a las 5 horas, provocando retardo en el inicio de mediciones (tiempo 0).

Los datos observados sugieren que desde el punto de vista de estabilidad de emulsión lipídica, esta formulación neonatológica de nutrición parenteral extemporánea que contiene lípidos MCT/LCT poseería una estabilidad mayor al período de vida útil asignado hasta el momento por el Laboratorio productor (72 horas). Dicho período fue establecido en base a opiniones de expertos y experiencia previa del equipo de trabajo, siempre priorizando la seguridad del paciente. Aunque los resultados del estudio sustentan la posibilidad de ampliar el período de vida útil hasta 96 h de almacenamiento en heladera más 24 h posteriores a temperatura ambiente, sin presentarse modificaciones en el tamaño de los glóbulos lipídicos, se plantea extender dicho período, fijándolo en hasta 72 horas en heladera ( $2$  a  $8^\circ\text{C}$ ) y posteriormente 24 horas a temperatura ambiente.

Estos valores permiten conjugar el tiempo relacionado con la estabilidad de las mezclas, con los tiempos requeridos para una logística de distribución que asegure la provisión continua y eficiente de las MNPE a las instituciones de salud que las utilizan.

Se propone profundizar esta investigación con otras formulaciones de MNPE de uso frecuente y teóricamente más inestables en función de su composición (menor contenido de aminoácidos, mayor aporte de calcio y fósforo), para optimizar la estimación del período de vida útil de este tipo de emulsiones.

Es importante destacar que las MNPE son especialidades farmacéuticas de elaboración magistral, para las cuales se deben conciliar los requerimientos nutricionales diarios de cada paciente, las restricciones en aportes de determinados componentes debido a patologías específicas, entre otros, con las materias primas disponibles y las herramientas farmacotécnicas que permitan asegurar estabilidad, compatibilidad, esterilidad y efectividad de estas nutriciones parenterales.

## Colaboradores

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Original

# Factors associated with oxidative stress in women with breast cancer

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## Abstract

**Objective:** To assess the association between physiological, physical, lifestyle and nutritional variables and oxidative stress biomarkers in women with breast cancer.

**Methods:** This cross-sectional study was conducted on 55 women newly diagnosed with breast cancer. The extent of oxidative stress was analyzed by the measurement of plasma lipid hydroperoxides (LH), thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS), protein carbonyl, whole blood reduced glutathione (GSH) and serum antioxidant capacity (AC). Diet data were obtained from food frequency questionnaire. Linear regression was used to determine the association between the variables studied and oxidative stress biomarkers. The protein carbonyl data was not included in the linear regression analyses since the data did not show a normal distribution, even after logarithmic and other transformations.

**Results:** After adjusting for energy intake, the intake of chicken and high-fat dairy products was associated with increased levels of LH, while vitamin E intake was associated with decreased LH levels ( $R^2 = 23.8\%$ ). Intake of oils was associated with increased levels of TBARS ( $R^2 = 6.82\%$ ). Positive axillary lymph node status was associated with decreased levels of GSH ( $R^2 = 9.31\%$ ). Increasing age was directly associated with levels of AC, while animal fat, dairy product, and sweet food intakes were associated with low levels of AC ( $R^2 = 41.42\%$ ).

**Conclusion:** Intake of chicken, vitamin E, dairy products (particularly high-fat dairy products), oils, animal fat, and sweet foods, along with axillary lymph node status and age, may be important determinants of oxidative stress in women with breast cancer.

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Key words: Breast cancer. Oxidative stress. Dietary intake. Predictive factors.

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## FACTORES ASOCIADOS CON ESTRÉS OXIDATIVO EN MUJERES CON CÁNCER DE MAMA

### Resumen

**Objetivo:** Evaluar la asociación entre las variables fisiológicas, físicas, de estilo de vida y nutricionales y de los biomarcadores de estrés oxidativo en mujeres con cáncer de mama.

**Métodos:** Este estudio transversal se realizó en 55 mujeres diagnosticadas de cáncer de mama. Se analizó el grado de estrés oxidativo midiendo los hidroperóxidos lipídicos (HL), las sustancias reactivas del ácido tiobarbitúrico (TBARS), las proteínas carbonilo, el glutatión reducido (GSH) de sangre completa y la capacidad antioxidante sérica (CA). Los datos de la dieta se obtuvieron mediante cuestionario de frecuencia de alimentos. Se usó la regresión lineal para determinar la asociación entre las variables estudiadas y los biomarcadores de estrés oxidativo. Los datos de las proteínas carbonilo no se incluyeron en los análisis de regresión lineal puesto que no mostraron una distribución normal, incluso después de la transformación logarítmica y de otro tipo.

**Resultados:** Después de ajustar para el aporte de energía, el consumo de pollo y de productos lácteos con alto contenido en grasas se asoció con un aumento en los niveles de HL, mientras que el consumo de vitamina E se asoció con una disminución de los niveles de HL ( $R^2 = 23,8\%$ ). El consumo de aceite se asoció con un aumento de los niveles de TBARS ( $R^2 = 6,82\%$ ). El estado de los ganglios linfáticos axilares se asoció con un descenso de los niveles de GSH ( $R^2 = 9,31\%$ ). La mayor edad se asoció directamente con los niveles de CA, mientras que la grasa de origen animal y el consumo de dulces se asoció con niveles bajos de CA ( $R^2 = 41,42\%$ ).

**Conclusión:** El consumo de pollo, vitamina E, lácteos (especialmente de aquellos con alto contenido en grasa), aceites y grasas de origen animal, así como dulces, junto con el estado de los ganglios axilares y la edad podrían ser determinantes importantes en el estrés oxidativo de mujeres con cáncer de mama.

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Palabras clave: Cáncer de mama. Estrés oxidativo. Ingesta diaria. Factores predictivos.

## Introduction

Breast cancer, the most common cancer among women worldwide, accounts for the highest morbidity and mortality.<sup>1</sup> Annually, around 1 million new patients are diagnosed with breast cancer and 400,000 women die from the disease.<sup>2</sup> The etiology of breast cancer is multifactorial and several risk factors associated with breast cancer may exert their effects via generation of an oxidative stress status.

Oxidative stress is caused by an unfavorable balance between reactive oxygen species (ROS) and antioxidant defenses. ROS are generated during normal cellular metabolism, as a result of the influence of various environmental factors, as well as during pathological processes.<sup>3</sup> Oxidative stress is responsible for DNA, lipid and protein damage and it plays an important role in the development and progression of many human diseases, including breast cancer.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, there is a great interest in the measurement of oxidative stress biomarkers in breast cancer patients. Several markers of oxidative stress are currently available, such as lipid hydroperoxides (LH) and thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS), which have been used extensively as markers of lipid peroxidation, as well as protein carbonyl, that is the most frequently used biomarker of protein oxidation in epidemiological and clinical studies.<sup>5-8</sup>

To control the overproduction of ROS, the cells are protected against oxidative stress by antioxidant detoxifying mechanisms, which include nonenzymatic antioxidants such as reduced glutathione (GSH), vitamins A, C and E and various antioxidant enzymes.<sup>9</sup> Erythrocyte glutathione has been commonly employed as a biomarker of oxidative stress because GSH is a reducer compound widely distributed in cells. In addition, the levels of erythrocyte GSH may reflect the glutathione activity in other tissues.<sup>10</sup> Due to the complexity involved in measuring all known antioxidants separately and the interactions among different antioxidant compounds, several methods have been developed to assess the antioxidant capacity (AC) of serum or plasma.<sup>11,12</sup> These methods provide an overview of the biological interactions between individual antioxidants and how efficiently these translate into host cell protection during periods of oxidative stress.<sup>13</sup>

Identification of potentially modifiable factors that affect oxidative stress in breast cancer patients is an increasingly important task. Dietary intake represents one of a set of factors that have received considerable attention because of its ability to either reduce or promote oxidative stress.<sup>14-16</sup> Therefore, in the present study, we investigated the association between blood biomarkers of oxidative stress and physiological, physical, lifestyle and nutritional variables in newly diagnosed women with breast cancer.

## Subjects and methods

### Subjects

The population of this cross-sectional study was selected from 226 women admitted between October 1, 2006 and July 31, 2007, attending by breast surgery in the Carmela Dutra Maternity Hospital, Florianópolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil. One-hundred fifty nine women were ineligible for inclusion in the study: 65 (28%) were excluded because they had already started some type of neoadjuvant cancer treatment; 90 (39%) had benign tumors without suspicion of malignancy and; 4 (2%) had previous history of cancer. Thus, there were 67 eligible women, of which one (2%) refused to participate and 11 (5%) had benign tumors diagnosis after the interview. Finally, 55 women newly diagnosed with a first primary *in situ* or invasive breast cancer were interviewed. All subjects were classified anatomicopathologically according to the Tumor-Node-Metastasis system.<sup>17</sup> There were no age or race restrictions. None of the patients were pregnant or lactating. The study was approved by the ethical committee of the Federal University of Santa Catarina and of Carmela Dutra Maternity Hospital.

### Blood samples

Blood samples were obtained by venous arm puncture using a vacuum system (Vacutainer) in a tube containing EDTA and a tube with serum-separation gel after overnight fasting between 7 and 8 am. Plasma and serum were immediately obtained by centrifugation (1000 x g, 10 min, 4°C). To quantify the reduced glutathione (GSH), an aliquot of EDTA-blood was hemolyzed and immediately preserved in trichloroacetic acid medium. Plasma samples were used for measurement of TBARS, LH and protein carbonyls and the serum was used to measure the AC. TBARS and LH levels were analyzed immediately after sample collection. The remaining plasma, serum and acid extracts were stored at -70°C for no longer than 1 month for other biochemical determinations. All measurements were performed in duplicate.

### Reagents

Thiobarbituric acid (TBA), butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT), 5,5-dithiobis (2-nitrobenzoic acid) (DTNB), trichloroacetic acid (TCA), 1,1,3,3-tetramethoxypropan (TMP), triphenylphosphine (TPP), reduced glutathione (GSH), 2,4,6-tris(2-pyridyl)-s-triazine (TPTZ), 6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-carboxylic acid (Trolox), guanidine hydrochloride, 2,4-dinitrophenyl-hydrozine (DNPH), and bovine serum albumin (BSA) were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich Co (St. Louis, MO, USA). Xylenol orange, ammonium ferrous sulfate

hexahydrate and potassium phosphate monobasic were purchased from Vetec Química Fina (Rio de Janeiro, RJ-Brazil). All other chemicals and reagents used in the study were of analytical grade and obtained from standard commercial suppliers.

#### Biochemical analysis

Plasma lipid hydroperoxides (LH) were determined using ferrous oxidation-xylenol orange (FOX), as described by Jiang et al.<sup>18</sup> The method is based on the fast oxidation of  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  to  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  in acid medium mediated by lipid peroxides. In the presence of xylenol orange,  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  forms a complex ( $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ -xylenol orange), which is measured spectrophotometrically at 560 nm. The FOX reagent (1.4 mL), containing 250 mM  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ , 4.4 mM BHT, 1 mM xylenol orange, and 2.5 mM iron and ammonium sulfate in methanol, was added to aliquots of plasma. Subsequently, the mixture was kept at room temperature for 30 min, the tubes were centrifuged (1,000 x g, 5 min) and the absorbance was read. A standard hydrogen peroxide curve was used to quantify the LH.

Lipid peroxidation of plasma was estimated through the detection of derivative products from oxidation, substances that react with thiobarbituric acid-reactive substances (TBARS), mainly malondialdehyde, according to a procedure previously described by Esterbauer and Cheeseman.<sup>19</sup> Aliquots of plasma or deionized water (blank) were mixed with 0.5 mL 20% TCA containing 0.5 N HCl and 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of 10 mM BHT. Thiobarbituric acid at 1% was added and the mixture was incubated at 100°C for 1 h. After cooling in an ice-bath, 2.5 mL of butyl alcohol was added, vortex-mixed and centrifuged at 1000 x g for 5 min. The absorbance of the supernatant was measured at 532 nm against the blank. Recently prepared 1,1,3,3-tetramethoxypropan (TMP) was used as the standard.

The carbonyl content in plasma protein was determined using the reagent 2,4 dinitrophenylhydrazine (DNPH) as described by Levine et al.<sup>8</sup> One hundred microliters of plasma were mixed with 600  $\mu\text{L}$  of 10 mM DNPH in 2 N HCl in 1.5 mL test tubes. Six hundred microliters of 2 N HCl were added to 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of plasma as the blank. The tubes were vortex-mixed every 10 min and after 1 h of incubation at room temperature in the dark, 600  $\mu\text{L}$  of 20% TCA was added. After a further 10 min of incubation all samples were centrifuged at 11,000 x g for 5 min. The supernatant was then discarded and the precipitate was washed 3 times with 800  $\mu\text{L}$  of a mixture of ethanol:ethyl acetate, 1:1 (v/v) and centrifuged after 10 min. Finally, the protein precipitate was dissolved in 900  $\mu\text{L}$  of 6 M guanidine hydrochloride in 20 mM  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$ . The samples were then incubated again for 1 h at 37°C. The absorbance of the test sample was measured at 360 nm against a guanidine solution. Total protein concentration was determined through measuring the absorbance

of the blank at 280 nm, using bovine serum albumin as the standard. The concentration of carbonyls (nmol/mg protein) was calculated using a molar extinction coefficient ( $\epsilon$ ) of 22,000.

The concentration of thiol compounds of low molecular weight in whole blood, such as GSH, was evaluated according to the method of Beutler et al.<sup>10</sup> Firstly, an aliquot of the total EDTA-blood was hemolyzed with cold water and the proteins were precipitated by the addition of 30% TCA. Aliquots of 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of the hemolyzed sample and 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of 10 mM DTNB were mixed in tubes containing 0.8 mL of 200 mM phosphate buffer, pH 8.0. After 3 min, the absorbance of the thiolate anion was measured at 412 nm. Commercial GSH was used as the standard.

The antioxidant capacity (AC) of the serum samples was determined using the ferric-reducing antioxidant power (FRAP) assay as described by Benzie and Strain.<sup>11</sup> In this procedure, the antioxidants present in the serum are evaluated as reducers of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  to  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ , which is chelated by TPTZ to form a  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ -TPTZ complex with maximum absorbance at 593 nm. Ten microliters of serum were mixed with 1 mL of reagent containing 1.7 mM  $\text{FeCl}_3$  and 0.8 mM TPTZ, prepared in 300 mM sodium acetate, pH 3.6. The samples were incubated for 15 min at 37°C and the absorbance was measured at 593 nm. The results were calculated using Trolox as standard and were expressed as Trolox equivalents.

#### Data collection

The main questionnaire was administered by a trained interviewer through in-person interviews conducted at the Nutrition Service Unit of the Carmela Dutra Maternity Hospital and lasted ~ 1 h. Information was collected on known and suspected risk factors for breast cancer, including cigarette smoking, alcohol intake, menstrual and reproductive histories, hormone use, physical activity, prior medical history and other study variables. During each interview, height and weight were measured (Filizola, São Paulo, Brazil) using standard procedures<sup>20</sup> to obtain body mass index (BMI). The participants were then classified according to categories defined by the World Health Organization.<sup>21</sup>

Usual dietary intake was obtained using a food frequency questionnaire, previously validated in Brazil,<sup>22</sup> containing 94 food items classified into ten groups: cereals, fruits, vegetables, beans, meat and eggs, dairy products, oils and fat, sweet foods, alcoholic beverages and non-alcoholic beverages. For each food item the participants determined the size of the portion consumed with the help of an album containing color photographs of products<sup>23</sup> or household measures of different sizes commonly utilized, and the subjects were asked how often they had consumed that food throughout the previous year. The conversion of portions to

**Table I**  
Characteristics of newly diagnosed breast cancer women (n = 55), Florianópolis, SC-Brazil

|                                             | Mean $\pm$ SD <sup>1</sup> or percentage | Median | Range       |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------|-------------|
| Age (years)                                 | 51.2 $\pm$ 10.5                          | 50.0   | 33-78       |
| Ductal carcinoma (%)                        | 94.6                                     |        |             |
| Positive axillary lymph node status (%)     | 41.8                                     |        |             |
| Anatomopathological stage (%)               |                                          |        |             |
| 0                                           | 5.5                                      |        |             |
| I                                           | 32.7                                     |        |             |
| II                                          | 40.0                                     |        |             |
| III                                         | 21.8                                     |        |             |
| Body mass index (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )        | 28.1 $\pm$ 4.9                           | 27.3   | 17.8-40.4   |
| Smoking (%)                                 |                                          |        |             |
| Nonsmoker                                   | 76.4                                     |        |             |
| Current smoking                             | 23.6                                     |        |             |
| Postmenopausal status (%)                   | 54.6                                     |        |             |
| Plasma LH <sup>2</sup> ( $\mu$ mol/L)       | 0.89 $\pm$ 0.37                          | 0.84   | 0.12-1.85   |
| Plasma TBARS <sup>2</sup> ( $\mu$ mol/L)    | 4.93 $\pm$ 0.87                          | 4.79   | 3.09-6.84   |
| Plasma protein carbonyl (nmol/mg)           | 0.68 $\pm$ 0.25                          | 0.63   | 0.27-1.48   |
| Whole blood GSH <sup>2</sup> ( $\mu$ mol/L) | 77.2 $\pm$ 17.5                          | 75.9   | 28.5-116.3  |
| Serum AC <sup>2</sup> ( $\mu$ mol/L)        | 664.4 $\pm$ 153.3                        | 686.2  | 409.7-979.5 |

<sup>1</sup>SD, standard deviation.

<sup>2</sup>LH, lipid hydroperoxides; TBARS, thiobarbituric acid reactive substances; GSH, reduced glutathione; AC, antioxidant capacity.

grams and milliliters of fruits, doughnuts, lard, cream and yerba mate infusions were obtained according to the assay described by Griswold.<sup>24</sup> The grams of portions for *polenta*, a dish made from boiled cornmeal, were obtained from Ben<sup>25</sup> and for the other foods from Pinheiro et al.<sup>26</sup>

Dietary intake was analyzed in terms of grams and milliliters of specific food groups determined by traditional food groups<sup>27</sup> and the *a-priori* hypotheses. For each subject, individual dietary intake was converted to a monthly frequency weighted variable (in grams or milliliters) according to the reported portion size. As described by Block et al.,<sup>15</sup> these individual values were summed to create the specific food groups and divided by 30.5 to determine an average daily level of consumption (grams or milliliters per day). Food intake was also analyzed for energy and nutrient content using the nutrient database of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) (issue 20, full version, 2008).<sup>28</sup> Food nutritional values which were not available in this nutrient database were obtained from Brazilian food tables.<sup>29,30</sup>

#### Statistical analysis

Statistical analyses were performed using Stata 10.0 software, and in all cases the level of significance was established as 5%. The variables of this study were classified into: (a) variables related to cancer (anatomopathological stage, axillary lymph node status and tumor size); (b) variables related to individuals (age,

menopausal status, use of dietary supplements, use of medicaments, concomitant diseases, use of oral contraceptives, physical activity and cigarette smoking); (c) anthropometric variables; and (d) dietary intake variables (food and beverage groups, energy and nutrient content).

The dietary intake data were analyzed as continuous or categorized variables (1 = intake greater than 50<sup>th</sup> percentile).

The Shapiro-Wilk test was used to evaluate whether or not the distribution of the variables was normal. The mean values of two groups were compared using the Student's *t*-test and the means of more than two groups were assessed using Analysis of Variance followed by the Bonferroni multiple-comparison test. When the data distribution was non-parametric, the Mann-Whitney *U* test or Kruskal-Wallis test (for medians) was used. The chi-square test and the Fisher's exact test were used for comparing categorical variables.

Linear regression was used to estimate the association between the cancer-related, individual, anthropometric and dietary intake variables, and the plasma LH and TBARS levels, whole blood GSH levels and serum AC levels. Linear regression was not carried out on the plasma protein carbonyl levels since the data distribution was not normal, even after logarithmic and other transformations. The variables with *p* < 0.25 in the univariate linear regression analysis were employed in the multivariate regression model. Variables that showed collinearity or low frequency were excluded from the multivariate model, whilst variables with more than two categories were transformed into indicator

**Table II**  
Dietary intake variables associated with levels of markers of oxidative stress in newly diagnosed breast cancer women (n = 55), Florianópolis, SC-Brazil

| Percentile of daily dietary intake | N  | LH <sup>i</sup> | TBARS <sup>i</sup> | GSH <sup>i</sup> | AC <sup>i</sup>  |
|------------------------------------|----|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Carotenoid-rich fruits             |    |                 |                    |                  |                  |
| ≤ 50 <sup>th</sup>                 | 27 | 0.79 ± 0.36     | 4.89 ± 0.92        | 82.2 ± 15.8*     | 693.19 ± 164.54  |
| > 50 <sup>th</sup> (> 7.8 g/d)     | 28 | 0.89 ± 0.37     | 4.97 ± 0.83        | 72.3 ± 17.9      | 636.56 ± 138.89  |
| Low-fat meat                       |    |                 |                    |                  |                  |
| ≤ 50 <sup>th</sup>                 | 27 | 1.01 ± 0.30*    | 5.07 ± 0.65        | 76.5 ± 13.9      | 642.40 ± 155.13  |
| > 50 <sup>th</sup> (> 45.9 g/d)    | 28 | 0.76 ± 0.38     | 4.79 ± 1.03        | 77.8 ± 20.6      | 685.53 ± 151.24  |
| Dairy products                     |    |                 |                    |                  |                  |
| ≤ 50 <sup>th</sup>                 | 27 | 0.87 ± 0.40     | 4.93 ± 0.88        | 77.0 ± 19.3      | 716.92 ± 151.58* |
| > 50 <sup>th</sup> (> 302.9 g/d)   | 28 | 0.90 ± 0.34     | 5.92 ± 0.88        | 77.3 ± 16.0      | 613.68 ± 139.43  |
| Oils                               |    |                 |                    |                  |                  |
| ≤ 50 <sup>th</sup>                 | 27 | 0.92 ± 0.36     | 4.65 ± 0.75*       | 80.5 ± 16.9      | 635.84 ± 127.82  |
| > 50 <sup>th</sup> (> 21.0 g/d)    | 28 | 0.85 ± 0.37     | 5.19 ± 0.90        | 73.9 ± 17.7      | 691.86 ± 172.23  |
| Animal fat                         |    |                 |                    |                  |                  |
| ≤ 50 <sup>th</sup>                 | 27 | 0.80 ± 0.42     | 4.96 ± 0.92        | 74.7 ± 18.7      | 716.93 ± 149.96* |
| > 50 <sup>th</sup> (> 0.5 g/d)     | 28 | 0.97 ± 0.29     | 4.90 ± 0.84        | 79.5 ± 16.2      | 613.66 ± 141.11  |

<sup>i</sup>μmol/L; LH, lipid hydroperoxides; TBARS, thiobarbituric acid reactive substances; GSH, reduced glutathione; AC, antioxidant capacity. Data are expressed as mean ± standard deviation. \*p < 0.05 (compared with daily dietary intake > 50<sup>th</sup> percentile).

(dummy) variables. The final models for the linear regression analysis were constructed using stepwise regression analysis to select the minimum set of predictors that significantly (p < 0.05) maximized the model R<sup>2</sup>.

In order to validate the final predictive regression model, we estimated the optimism in the R<sup>2</sup> statistic using an enhanced internal validation technique. The optimism is the mean difference between the R<sup>2</sup> of the original regression model and the R<sup>2</sup> yielded when β-coefficients derived from bootstrap samples (1000 repetitions) are applied to the original dataset<sup>31</sup>.

## Results

Table I gives the characteristics and the levels of oxidative stress biomarkers of the study participants.

When the mean levels of plasma LH and TBARS, and the median of plasma protein carbonyl were analyzed according to cancer-related, individual, and anthropometric variables, no significant differences were detected (data not shown). Blood GSH level was not associated with the individual and anthropometric variables but was associated with the cancer-related variables. For example, women with positive axillary lymph node status had significantly (p = 0.0001) lower GSH levels (69.99 ± 14.76 mol/L) than women with negative axillary lymph node status (82.33 ± 17.72 mol/L). Serum AC was not associated with cancer-related or anthropometric variables. However, postmenopausal women or women over 50 years of age had significantly higher AC levels than premenopausal women (postmenopausal: 707.7 ± 158.3 vs pre-

menopausal: 612.3 ± 131.9 mol/L; p = 0.02) or women with age lower than 50 years (> 50 y: 719.9 ± 150.8 vs ≤ 50 y: 618.1 ± 141.7 mol/L; p = 0.01) (data not shown).

Table II shows the dietary intake variables associated with biomarkers of oxidative stress. Enhanced intake of low-fat meat, which includes roasted or boiled red meat, pork, chicken or fish, was significantly associated with lower levels of plasma LH. The enhanced intake of oils was positively associated with high levels of plasma TBARS. The levels of blood GSH were significantly lower in women with increased intake of carotenoid-rich fruits. The levels of serum AC were significantly lower in women with high intake of dairy products and animal fat. Variables related to dietary intake were not significantly associated with plasma protein carbonyls (data not shown).

In the univariate linear regression analysis, plasma LH levels were significantly related to daily intake of chicken (β = 0.16; p = 0.03), low-fat dairy products (β = -0.0005; p = 0.04), oils (β = -0.01; p = 0.01) and low-fat meat (β = -0.25; p = 0.01) (data not shown). Table III reports the final model of the linear regression for plasma LH levels after adjusting for energy intake. This final model explained 23.80% (R<sup>2</sup> adjusted) of the plasma LH variability. There was no significant interaction between the variables of the model. The final model indicated that the daily intake of chicken and high-fat dairy products were associated with an increase in the level of LH; while the daily intake of vitamin E was associated with an decrease in LH levels (table III). The internal validation of the regression model for plasma LH levels yielded a very low estimate of the over optimism for R<sup>2</sup> of 0.56745 (< 1%).

**Table III**  
Final model of linear regression for plasma lipid hydroperoxide levels (LH) ( $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ) in breast cancer women ( $n = 55$ ), Florianópolis, SC-Brazil (model  $R^2 = 0.2380$ )

|                                   | Final Model <sup>†</sup> |                 |                     |          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------|
|                                   | $\beta^2$                | SD <sup>‡</sup> | 95% CI <sup>§</sup> | P        |
| Intercept                         | 1.11                     | 0.15            | 0.80; 1.43          | < 0.0005 |
| Chicken (50 g/d)                  | 0.20                     | 0.06            | 0.07; 0.33          | 0.003    |
| High-fat dairy products (100 g/d) | 0.07                     | 0.02            | 0.01; 0.13          | 0.021    |
| Vitamin E (mg/d)                  | -0.13                    | 0.04            | -0.21; -0.04        | 0.005    |
| Energy intake (for 1,000 kcal)    | 0.01                     | 0.07            | -0.13; 0.16         | 0.881    |

<sup>†</sup>Adjusted for dietary energy intake; <sup>‡</sup> $\beta$  = Coefficient estimates; <sup>§</sup>SD = Standard Deviation; <sup>¶</sup>CI = Confidence Interval.

Among all variables studied, only intake of oils ( $\beta = 0.54$ ;  $p = 0.02$ ) was positively associated with plasma TBARS levels in the univariate linear regression analysis (data not shown). After adjusting for energy intake, intake of oils explained 6.82% ( $R^2$  adjusted) of the variability in the TBARS levels. Furthermore, increased consumption of oils ( $> 21\text{g/d}$ ) was associated with an increase in the plasma TBARS of  $0.52 \mu\text{mol/L}$  ( $p = 0.028$ ) (data not shown).

In the univariate linear regression analysis, blood GSH levels were significantly associated with the positive axillary lymph node status ( $\beta = -12.33$ ;  $p = 0.009$ ), daily intake of carotenoid-rich fruits ( $\beta = -0.18$ ;  $p = 0.03$ ) and consumption of more than 7.8 g per day of carotenoid-rich fruits ( $\beta = -9.9$ ;  $p = 0.04$ ) (data not shown). After adjusting for energy intake, the linear regression model explained 9.31% ( $R^2$  adjusted) of the blood GSH variability showing that only a positive axillary lymph node status was associated with a decrease in the GSH levels of  $12.41 \mu\text{mol/L}$  ( $p = 0.009$ ) (data not shown).

Variables significantly associated with serum AC levels in the univariate linear regression analysis were age ( $\beta = 6.11$ ;  $p = 0.001$ ), menopausal status ( $\beta = 95.41$ ;  $p = 0.02$ ), daily intake of dairy products ( $\beta = -26.62$ ;  $p = 0.005$ ), high-fat dairy products ( $\beta = -0.275$ ;  $p = 0.02$ ), animal fat ( $\beta = -58.93$ ;  $p = 0.01$ ), sweet foods ( $\beta = -75.06$ ;

$p = 0.001$ ), energy intake ( $\beta = -0.064$ ;  $p = 0.01$ ), lipids ( $\beta = -1.79$ ;  $p = 0.02$ ), carbohydrates ( $\beta = -0.392$ ;  $p = 0.01$ ), saturated fat ( $\beta = -6.66$ ;  $p = 0.001$ ) and monounsaturated fat ( $\beta = -6.38$ ;  $p = 0.01$ ) (data not shown). After adjusting for energy intake, the final model show that increasing age was associated with an enhanced serum AC, while that the daily intake of animal fat, dairy products and sweet foods were associated with a decrease in the serum AC. The final model explained 41.42% ( $R^2$  adjusted) of the variability in serum AC levels (table IV). There was no significant interaction between the variables of the model. The internal validation of the regression model for serum AC levels yielded a very estimate of the over optimism for  $R^2$  of 5.96%.

## Discussion

One mechanism by which some physiological, physical, lifestyle and nutritional factors may help to prevent cancer is through the modulation of oxidative stress status. The most common approach to the measurement of free radical and oxidative stress has been by determining products of free radical reactions with biological macromolecules.<sup>6</sup> It has been shown that oxidative stress can contribute to cancer development.<sup>4</sup>

**Table IV**  
Final model of linear regression for serum antioxidant capacity (AC) levels ( $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ) in newly diagnosed breast cancer women ( $n = 55$ ), Florianópolis, SC-Brazil (model  $R^2 = 0.4142$ )

|                                | Final Model <sup>*</sup> |                 |                     |          |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------|
|                                | $\beta^2$                | SD <sup>‡</sup> | 95% CI <sup>§</sup> | P        |
| Intercept                      | 493.77                   | 109.51          | 273.68; 713.85      | < 0.0005 |
| Age (years)                    | 5.48                     | 1.65            | 2.15; 8.81          | 0.002    |
| Animal fat (5 g/d)             | -41.19                   | 18.43           | -78.23; -4.41       | 0.030    |
| Dairy products (100 g/d)       | -26.31                   | 7.98            | -45.18; -15.07      | 0.002    |
| Sweet foods (50 g/d)           | -56.51                   | 22.90           | -102.55; -10.25     | 0.017    |
| Energy intake (for 1,000 kcal) | 22.57                    | 26.16           | -30.00; 75.15       | 0.392    |

<sup>\*</sup>Adjusted for dietary energy intake; <sup>†</sup> $\beta$  = Coefficient estimates; <sup>‡</sup>SD = Standard Deviation; <sup>§</sup>CI = Confidence Interval.

In addition, oxidative stress biomarkers have been shown to be elevated in the blood and in malignant breast biopsies of breast cancer patients.<sup>5,9,16</sup> Results from the current study expand upon previously published data by providing an insight into the associations between several variables cancer-related, individual, anthropometric and dietary intake variables, and oxidative stress biomarkers assessed by lipid peroxidation (plasma levels of LH and TBARS), protein oxidation (plasma levels of protein carbonyl) and by the measurement of antioxidants (blood GSH and serum AC), in women newly diagnosed with breast cancer.

Overall, a small number of significant associations between cancer-related variables and oxidative stress biomarkers were found in our study population. The extent of oxidative stress was not affected by the level of malignancy of the breast cancer (advanced anatomopathological status and tumor size) in the women studied, according to previous studies.<sup>5,9,32</sup> Of the variables related to cancer, only positive axillary lymph node status was inversely associated with blood levels of GSH. In fact, a decreased content of erythrocyte GSH has been reported in several diseases including breast cancer.<sup>33,34</sup> The lower levels of GSH seen in breast cancer patients with positive axillary lymph node status support the hypothesis that glutathione status is inversely related to malignant transformation.<sup>33,34</sup>

Despite some conflicting results, it has been observed that in healthy populations an older age, postmenopausal status, non use of dietary supplements, absence of regular physical activity and cigarette smoking may contribute to the enhancement of oxidative stress.<sup>15,16,35</sup> Contrary to our expectations, we observed increased serum AC levels in older and postmenopausal women with breast cancer. The positive association of age and postmenopausal status with serum AC levels might be intriguing and unexpected. However, our results are in agreement with those of other studies. For example, a cross-sectional study on healthy individuals also showed high serum AC levels in older subjects<sup>13</sup> and a positive association between age and erythrocyte GSH has been reported.<sup>6</sup> In addition, increased activity of blood glutathione peroxidase and superoxide dismutase, two antioxidant enzymes, was found in postmenopausal compared to premenopausal breast cancer women.<sup>5</sup>

Here, we found no evidence of a significant association between smoking, intensity of physical activity or BMI and oxidative stress. Although cigarette smoking is a well known environmental oxidant, previous studies relating cigarette smoking to markers of oxidative stress have provided conflicting results.<sup>6,15,16</sup> An excess or lack of physical exercise can produce an imbalance between ROS and antioxidants, leading to oxidative stress.<sup>36</sup> In addition, obesity may also be associated with oxidative stress.<sup>6,37</sup> However, in agreement with other studies,<sup>6,16</sup> in this study we found no association between intensity of physical activity or BMI and oxidative stress status.

It has been largely believed that fruits and vegetables (as antioxidant rich foods) and food products with high content of polyunsaturated fatty acid (PUFAs) (as pro-oxidants) are the most diet-related constituents closely linked to oxidative stress. However, considering that several studies have failed to observe a positive association between blood levels of antioxidants and protection of cells against oxidative damage,<sup>38</sup> or between diet enriched with PUFAs and an increase in lipid peroxidation,<sup>39</sup> further studies are warranted to better elucidate the role of dietary intake in the modulation of oxidative stress. In the current study, the consumption of high oils diet (rich in PUFAs) by breast cancer women showed positive association with TBARS in the multivariate linear regression analysis. These results are consistent with an earlier study on women previously treated for breast cancer, which a polyunsaturated fat intake was associated with elevated lipid peroxidation.<sup>37</sup> In addition, the results for the multivariate analysis also indicated that chicken and high-fat dairy products intake was positively associated with lipid peroxidation measured by plasma LH levels, while vitamin E intake was negatively associated with lipid peroxidation. For healthy individuals, dietary fat and saturated fat intake, which are found in foods such as chicken and high-fat dairy products, have been associated with increasing oxidative stress markers.<sup>40</sup> The protective role of dietary vitamin E against lipid peroxidation has also been previously described in breast cancer patients.<sup>37</sup> and, due to its free radical scavenger activity and lipophilic profile, vitamin E may contribute to a decreased susceptibility of PUFAs in cell membranes to oxidation.<sup>3</sup>

The present study showed some surprising results such as the negative relationship between daily intake of carotenoid-rich fruits and blood GSH levels in the univariate linear regression analysis. However, this association was no longer significant after adjusting for energy intake in the final model, indicating therefore that not all associations found in this study are necessarily causal. Regardless, further studies would be necessary to confirm or refute this negative association. There was no significant interaction between the variables of the model.

In the multivariate analysis, the intake of animal fat, dairy products and sweet foods by the breast cancer women was associated with decreased serum AC levels, as has also been described for healthy subjects.<sup>41</sup> On the other hand, consumption of fruits and vegetables were not associated with serum AC of breast cancer patients. Although fruit and vegetable intake can decrease oxidative stress, including the enhancement of AC,<sup>16,37</sup> contrary results have been reported for healthy people.<sup>42</sup>

There are, of course, certain limitations to our model. First, we could not validate our predictive model in a separate validation set. However, the results of the internal validation indicate very little over optimism in the estimate of the predictive ability of the method, suggest-

ing that our model is valid<sup>31</sup>. Second, our results are derived from a convenience sample, which may inhibit the validity of conclusive statements regarding a cause-effect relationship between biomarkers of oxidative stress status and the variables for women newly diagnosed breast cancer examined. However, our study has the important advantage that all samples were collected before surgery and onset of chemotherapy or radiation. It has been shown that recent treatment promotes significant alterations in the level of oxidative stress markers in cancer patients.<sup>43</sup> Another advantage of our study is the use of multiple markers of oxidative stress status. Furthermore, the results indicated that some of the proposed biomarkers of oxidative stress status are associated with important variables that represent significant risk factors or prognosis factors for breast cancer. However, the observed associations are not consistent for all of the different biomarkers, indicating that they cannot be used interchangeably.

## Conclusion

In summary, based on the results of this study, we suggest that intake of chicken, vitamin E, dairy products (mainly high-fat dairy products), oils, animal fat and sweet foods, along with the axillary lymph node status and age, may be important determinants of oxidative stress in breast cancer women.

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Original

# Incidencia de complicaciones del soporte nutricional en pacientes críticos: estudio multicéntrico

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Resumen

**Introducción:** el soporte nutricional (SN) genera complicaciones que deben detectarse y tratarse oportunamente.

**Objetivo:** Estimar la incidencia de algunas complicaciones del soporte nutricional en pacientes críticamente enfermos.

**Material y métodos:** estudio multicéntrico, descriptivo, prospectivo en pacientes con SN en unidades de cuidados intensivos. Las variables estudiadas fueron diagnóstico médico, estado nutricional, duración del SN, vía de acceso, tipo de fórmula y diez complicaciones.

**Resultados:** 419 pacientes evaluados, 380 recibieron nutrición enteral (NE) y 39 nutricional parenteral (NP). La complicación de mayor incidencia de la NE fue el residuo gástrico alto (24,2%), seguido de la diarrea (14%) y el retiro de la sonda (6,6%). El residuo gástrico alto y la diarrea se asociaron con la duración del SN ( $p < 0,05$ ). Para la NP la complicación mas incidente fue la hipofosfatemia (38,5%), seguida de la sepsis por catéter (15,4%). La duración del SN se asoció con colestasis, sepsis e hipofosfatemia ( $p < 0,05$ ).

**Conclusiones:** las complicaciones de mayor incidencia fueron el residuo gástrico alto para la NE y la hipofosfatemia para la NP; el retiro de la sonda es una complicación que amerita mayor seguimiento. La duración del SN fue la variable que mostró mayor asociación con las complicaciones estudiadas. Es necesario lograr consenso sobre la definición de las complicaciones para establecer comparativos y orientarse hacia los mejores estándares internacionales y proponer protocolos tendientes a disminuir cada vez más las complicaciones del SN para que éste cumpla su propósito en el paciente crítico.

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Palabras clave: Complicaciones. Nutrición enteral. Nutrición parenteral. Paciente crítico.

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## INCIDENCE OF NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT COMPLICATIONS IN CRITICAL PATIENTS: MULTICENTER STUDY

Abstract

**Introduction:** nutritional support (NS) leads complications that must be detected and prompt treated.

**Objective:** to estimate the incidence of some complications of nutritional support in critically ill patients.

**Materials and methods:** a multicenter, descriptive, prospective study in patients with NS in intensive care units. Studied variables included medical diagnosis, nutritional status, length of NS, path, type of formula and ten complications.

**Results:** 419 patients evaluated, 380 received enteral nutrition (EN) and 39 parenteral nutrition (PN). The high gastric residue was the most incident complication in the ENS (24.2%), followed by diarrhea (14%) and withdrawal tube (6.6%). The high gastric residue and diarrhea were associated with the duration of the NS ( $p < 0.05$ ). For the PNS the complication most incidents were hypophosphatemia (38.5%), followed by catheter sepsis (15.4%). The duration of the NS was associated with cholestasis, sepsis and hypophosphatemia ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Conclusions:** complications of highest incidence were the high gastric residue for EN and hypophosphatemia for the PN; the withdrawal of the tube is a complication that claims further monitoring. The duration of the NS was the variable that showed greater association with the complications studied. Is a must to get consensus on complications definitions for comparisons establishment and best international standards target, furthermore propose protocols in order to decrease complications incidence of NS to fulfill the critical ill patient requirements.

(Nutr Hosp. 2011;26:537-545)

DOI:10.3305/nh.2011.26.3.4789

Key words: Complications. Enteral nutrition. Parenteral nutrition. Critical patients.

## Introducción

El soporte nutricional (SN) se define como el aporte de nutrientes por vía enteral o parenteral con el propósito de mantener un adecuado estado nutricional en los pacientes en los que la alimentación normal no es posible<sup>1</sup>. El paciente gravemente enfermo que ingresa a una unidad de cuidados intensivos (UCI) presenta como mínimo una alteración en un órgano vital y diversos trastornos metabólicos que conllevan a incrementos en los requerimientos de energía y proteínas, al deterioro del sistema inmune, la composición corporal y la función gastrointestinal. La movilización de los aminoácidos del tejido magro se produce para sobrellevar la recuperación de tejidos y la respuesta inmunológica, proceso que en muchos casos, puede llevar a una malnutrición de comienzo rápido<sup>2</sup>.

El SN es parte del protocolo de atención a los pacientes críticos, de hecho en las UCIs la nutrición parenteral (NP) es utilizada en un 6%, la nutrición enteral (NE) un 72% y la mixta un 12,4%<sup>3</sup>. Los objetivos del SN son minimizar el balance negativo de energía y proteínas, reducir la pérdida de masa muscular, mantener la función tisular de diferentes órganos y sistemas, favorecer los periodos de recuperación y modificar los cambios metabólicos y funcionales a través de la utilización de sustratos especiales<sup>4</sup>. El SN ha mostrado beneficios sobre los procesos de cicatrización, la respuesta catabólica al trauma, la permeabilidad intestinal, disminución en la translocación bacteriana, complicaciones, y estancia hospitalaria y disminución de la morbilidad de estos pacientes<sup>2,5,6</sup>.

Tanto la NE como la NP son métodos seguros, no obstante los pacientes pueden presentar complicaciones mecánicas, metabólicas, gastrointestinales e infecciosas durante su administración<sup>7</sup>. Se estima que entre el 10 y 15% de los pacientes que reciben NE pueden presentar algún tipo de complicación y de éstas, del 1 al 2% pueden ser graves<sup>8</sup>. En la NP se reportan cifras muy diversas, 15 a 85% de complicaciones hepatobiliares<sup>9</sup>, 9,3% de complicaciones relacionadas con el catéter<sup>10</sup> y entre 20,3% y 56,5% de complicaciones metabólicas<sup>10,11</sup>. La mayoría de las complicaciones son detectables, por lo tanto manejables y no ameritan la suspensión del SN<sup>8</sup>. El conocimiento sobre las complicaciones del SN es amplio, han sido definidas con claridad y no hay duda sobre la necesidad de detectarlas y tratarlas con oportunidad. Los estudios sistemáticos que muestren la incidencia de las mismas son muy pocos, en Colombia no existen datos publicados.

## Objetivos

Estimar la incidencia de algunas complicaciones del soporte nutricional en pacientes críticamente enfermos.

## Métodos

Estudio multicéntrico, descriptivo, prospectivo, realizado en seis instituciones de alta complejidad de la

ciudad de Medellín (Colombia) en un período de cuatro meses. La población objetivo estuvo constituida por pacientes adultos mayores de 18 años que ingresaron a UCI y recibieron SN mínimo por 48 horas. Fueron excluidos los pacientes remitidos de otras unidades de hospitalización o de otras instituciones con soporte nutricional instaurado así como mujeres en gestación.

En cada institución participante, una vez seleccionado el paciente que cumpliera los criterios de inclusión, se registró la presencia de las complicaciones definidas para cada tipo de soporte nutricional; la complicación se reportó una sola vez como evento nuevo en los formularios diseñados para tal fin. La información fue recolectada en un período de cuatro meses, al cabo de los cuales se determinó la incidencia de las complicaciones estudiadas. Para controlar los sesgos se capacitó a los investigadores en la identificación y registro de las complicaciones previamente establecidas y en el diligenciamiento de los formularios.

De cada paciente seleccionado se obtuvo información sobre edad, género, diagnóstico médico, estado nutricional a la admisión por valoración global subjetiva (VGS), tipo de soporte nutricional, vía de acceso, tipo de fórmula, complicaciones, duración del soporte, suspensión y causa. Se unificaron los criterios para la VGS, la cual se basó en la propuesta de Detsky (12) con un ajuste al incluir como nueva categoría a los pacientes con exceso de peso. Se realizó una prueba piloto durante un mes, la cual permitió probar y ajustar el proceso de recolección de datos.

## Definición de complicaciones

Con base en los reportes de otros estudios y de la experiencia clínica de los investigadores, se definieron las complicaciones a estudiar así:

### Nutrición enteral

**Residuo gástrico alto (RGA):** residuo con características alimentarias mayor a 150 ml<sup>13,14</sup>.

**Diarrea:** más de cinco deposiciones de consistencia líquida en un período de 24 horas ó dos deposiciones de un volumen superior a 1.000 ml/día<sup>15</sup>.

**Broncoaspiración (BA):** salida de fórmula de nutrición por boca y la aspiración de secreciones del tracto respiratorio con contenido de fórmula de nutrición confirmada por diagnóstico médico y placa de rayos X<sup>15</sup>.

**Retiro de la sonda (RS):** extracción voluntaria e involuntaria de la sonda. Se excluyó retiro por orden médica.

### Nutrición parenteral

**Hipertrigliceridemia (HTG):** valores mayores a 350 mg/dl, cuando se midió durante la infusión de

**Tabla I**  
Características generales de la población en estudio según tipo de soporte nutricional

| Variable                    |                          | Tipo de soporte nutricional |      |                   |      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------|-------------------|------|
|                             |                          | Enteral n: 380              |      | Parenteral n = 39 |      |
|                             |                          | n                           | %    | n                 | %    |
| Rangos de edad              | 18 a 40 años             | 107                         | 28,2 | 11                | 28,2 |
|                             | 41 a 64 años             | 143                         | 37,6 | 14                | 35,9 |
|                             | 65 años y mas            | 130                         | 34,2 | 14                | 35,9 |
| Género                      | Masculino                | 222                         | 58,4 | 16                | 41,0 |
|                             | Femenino                 | 158                         | 41,6 | 23                | 59,0 |
| Diagnostico agrupado        | Trauma                   | 95                          | 25,0 | 3                 | 7,7  |
|                             | Médico <sup>1</sup>      | 226                         | 59,5 | 18                | 46,2 |
|                             | Neoplasia                | 17                          | 4,5  | 1                 | 2,6  |
|                             | Sepsis                   | 25                          | 6,6  | 11                | 28,2 |
|                             | Quirúrgica               | 17                          | 4,5  | 6                 | 15,4 |
| Valoración Global Subjetiva | A-Bien nutrido           | 148                         | 38,9 | 9                 | 23,1 |
|                             | B-Riesgo de malnutrición | 138                         | 36,3 | 18                | 46,2 |
|                             | C-Severamente desnutrido | 34                          | 8,9  | 4                 | 10,3 |
|                             | D-Exceso de peso         | 60                          | 15,8 | 8                 | 20,5 |

<sup>1</sup>Se consideró el diagnóstico de enfermedad cardiovascular, renal, hepática, neurológica, respiratoria, VIH y otros.

lípidos y mayor de 250 mg/dl cuando se valoró 12 horas después<sup>10</sup>. No se consideró el tipo de infusión utilizada.

**Colestasis:** en pacientes con NP más de dos semanas y que presentaron al menos una de las siguientes alteraciones: bilirrubina total o directa > 1,2 mg%, fosfatasas alcalinas > 380 UI/l, gama glutamil transferasa > 50 UI/l<sup>10</sup>.

**Sepsis asociada a catéter:** identificación del mismo microorganismo en un cultivo de sangre y de una parte del catéter, realizado de manera semicuantitativa o cuantitativa, en presencia de signos de infección en ausencia de otras causas<sup>16</sup>; no se consideró si el cateter era mono, bilumen o trilumen

**Hipofosfatemia (HP):** cifras de fósforo sanguíneo menores de 2,5 mg/dl<sup>17</sup>.

#### Manejo ético de la investigación

Cada paciente o en su defecto un familiar, firmó un consentimiento para participar en forma voluntaria en la investigación; en algunos no fue posible por la condición del paciente o porque no tuvo acompañantes. El proyecto fue avalado por los Comités de Ética de cada una de las instituciones participantes.

#### Análisis estadístico

La base de datos y el análisis estadístico de la información se realizó en el programa SPSS versión 17.00. Las variables cuantitativas se describieron por medidas de tendencia central y dispersión; las vari-

ables cualitativas mediante frecuencias y porcentajes. Para cada complicación se calculó la incidencia y la densidad de incidencia (Nº episodios\*100/días de SN). Se utilizó la prueba Chi<sup>2</sup> o la prueba exacta de Fisher para explorar la asociación de cada complicación según las variables de interés y la U de Mann Whitney cuando al menos una de las variables fue cuantitativa. El nivel de significancia definido fue de p < 0,05.

#### Resultados

La población final estuvo conformada por 419 pacientes, de los cuales 222 fueron hombres (56,8%). La edad promedio fue de 54 ± 20 años y el 71,9% tenía más de 40 años. El 58,2% (244) de los pacientes ingresaron por diagnóstico médico (enfermedad cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, neurológica, respiratoria, renal, hepática y VIH), 23,4% (98) por trauma y 8,6% (36) presentaron sepsis. El 46,3% presentó a la admisión riesgo de malnutrición o malnutrición severa. En la tabla I se describen las características generales de la población de estudio por tipo de soporte.

Respecto al tipo de SN, el 90,7% (380) de los pacientes recibió NE y el 9,3% (39) NP. La vía de acceso más utilizada para la NE fue la sonda orogástrica (48,2%) y la vena subclavia para la NP (89,7%). La fórmula polimérica fue la más empleada en la NE (48,7%). En la tabla II se describen las características por tipo de SN. La duración del soporte fue en promedio 15 ± 15 días, con un mínimo de 2 y un máximo de 109; en el 47,5% de los casos, la duración fue

**Tabla II**  
Características del soporte nutricional de la población en estudio

| Variable                            |                                   | Tipo de soporte nutricional |      |            |      |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------|------------|------|
|                                     |                                   | Enteral                     |      | Parenteral |      |
|                                     |                                   | n                           | %    | n          | %    |
| Vía de acceso                       | Sonda nasogástrica                | 154                         | 40,5 | —          | —    |
|                                     | Sonda nasoyunal                   | 41                          | 10,8 | —          | —    |
|                                     | Gastrostomía                      | 2                           | 0,5  | —          | —    |
|                                     | Yeyunostomía                      | 0                           | 0,0  | —          | —    |
|                                     | Sonda orogástrica                 | 183                         | 48,2 | —          | —    |
|                                     | Vena subclavia                    | —                           | —    | 35         | 89,7 |
|                                     | Yugular                           | —                           | —    | 1          | 2,6  |
|                                     | Femoral                           | —                           | —    | 1          | 2,6  |
|                                     | PICC <sup>1</sup>                 | —                           | —    | 2          | 5,1  |
| Clasificación de la duración del SN | Menos de 10 días                  | 178                         | 46,8 | 21         | 53,8 |
|                                     | Entre 10 y 20 días                | 120                         | 31,6 | 11         | 28,2 |
|                                     | Mayor a 20 días                   | 82                          | 21,6 | 7          | 17,9 |
| Tipo de fórmula enteral             | Polimérica                        | 185                         | 48,7 | —          | —    |
|                                     | Oligomérica                       | 38                          | 10,0 | —          | —    |
|                                     | Polimérica + Módulo               | 36                          | 9,5  | —          | —    |
|                                     | Oligomérica + Módulo              | 6                           | 1,6  | —          | —    |
|                                     | Polimérica especializada          | 95                          | 25,0 | —          | —    |
|                                     | Polimérica especializada + Módulo | 20                          | 5,3  | —          | —    |

<sup>1</sup>PICC: Catéter Central de Inserción Periférica.

menor a 10 días sin diferencia significativa por tipo de soporte. El número de días contabilizados para la NE fue de 5.664 y para la NP de 583.

De los pacientes estudiados, el 43,7% de los que recibieron NE y el 51,3% de los que recibieron NP presentaron complicaciones, sin diferencia significativa por tipo de soporte ( $p = 0,363$ ). El RGA fue la complicación más incidente en los pacientes que recibieron NE (24,2%) con una densidad de incidencia de 1.62 episodios por 100 días de soporte. En la NP la complicación más incidente fue la HP (38,5%) con una densidad de incidencia de 2.57 episodios por 100 días de soporte. En general, se presentaron 2.93 complicaciones por cada 100 días para la NE y 3,43 para la NP. En la tabla III se presentan la incidencia y densidad de incidencia de las complicaciones por tipo de soporte. En el 26,7% de los pacientes que presentaron alguna complicación se suspendió el SN. Tanto para la NE como para la NP, la causa más frecuente de suspensión fue el fallecimiento (61,2% y 50%), seguido en la NE del retiro de la sonda (14,5%) y en la NP de la sepsis asociada al catéter (40%).

La duración del SN tanto enteral como parenteral mostró asociación estadísticamente significativa con la mayoría de las complicaciones estudiadas (tablas IV y V). En la NE se encontró asociación estadística significativa entre la diarrea y el suministro de la fórmula polimérica especializada más módulo ( $p = 0,008$ ) y la presencia del RGA con la vía de acceso por sonda oragástrica ( $p = 0,025$ ).

**Tabla III**  
Incidencia y densidad de incidencia de las complicaciones estudiadas por tipo de soporte nutricional

| Complicación          | Nutricional Enteral* n = 380    |                        |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
|                       | Incidencia                      | Densidad de incidencia |
| Complicación          | 43,7%                           | 2,93                   |
| Residuo gástrico alto | 24,2%                           | 1,62                   |
| Diarrea               | 12,6%                           | 0,85                   |
| Broncoaspiración      | 2,1%                            | 0,14                   |
| Retiro de la sonda    | 6,6%                            | 0,44                   |
| Complicación          | Nutricional Parenteral** n = 39 |                        |
|                       | Incidencia                      | Densidad de incidencia |
| Complicación          | 51,3%                           | 3,43                   |
| Hipertrigliceridemia  | 5,1%                            | 0,34                   |
| Colestasis            | 10,3%                           | 0,69                   |
| Sepsis por catéter    | 15,4%                           | 1,03                   |
| Hipofosfatemia        | 38,5%                           | 2,57                   |

\*Duración en días: 5.664.

\*\*Duración en días: 583.

## Discusión

Sin extremar el papel del SN, se reconoce su importancia en la atención de los pacientes críticos y hoy, más que un tratamiento, se considera una terapia dentro del manejo integral que puede contribuir a modular la función inmunológica e inflamatoria y a modificar y

**Tabla IV**  
Complicaciones de la nutrición enteral según duración del soporte

| Complicación          | Ocurrencia | Duración del soporte |               |                |           |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|
|                       |            | <i>n</i>             | <i>X ± DS</i> | <i>Mediana</i> | <i>P*</i> |
| Complicaciones        | No         | 214                  | 12 ± 12       | 10             | 0,000     |
|                       | Sí         | 166                  | 19 ± 17       | 14             |           |
| Residuo gástrico alto | No         | 288                  | 14 ± 14       | 10             | 0,002     |
|                       | Sí         | 92                   | 18 ± 14       | 14             |           |
| Diarrea               | No         | 332                  | 13 ± 12       | 10             | 0,000     |
|                       | Sí         | 48                   | 28 ± 22       | 21             |           |
| Broncoaspiración      | No         | 372                  | 15 ± 14       | 11             | 0,732     |
|                       | Sí         | 8                    | 17 ± 19       | 10             |           |
| Retiro de sonda       | No         | 355                  | 15 ± 14       | 11             | 0,140     |
|                       | Sí         | 25                   | 20 ± 16       | 14             |           |

X ± DS: promedio ± desviación estándar.

\*U de Mann-Whitney.

**Tabla V**  
Complicaciones de la nutrición parenteral según duración del soporte

| Complicación         | Ocurrencia | Duración del soporte |               |                |           |
|----------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|
|                      |            | <i>n</i>             | <i>X ± DS</i> | <i>Mediana</i> | <i>P*</i> |
| Complicaciones       | No         | 19                   | 9 ± 12        | 10             | 0,001     |
|                      | Sí         | 20                   | 22 ± 19       | 14             |           |
| Hipertrigliceridemia | No         | 37                   | 16 ± 18       | 10             | 0,173     |
|                      | Sí         | 2                    | 23 ± 7        | 14             |           |
| Colestasis           | No         | 35                   | 13 ± 14       | 10             | 0,007     |
|                      | Sí         | 4                    | 43 ± 21       | 21             |           |
| Sepsis               | No         | 33                   | 14 ± 16       | 11             | 0,005     |
|                      | Sí         | 6                    | 29 ± 23       | 10             |           |
| Hipofosfatemia       | No         | 24                   | 10 ± 11       | 11             | 0,012     |
|                      | Sí         | 15                   | 25 ± 21       | 14             |           |

X ± DS: promedio ± desviación estándar.

\*U de Mann-Whitney.

moderar la respuesta catabólica aunque no puede revertirla en su totalidad<sup>4</sup>. Este estudio determinó la incidencia de algunas de las complicaciones del SN en pacientes de UCI en instituciones hospitalarias de la ciudad de Medellín. Aunque son reconocidas las ventajas de la NE sobre la NP<sup>18</sup>, no se encontraron diferencias significativa entre la ocurrencia general de las complicaciones estudiadas por tipo de soporte, el 43,7% para la NE y el 51,3% para la NP ( $p = 0,363$ ).

Para la NE, el RGA fue la complicación de mayor incidencia (24,2%). Este hallazgo es consistente con lo reportado por diferentes autores respecto a que es ésta una de las complicaciones más frecuentes en los pacientes que reciben este tipo de soporte<sup>15,19,20</sup>. Comparar estas cifras con otros estudios es difícil pues no hay acuerdo en el punto de corte en el cual el residuo se

considera alto. Elpern y cols. definiendo un residuo gástrico > 150 ml como alto, encontraron una incidencia de 11,5%<sup>21</sup>. Metheny y cols. reportaron incidencias inversamente proporcionales al punto de corte definido: 39% para un volumen < 150 ml, 27% para un volumen hasta 200 ml y 17% para un volumen hasta 250 ml<sup>22</sup>. Grau y cols. refirieron una incidencia de 34,6% para un volumen mayor de 200 ml<sup>15</sup>. Montejó y cols. en dos estudios reportaron incidencias de 39% y 25%<sup>23,24</sup>; Mentec y cols. definiendo como alto un residuo entre 150 y 500 ml en dos mediciones consecutivas o > 500 ml en presencia de vómito reportaron una incidencia de 32%<sup>25</sup>. Aunque el punto de corte para RGA fue menor en este estudio, tanto la incidencia como la densidad de incidencia encontradas fueron más bajas que las publicadas por Grau y cols. en el estudio ICO-

MEP (24,2% vs 34,6% y 1,62 vs 3,03 respectivamente)<sup>15</sup>. Si bien la medición del RGA hace parte de la mayoría de los protocolos de las UCI, su utilidad e interpretación es controvertida pues depende de muchos factores como características de la sonda, tamaño de la jeringa usada, posición del paciente y habilidad de quien lo toma<sup>26,27</sup>. No siempre un RGA indica estasis gástrico<sup>28</sup> como tampoco un residuo gástrico bajo protege de la neumonía por aspiración<sup>29,30</sup>. Igual se debe tener en cuenta que puede ser un síntoma de alteraciones en el vaciamiento gástrico y no siempre por norma una complicación de la NE. Tanto los resultados de este estudio como los referenciados, muestran que el RGA es una complicación frecuente y que a pesar de la controversia y limitaciones, mientras no se dispongan de otras pruebas de motilidad gástricas rápidas y aplicables al pie de cama, sigue siendo recomendado como parte del monitoreo a los pacientes que reciben NE<sup>20,27,31</sup>. Es importante unificar técnicas para su medición, definir puntos de corte e interpretación para establecer los valores en los cuales el residuo gástrico indica que se puede continuar con la NE o si por el contrario, es necesario suspenderla por intolerancia gástrica<sup>26</sup> pues como lo reportan algunos estudios, el RGA es una de las principales causas de la suspensión de la NE y por tanto, de la hipoalimentación en los pacientes críticos en UCI<sup>19,24</sup>; de hecho en este estudio, fue la causa de suspensión en el 5,5% de los casos.

La diarrea fue la segunda complicación mas incidente de la NE en UCI, con un 12,5% y 0,85 eventos por cada 100 día de soporte. Como en la complicación anterior, la ausencia de uniformidad en las definiciones y el alto grado de subjetividad en la evaluación de los síntomas hace difícil comparar resultados<sup>32</sup>. La incidencia de la diarrea como complicación de la NE presenta cifras entre el 20 al 70%, sin embargo, para los grupos que utilizan definiciones objetivas, la incidencia queda limitada del 10 al 18%<sup>15,33</sup>, valor en el cual se encuentran los resultados de este estudio. La presencia de diarrea en un paciente con NE en UCI representa un problema importante por la pérdida de nutrientes, líquidos y electrolitos y el riesgo de infección en las úlceras por presión<sup>34</sup>. Las causas de la diarrea durante la NE incluyen factores relacionados con la dieta, con la administración, causas infecciosas, medicamentos y patología de base<sup>34,35</sup>. Aunque aun es generalizado el concepto de que la NE es el principal factor responsable de la diarrea, los factores antes mencionados deben ser considerados, pues como lo mostraron Edes y cols., sólo en un 25% de los casos, la dieta fue considerada responsable de la diarrea en pacientes que recibían NE<sup>36</sup>. Montejo y cols. reportan una incidencia del 14%<sup>24</sup> y Grau y cols. del 16% con una densidad de incidencia de 1,4 episodios por cada 100 días de soporte<sup>15</sup>. Los datos de este estudio mostraron una incidencia de diarrea dentro de los rangos basados en definiciones objetivas. Respecto al estudio Multicéntrico de Grau, los resultados fueron muy similares en la incidencia (12,5% versus 14,0%) pero con una menor densidad de

incidencia, 0,22 episodios por cada 100 días de soporte versus 1,38 episodios en el estudio ICOMEP<sup>15</sup>. En ninguno de los casos, la diarrea fue causa de suspensión de la NE, lo que podría estar reflejando que ante la aparición del evento, se aplican los protocolos para el mejor manejo del problema y se consideran medidas intermedias antes de tomar la decisión de suspender la NE.

La incidencia de la broncoaspiración como complicación de la NE en este estudio fue del 2,1% con 0,14 episodios por cada 100 días de soporte, en ambas casos cifras más altas que las encontradas por Grau y cols. en el INCOMEP, 0,37% y 0,03 respectivamente<sup>15</sup>. Sin duda una de las complicaciones más graves de la NE es la neumonía por aspiración, la cual sucede entre el 1 y el 44%, asociándose especialmente al acceso gástrico, donde influyen también factores como la patología de base, la tolerancia a la NE, el calibre y localización de la punta de la sonda y la presencia de reflujo gastroesofágico<sup>37</sup>. Además de considerar elevar la cabecera de la cama en un ángulo de 30 a 45 grados, en los últimos años se ha recomendado el acceso a yeyuno para disminuir el riesgo de broncoaspiración, sin embargo, varios estudios han demostrado que el riesgo es similar y que no hay diferencia significativa en la eficacia de la alimentación yeyunal versus la gástrica en pacientes críticamente enfermos<sup>38,39</sup>. En este estudio no se encontró diferencia significativa en la incidencia de la broncoaspiración según lugar de acceso de la sonda. Bankhead y cols. plantean que la medición del residuo gástrico sigue siendo la medida utilizada para prevenir la aspiración, aunque los estudios relacionados con su eficacia siguen siendo conflictivos<sup>26</sup>. De hecho, mientras algunos trabajos sin un poder estadístico significativo, han demostrado relación entre la neumonía por aspiración y el RGA<sup>40</sup>, otros, también sin poder estadístico suficiente, han mostrado que el RGA no es un marcador confiable que indique aumento en el riesgo de neumonía<sup>41</sup>. En este estudio se definió un punto de corte de 150 ml para diagnosticar RGA, lo cual podría sugerir que si bien fue bajo, puede posibilitar un seguimiento más cuidadoso del paciente que permite detectar tempranamente alteraciones en el vaciamiento gástrico, intolerancias a la NE y prevenir la incidencia de broncoaspiración como complicación de la NE en UCI; solo en un caso, la broncoaspiración fue causa de suspensión del soporte.

En este estudio una complicación de la NE que llama la atención por su incidencia, fue el retiro de la sonda, bien fuera voluntario o involuntario. La incidencia fue del 6,6% con 4,4 episodios por cada 100 días de NE. Infortunadamente, aunque es una situación frecuente, no hay datos publicados para efectos de comparación. Se menciona que es frecuente en niños, pacientes con alteraciones neurológicas y en aquellos bajo el efecto de medicamentos como opiáceos. En los pacientes críticos esta situación puede tener consecuencias como la suspensión temporal de la nutrición enteral, situación que contribuye a su vez a la disminución en el aporte de energía y nutrientes. El

retiro implica la colocación nuevamente de la sonda, con las molestias y riesgos que esto conlleva para el paciente; en algunas ocasiones es necesario intentar otro abordaje o incluso desistir de este tipo de soporte. Es necesario entonces prever esta complicación y monitorear al paciente en forma permanente para evitar que se presente. Actualmente se dispone de fijadores nasales para las sondas que pueden disminuir el riesgo de autoretiro de la sonda.

La HP es considerada como una complicación grave ya que el fósforo mantiene la integridad de la membrana celular y es un cofactor de diversas vías metabólicas para la formación de energía. En este estudio la incidencia de esta complicación fue de 38,5% mucho mayor comparada con el 18,1% reportado por Martínez y cols.<sup>17</sup>, esta diferencia puede deberse a que estos últimos eran pacientes post-quirúrgicos, mientras que en éste estudio se incluyeron pacientes en estado crítico en los cuales los niveles de fósforo se pueden disminuir por traumatismo, trastornos respiratorios o enfermedades infecciosas, procesos catabólicos y medicamentos frecuentemente usados en la UCI como bicarbonato, catecolaminas y adrenalina<sup>42</sup>. El estudio de ICOMEP reporta una incidencia de complicaciones hidroelectrolíticas de 43% en paciente críticos que recibieron NP<sup>10</sup>, sin embargo, estos resultados no son comparables dado que en ICOMEP agruparon en una sola complicación el aumento o la disminución de varios electrolitos (sodio, potasio, cloro, calcio, magnesio y fósforo). Batani y cols. encontraron 56,5% de complicaciones hidroelectrolíticas, mucho mayor que éste estudio, sin embargo, este último incluyó niños y adultos y tampoco especifica el porcentaje de pacientes con HP<sup>11</sup>. Otro aspecto a considerar es que la HP puede presentarse en pacientes desnutridos que inician soporte nutricional, ya que es la principal manifestación del síndrome de realimentación, que según algunos estudios puede presentarse entre un 30% y 38% de los pacientes que reciben NP cuando se suplementa con fósforo y llegar hasta el 100%, cuando no se administra este micronutriente. En este estudio el 46,3% de los pacientes presentó riesgo o malnutrición severa lo que podría explicar la alta incidencia de de esta complicación<sup>43</sup>.

En cuanto a la HTG, la incidencia fue de 5,1% y la densidad de incidencia 0,34. Al comparar este resultado con el estudio ICOMEP que utilizó el mismo punto de corte los hallazgos fueron similares (5,7%), aunque la densidad de incidencia fue un poco mayor<sup>10</sup>. Otro estudio multicéntrico realizado en 14 hospitales de España encontró que el 26,2% de los pacientes adultos que recibieron NP presentaron HTG. La diferencia en los resultados puede explicarse en que el estudio español consideró un punto de corte menor para diagnosticar HTG (> 267 mg/dl) y que se incluyeron pacientes de otras unidades de hospitalización<sup>44</sup>. En el estudio de Malaysia, la hiperlipidemia fue reportada sólo en el 0,7% de los pacientes, sin embargo no se indica el punto de corte, se incluyeron

niños y adultos y no se especifica que se consideró hiperlipidemia<sup>11</sup>.

El catéter venoso central es ampliamente utilizado en pacientes críticos y la sepsis es considerada la complicación de mayor riesgo. En un estudio realizado en Taiwan con 281 sujetos, se demostró que la NP fue el único factor de riesgo independiente y que tuvo asociación significativa con infección en pacientes quirúrgicos<sup>45</sup>. La incidencia de sepsis por catéter en este trabajo fue de 15,4% y la densidad de incidencia 1,03, más alta comparada con el ICOMEP que fue de 5,9% y 0,44 respectivamente. Entre otras causas, la diferencia encontrada podría atribuirse al no seguimiento de los protocolos de inserción y cuidado del catéter o al tiempo de duración de la NP que en este trabajo mostró asociación estadísticamente significativa. Otro estudio reportó que la duración de la NP y la frecuencia de inserción de catéter fueron los principales factores de riesgo para infección<sup>46</sup>. Otra investigación realizada en el hospital Johns Hopkins encontró que la duración del catéter fue el factor de riesgo de mayor fuerza tanto para la colonización como para la infección, sin embargo, este mismo estudio reportó que los catéteres usados para NP tuvieron una colonización más baja (1,6%) comparada con los usados para administración de líquidos, medicamentos o diálisis (12%-21%) y ninguno de los utilizados para NP presentó infección; este resultado lo atribuyen los autores a que en este hospital los catéteres son insertados y cuidados por un equipo multidisciplinario, son de un solo lumen, únicamente para NP y colocados en la vena subclavia<sup>47</sup>. El estudio de Batani, aunque incluyó niños y adultos, también reportó una incidencia muy baja de esta complicación, de los 215 pacientes que recibieron NP sólo 1 (0,7%) presentó sepsis<sup>11</sup>.

Referente a las complicaciones hepáticas, la incidencia de colestasis en este estudio fue de 10,3% y la densidad de incidencia de 0,69. En el estudio ICOMEP se reportó disfunción hepática en el 31,1% de los pacientes, siendo la colestasis la más frecuente con una densidad de incidencia de 3,6<sup>10</sup>. El estudio de Batani encontró complicaciones hepáticas en el 12,4% de los pacientes hospitalizados incluyendo adultos y niños, cifras similares a las encontradas en este trabajo<sup>11</sup>. El estudio de Cavicchi en pacientes con NP en el hogar reporta que a medida que incrementa el tiempo aumenta la incidencia de colestasis, consistente con los resultados de esta investigación<sup>48</sup>. Otro estudio realizado en UCI de España con 3.409 pacientes, utilizando exactamente los mismos criterios para diagnosticar colestasis, la incidencia de esta complicación se triplicó respecto a este estudio (30% vs 10,3%), sin embargo, es necesario considerar que el estudio español agrupó como disfunción hepática, colestasis, necrosis hepática y un patrón mixto. Los autores señalan como posibles causas de estos hallazgos, factores como diagnóstico de falla orgánica múltiple al ingreso o sepsis, causas que podrían en parte también explicar los resultados de este estudio, pues al ingreso el 28,2% de los pacientes tuvieron este diagnóstico<sup>49</sup>.

A pesar de sus beneficios el SN no está exento de riesgos y efectos adversos y tanto la NE como la NP pueden presentar complicaciones mecánicas, metabólicas, gastrointestinales e infecciosas. Estas complicaciones son en su mayoría detectables, manejables y no deberían ameritar la suspensión del SN<sup>8,50</sup>. Si bien las complicaciones del SN se deben evitar al máximo, cuando se presentan es preciso identificarlas y tratarlas oportunamente para que éste cumpla su objetivo y no se convierta en un riesgo adicional para la ya comprometida situación del paciente.

En conclusión, las complicaciones más incidentes del SN encontradas en este estudio fueron el RGA en la NE y la HP en la NP; el retiro de la sonda, voluntaria o involuntaria es una complicación más frecuente de lo que se piensa y con consecuencias para el paciente igualmente importantes. Finalmente, los resultados del estudio confirman que las complicaciones del SN en los pacientes de UCI son frecuentes, y aunque no siempre son comparables con otros estudios por la falta de uniformidad en la definición, los datos encontrados no se alejan de los reportados por otros autores. Las complicaciones son inevitables, pero el diseño y aplicación de protocolos por parte de los responsables del SN deberían ser la prioridad para lograr que éste cumpla su propósito de contribuir a la recuperación del paciente.

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Original

## Glycemic acute changes in type 2 diabetics caused by low and high glycemic index diets

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### Abstract

**Introduction:** Low-glycemic index diets may improve the glycemic control in type 2 diabetes but the debate over their effectiveness continues.

**Objectives:** To test the effects of low-glycemic index diets on acute glycemic control (2 days) by measuring capillary blood glucose in patients with type 2 diabetes.

**Methods:** This was a crossover randomized clinical trial with 12 type 2 diabetics which were randomly divided into 2 groups and targeted the following draft diets for low and high glycemic index (LGI and HGI) for 2 consecutive days in 2 consecutive weeks. Group 1 followed an LGI diet in week 1 and an HGI diet in week 2, group 2 adopted the contrary. They were oriented to maintain medication and lifestyle and to follow the recommendations. Measurements were made of glycemia capillaries in 2 days (fasting, before lunch, post-prandial lunch and before dinner) and one last in fasting on day 3. A food record during the days and the counting of carbohydrates meals was made. The software SigmaStat (version 2.03) was used, with a statistical significance criterion of  $p < 0.05$ .

**Results and discussion:** The amount of carbohydrates ingested by the LGI group was lower ( $p < 0.01$ ), showing that the adoption of this diet reduces the intake of carbohydrates, being favorable for diabetics. Mean blood glucose on the first day was lower in the LGI group ( $p < 0.05$ ).

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Key words: *Diabetes mellitus. Glycemic index. Blood glucose. Carbohydrate.*

### LAS VARIACIONES DE LA GLUCOSA AGUDA EN INDIVIDUOS CON DIABETES TIPO 2 CAUSADA POR LAS DIETAS DE BAJO Y ALTO ÍNDICE GLUCÉMICO

### Resumen

**Introducción:** Dietas de bajo índice glucémico pueden mejorar el control glucémico en la diabetes tipo 2, pero sigue el debate sobre su eficacia.

**Objetivos:** Evaluar los efectos de las dietas bajas en el índice glucémico en el control glucémico agudo (2 días) por la medición de glucosa en sangre capilar en pacientes con diabetes tipo 2.

**Métodos:** Se realizó un ensayo clínico cruzado y aleatorizado con 12 pacientes diabéticos tipo 2. Fueron divididos en 2 grupos: dietas de bajo y alto índice glucémico (BIG y AIG). Las dietas fueron consumidas por 2 días consecutivos, en 2 semanas distintas. Para el grupo 1 fue administrado la dieta BIG en la semana 1 seguida de la dieta AIG en la semana 2. En contrario se dio para el grupo 2. Se recomendó a los pacientes que mantuviesen la medicación y el estilo de vida estables. Se midió y registro la glucemia capilar en 2 días (en ayunas, antes y después (2 h) del almuerzo y antes de la cena) y en ayuno del día 3. Durante los días del estudio, se hicieron un registro de los alimentos y el conteo de carbohidratos. Para el tratamiento estadístico ( $p < 0,05$ ) se utilizó el programa SigmaStat (versión 2.03)

**Resultados y discusión:** La ingesta de carbohidratos fue menor ( $p < 0,01$ ) en el BIG, sugiriendo que la utilización de esta dieta reduce la ingesta de carbohidratos, siendo favorable para los diabéticos. La media de glucosa en sangre en el primer día fue inferior en el grupo BIG ( $p < 0,05$ ).

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Palabras clave: *Diabetes mellitus. Índice glucémico. Glucemia. Hidrato de carbono.*

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## Abbreviations

BMI: Body Mass Index.  
CHO: Carbohydrates.  
DM: Diabetes Mellitus.  
GI: Glycemic Index.  
GL: Glycemic Load.  
HGI: High Glycemic Index.  
LGI: Low Glycemic Index.  
SMBG: Self-monitoring of Blood Glucose.  
T2DM: Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus.

## Introduction

Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) is a disease resulting mainly from the dysfunction in the carbohydrate metabolism, characterized by hyperglycemia.<sup>1</sup> Its prevalence in recent decades has been increasing, reaching nearly 6% of the population,<sup>2</sup> data shows that in the world there are about 246 million people with diabetes<sup>3</sup> and this number is expected to grow to 366 million in 2030.<sup>4</sup> The importance of glycemic control in the prevention of chronic complications of DM was demonstrated by the United Kingdom Prospective Diabetes Study<sup>5</sup>, as well as the self-monitoring of blood glucose (SMBG) role in the control of diabetes mellitus and its substantial importance in assessing a diabetic type 2.<sup>6,7</sup>

Carbohydrates (CHO) are one of the factors that most influence glycemic control. According to the American Diabetes Association both the quantity and quality of CHO should be observed in a diabetic's diet.<sup>8</sup> The quality of the CHO is reflected by its glycemic index and the quantity by counting the amount of CHO. Jenkins et al., (1981) proposed the term glycemic index (GI), which led to classify CHO according to their speed of glycemic responses.<sup>9</sup> The Glycemic Load (GL) is a reference that takes into account the GI and the amount of CHO consumed and tends to reflect the effect of this on blood glucose.<sup>10</sup> The CHO counting value as a tool to aid in the control of blood glucose levels is already set. Carbohydrate counting is a method that has been recommended as a tool to be used to determine the amount of CHO to be consumed at each meal and assist in glycemic control.<sup>11</sup>

The regular consumption of foods with a high glycemic index (HGI) has been associated as a risk factor for diseases such as diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular disease and a low glycemic index (LGI) as preventive to such diseases and recommended in their treatment. LGI diets in general have a higher amount of fiber, helping to reduce the absorption of dietary cholesterol, contributing to a greater release of satiety signals, such as prolonged recurrence of hunger, thus helping in weight control. In addition, are shown in diabetic patients lower glycemic response immediately and, consequently, a lower insulin discharge, helping to keep blood glucose levels less oscillant.<sup>12-15</sup> Among

the several interferences in glucose oscillations in a diabetic subject, the diet is essential because it generates a direct change in blood glucose levels. Thus, it is important to help the patient understand the factors that interfere with their food selection and then make appropriate choices.<sup>16-17</sup>

Research on GI diets with humans has been largely developed, but investigations about acute blood glucose oscillations are few. This study aims to evaluate acute glycemic control (2 days) by measuring intensive capillary blood glucose due to the adoption of dietary advice to follow LGI and HGI diets in the dietary patterns of type 2 diabetics and correlating the amount of CHO consumed at lunch with their glycemic response too.

## Methodology

### *Study design and sample selection*

This is a crossover randomized clinical trial. The study population consisted of type 2 diabetic participants in a program of diabetes education and health from the University of Brasilia, Brazil. The selected sample consisted of 22 individuals. The calculation of sample size for the current study was established considering blood glucose as the main variable. Was adopted a statistical power of 80% and a significance level of 5%. The inclusion criteria were a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes,<sup>18</sup> be literate, age between 40-75, demonstrate competence to perform SMBG, have followed the guidelines of the researchers about the GI diets and signed the written informed consent. The study excluded candidates who had eating and/or other endocrine disorders, a history of myocardial infarction, cancer, smoking and alcoholism, liver disease, pregnant women, athletes, people with renal failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

### *Experimental design of the study*

After selecting the sample, there was an initial meeting with all participants to explain the purpose of the research, how to follow it and the importance of complying with all the directives from the team. We applied an initial questionnaire to collect clinical and epidemiological data, and gave guidelines. Then, the sample was divided randomly into two groups (LGI and HGI) in the next two days and on the morning of the third day, Group 1 was instructed to keep the LGI diet and group 2 the HGI diet. All volunteers received a follow-up form, and were explained in detail all the procedures to be followed by the participants. On the fourth day there was another meeting with the team to deliver the forms, review and verify the food records for 2 days. The following week, the methodology was repeated, but with the reversal of the groups: Group 1

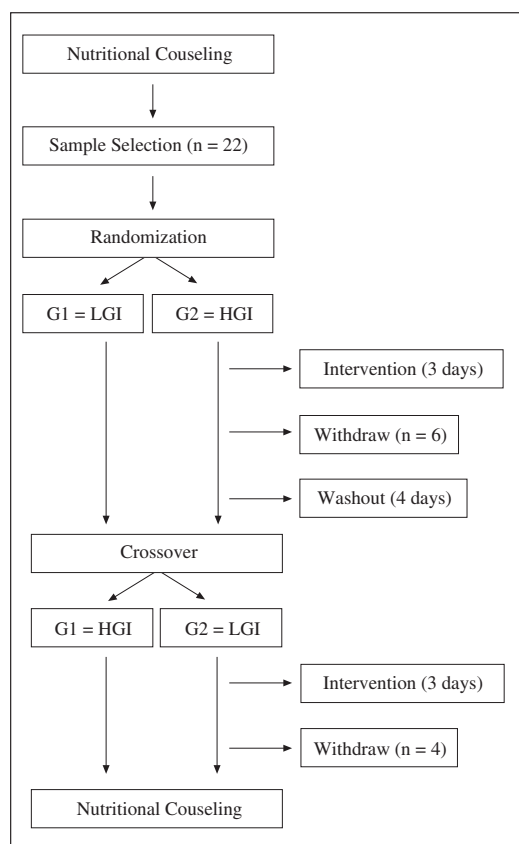


Fig. 1.—Experimental design of the study, Brasilia, Brazil, 2006.

on HGI diets and Group 2 on LGI diets, with the final re-evaluations too.

The variables collected included: demographics—gender, date of birth, time of diagnosis of diabetes, the use of hypoglycemic medications and insulin, schooling. This form contained explanations about the research, contact phone numbers in case of questions, recommendations, the type of diet to follow (LGI or HGI), days to follow, examples of foods to give preference to and which to avoid eating during the study according to the GI diet to be ingested.

For the collection, the volunteers had during the days of experiment a particular form with specifically boxes to put the values of blood glucose measurements, medicine used, the food record and their schedules. Participants were instructed to keep stable medication and lifestyle, not to practice intense physical activities and to strictly follow the recommendations of the team during the period, especially during the days of data collection. Figure 1 illustrates the experimental design of the study.

All volunteers who met the selection criteria had access to all the evaluations completed at the end of the study and received nutritional counseling for two

months. The protocol of this study was approved (n. 0021.0.012.000-03) by the Ethics Committee in Human Research of the School of Health Sciences at the University of Brasilia, Brazil. All volunteers were informed about the objectives of the study and signed the written informed consent.

#### Assessment of Glycemic Response

Post-prandial glucose (2 h) was made by finger prick before the start of the study, under the supervision of researchers. After the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was verified the normality of the glucose data ( $p = 0.158$ ), demonstrating the homogeneity of the sample.

Glycemic assessment was done with blood collected by finger prick using the One Touch Ultra® glucometer. The volunteers were instructed and trained to take their own glucose measurements during the two days of intervention —fasting, pre-lunch, post-prandial (2 hours after lunch), pre-dinner— and a final fasting measurement on the third day. To do this, all individuals were provided with enough and extra test strips to being used for their own glucose measurements. The results were collected and recorded by the individuals in specific places in the particular forms, with their schedules.

#### Dietary counseling

At the beginning of the study was done dietary advice to the adoption of high and low GI diets within the usual dietary patterns of individuals. Participants were instructed to choose GI foods corresponding to the experimental group were they are allocated, including in their usual diets during the days of the experiment. For example, the subjects allocated in low-GI group were instructed to consume more fruits, vegetables, salads, legumes, whole grains, dairy products. To facilitate such a procedure a table of CHO counting and glycemic index foods was developed and provided with the breakdown of foods according to their GI so that they can better include the food according to the type of diet to follow. The food selection on this table was made according to the International Table of GI values.<sup>19</sup> At the end of the study were made analysis of food records to check if the instructions were followed.

#### Anthropometric measurements

The height of the volunteers was measured using a stadiometer, scale of 0 to 220 cm, with an accuracy of 0.1 cm (SECA Model 206®), fixed to the wall. The weight was measured using an electronic balance with a 150 kg capacity and 50g increments (Toledo Brazil, Model 2096® PP), with individuals in the standing position without shoes and wearing light clothing.<sup>20</sup> The

| <b>Table I</b><br><i>Sample characterization, Brasilia, Brazil, 2006</i> |                   |             |                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Age (years)</i>                                                       | 46-55             | 56-65       | 66-75                          |
| Mean = 60 ( $\pm$ 8)                                                     | n = 4             | n = 5       | n = 3                          |
| <i>Time DM (years)</i>                                                   | 0-7               | 8-14        | $\geq$ 15                      |
| Mean = 12 ( $\pm$ 7)                                                     | n = 3             | n = 5       | n = 4                          |
| <i>BMI</i>                                                               | Normal            | Overweight  | Obesity                        |
| Mean = 29,0 ( $\pm$ 6,9)                                                 | n = 4             | n = 5       | n = 3                          |
| <i>Drugs</i>                                                             | Oral antidiabetic | Insulin     | Oral antidiabetic plus Insulin |
| No drugs = 1                                                             | n = 8             | n = 2       | n = 1                          |
| <i>Scholarity</i>                                                        | Basic education   | High School | Higher education               |
|                                                                          | n = 3             | n = 2       | n = 7                          |
| <i>Gender</i>                                                            | Male              | Female      |                                |
|                                                                          | n = 9             | n = 3       |                                |

Body Mass Index (BMI) was calculated relating the weight (kg) and height (m<sup>2</sup>) (Bray and Gray, 1988)<sup>21</sup> and classified according to World Health Organization criteria (WHO, 1995).<sup>22</sup>

#### *Assessment of Food Intake*

Before the study, all volunteers were trained to record their food intake on collection days. The food records were recorded on appropriate forms, specifying the time of the meal, food type, preparation and quantity of portion sizes. Each food record was reviewed in the presence of the volunteer in order to ensure their accuracy. For the CHO calculation in each meal, the conversion of portion sizes to grams was done using a table for the evaluation of food consumption in portion sizes,<sup>23</sup> and to verify the amount of CHO in the meal Brazilian Table of Food Composition<sup>24</sup> was used, obtained by the sum of the amount of each food.

#### *Statistical Analysis*

The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was applied to verify the normality of the variables. To evaluate the differences between glucose levels and CHO intake resulting from the LGI and HGI diets the Wilcoxon test and Paired t-test were used. To correlate the amount of CHO intake at lunch with their respective postprandial glycemia the Spearman's rank correlation coefficient was used and to compare the glycemic values between the days of each diet the Kruskal-Wallis test was used. The analyses were performed using the software SigmaStat (version 2.03), with a statistical significance criterion  $p < 0.05$  (95% confidence). The results of sample characterization and glycemic responses and food intake are presented as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation.

#### **Results**

Three subjects from initial sample refused to participate in the second stage, three had incomplete filled forms and four had personal problems, thus their data was not used. Data of twelve individuals was used for the analyses. Examples of situations that were reported by excluded volunteers: Subject 1: "I woke up at dawn to take my grandson to the hospital, he ended up hospitalized. I spent all night worried about the situation"; Subject 4: "I did not do physical activity on these two days for medical reasons, because I was doing a treatment for varicose veins"; Subject 7: "I did not follow the diet because there was a party at my work and I ate far beyond the usual", in addition to health problems reported by subject 11: flu, diarrhea and malaise (table I).

After the count of total carbohydrate ingested in the days of the experiments, was calculate the means  $\pm$  standard deviation. There was a significant increase in carbohydrate intake in high-GI group (238  $\pm$  71.5) compared to the low-GI group (176.7  $\pm$  56.2) ( $p < 0, 01$ ). Were done means  $\pm$  standard deviation of the number of meals per day of experiment for each treatment (AIG = 5.0  $\pm$  1.4; BIG = 5.3  $\pm$  1.4) ( $p = 0.42$ ). These results show that although the IG does not influence the number of meals per day, leads to an increase in the total carbohydrate in the diet.

The total amount of CHO ingested by the LGI group per meal (43.6  $\pm$  25.2 g) was lower than the HGI group (61.1  $\pm$  36.2 g) ( $p < 0.01$ ). When compared for days, on the first day the LGI group ingested 43.7  $\pm$  23.1 g per meal while the HGI group 65.0  $\pm$  40.0 g ( $p < 0.01$ ) and the second day the LGI group consumed 43.5  $\pm$  27.4 g per meal against 57.5  $\pm$  31.7 g HGI group ( $p < 0.01$ ). Figure 2 shows the mean  $\pm$  standard error of amount of carbohydrates ingested per meal in the everyday diet.

On the first day the mean blood glucose was higher in the HGI group (148  $\pm$  62 mg/dl) compared with the LGI group (127  $\pm$  30 mg/dl) ( $p < 0.05$ ). By the second day, fasting glucose levels had the same average value

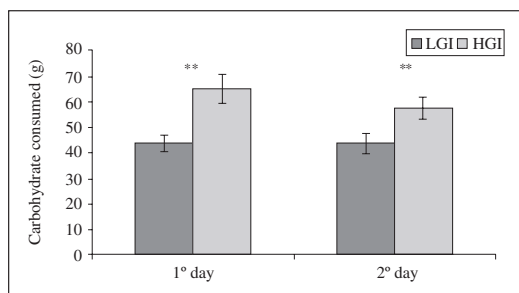


Fig. 2.—Mean  $\pm$  standard error of amount of CHO consumed per meal by LGI and HGI diets, Brasília, Brazil. \*\* $p < 0.01$ .

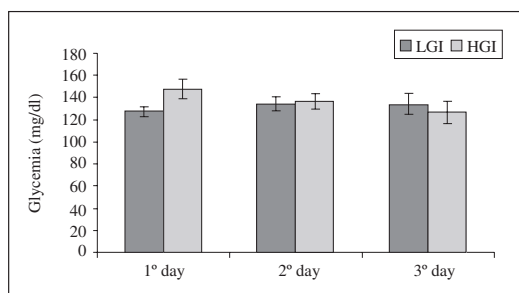


Fig. 3.—Mean  $\pm$  standard error of glycemic variation of LGI and HGI diets, Brasília, Brazil. \* $p < 0.05$ .

(132 mg/dl) and no significant difference in the total daily average ( $p = 0.78$ ). In the comparison of fasting on the third day there was also no statistical difference ( $p = 0.12$ ). In the evaluation of all glucose measurements, the average blood glucose levels were not different between the two diets ( $p = 0.37$ ). Figure 3 shows the average of every day blood glucose levels. There were no significant differences comparing blood glucose levels between the days of each diet: LGI diet ( $p = 0.79$ ) and HGI diet ( $p = 0.52$ ), showing no improvement or worsening of glycemic control over the days of the research.

Figure 4 shows the correlation between the amount of CHO consumed at lunch with their respective post-prandial glycemia (2 h).

## Discussion

Currently one of the discussions regarding the dietary treatment of T2DM is about the type of CHO. It is closely related to glycemic changes, which could lead to benefits and improvements in the metabolic parameters of the patients.<sup>25</sup> According to the recommendations of American Diabetes Association (ADA),<sup>8</sup> nutritional therapy is extremely important in the prevention and treatment of T2DM, with the objective of control blood glucose levels, normalize blood pressure values, avoid gaining weight and the complications of metabolic disorder, as well as other objectives. The recommenda-

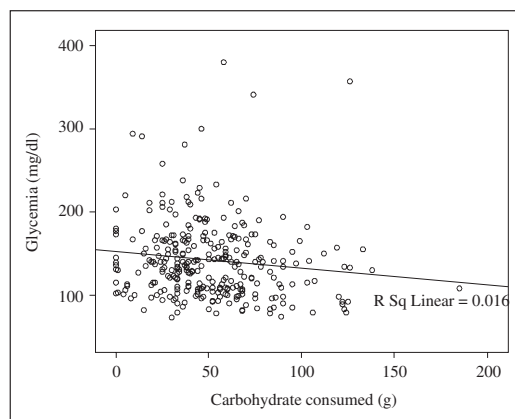


Fig. 4.—Correlation between amount of CHO consumed at lunch and their glycemic response, Brasília, Brazil.

tions for the quantity and quality of CHO should be made, always seeking the general benefits of using the glycemic index and glycemic load.

At the beginning of the study there was great interest from individuals to participate in the research because they should do several SMBG per day and understand how their body responds to certain types of food. The volunteers were encouraged to give more attention to the foods they were consuming, understand better how the changes in consumption affect blood glucose and what factors are associated with these oscillations, such as intrinsic to foods and environmental factors.

On the report of the HGI days, there was a description of the foods that were included in the diet, e.g. chocolate cake, banana and guava candy, soda, pudding, candy in general, fritters, macaroni, chocolate, condensed milk, and foods that often the health professionals who are monitoring the patients ultimately restrict or even prohibit. The ban comes in response to the fact that these foods are HGI, since they may adversely affect the glycemic control in diabetics. However, in the present study, this result was not so evident.

As reported by Brand-Miller et al.,<sup>25</sup> Ludwig,<sup>26</sup> Sartorelli & Cardoso<sup>27</sup> LGI diets are used for diabetics to improving the glycemic profile, but in our study we were able to perceive this benefit only on the first day of intervention. It was noted that after the end of the first day, there was a balance of blood glucose levels, and the mean fasting values of the second day were the same (132 mg/dl), regardless of the diet followed. It may be because the HGI group proved to be a bit more concerned about glucose levels, due to the high values of the previous day, which led to an improvement in dietary habits and glycemic control.

A greater focus on nutrition education is needed, showing that diet control is necessary in the glycemic control.<sup>28</sup> Nutritional education is highlighted in epidemiological studies where the results point to a correlation between eating behavior and disease. It is the

part of nutrition science that applies to directing its resources toward learning, adapting and the acceptance of healthy eating habits in line with promoting the health of the individual and the community.<sup>29,30</sup> Monitoring through a diabetes education program is extremely important, with an emphasis on diet therapy, physical activity and self-care.<sup>16</sup>

When the quantity of CHO ingested at lunch with their respective blood glucose levels were correlated, a weak correlation was found between the variables ( $p = 0.12$ ), showing that despite the average CHO ingested in the meals had been greater in the HGI diets ( $p < 0.01$ ), no great impact was shown on the glycemic response. This is evidence that a HGI diet is associated with a greater consumption of CHO, but not necessarily to a loss of glycemic control. In this study, the amount of CHO is not linked to blood glucose, as can be seen in the results of the CHO ingestion at lunch with postprandial glucose.

Although recent studies show LGI diets are beneficial in the treatment of T2DM,<sup>31,32</sup> other results are still conflicting.<sup>33</sup> In practice it was possible to observe significant changes in acute glucose due to the adoption of LGI diets only on the first day, this may be because of the difficulties encountered by individuals following the diet in their daily lives, and that psychosocial factors influencing their decisions regarding food choices. The group showed the adoption of healthy choices when blood glucose levels were altered, reaching a point of knowledge desirable in a work of nutrition education, a fact corroborated by the study of Miller et al.<sup>34</sup>

## Conclusion

In our study the amount of CHO ingested per meal by the LGI group ( $43.6 \pm 25.2$  g) was lower than the HGI group ( $61.1 \pm 36.2$  g) ( $p < 0.01$ ), showing that the adoption of the LGI diet reduces the CHO intake, being favorable for people with diabetes. Although is know the benefits of low-GI diets on glycemic and metabolic control in type 2 diabetics, in our study there was significant difference in acute glycemic control due to the adoption of low-GI diet only on the first day ( $p < 0.05$ ).

The results of our study are important because they show that the nutritional instructions for adoption of low-GI diets in free-living condition is valid, providing a lower intake of carbohydrates, contributing to a lower energy intake and improvement in glycemic control. It is necessary to conduct well-controlled clinical studies evaluating the effect of glycemic index on acute glycemic control in patients with diabetes, to show the effectiveness of the nutritional tool.

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Original

# Lipid profile and cardiovascular risk factors among first-year Brazilian university students in São Paulo

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## Abstract

**Background/aims:** The surveillance of cardiovascular risk factors has been recommended worldwide. The current study is aimed to estimate the prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors among first-year students from a public university in the city of São Paulo, Brazil.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional study of 56 first-year students, of both genders, was performed. Information about demographic characteristics, family history of chronic diseases, smoking, and physical activity was obtained by means of a standardised questionnaire. Anthropometrical parameters (BMI, waist circumference, body fat percentage), metabolic parameters (glycaemia, serum lipid profile), and dietary data (total energy intake, percentage of total energy from macronutrients, cholesterol and dietary fiber) were assessed.

**Results:** The risk of cardiovascular diseases was characterised by family history of cardiovascular diseases (44.6%), smoking (10.7%), physical inactivity (35.7%), borderline high total cholesterol and LDL-c levels (16.1% and 5.4, respectively), decreased HDL-c levels (8.9%), increased triglyceride levels (8.9%), and overweight and obesity (17.8% and 7.1%, respectively). The diet of the students was inadequate: it was high in fat and protein, and low in carbohydrate and dietary fibre.

**Conclusions:** The prevalence of risk factors for cardiovascular diseases in young adults draws attention to the need to adopt preventive plans in the university setting.

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Key words: Cardiovascular risk factors. Body mass index. Waist circumference. Cholesterol. Glycaemia. Young adults.

## PERFIL LIPÍDICO Y FACTORES DE RIESGO CARDIOVASCULAR EN ESTUDIANTES UNIVERSITARIOS BRASILEÑOS DE PRIMER AÑO DE SÃO PAULO

## Resumen

**Antecedentes/objetivos:** la vigilancia de los factores de riesgo se ha recomendado mundialmente. El presente estudio pretendía estimar la prevalencia de los factores de riesgo cardiovascular en estudiantes de primer año de una universidad pública de la ciudad de São Paulo, Brasil.

**Métodos:** Se realizó un estudio transversal de 56 estudiantes de primer año, de ambos sexos. Se obtuvo información acerca de las características demográficas, antecedentes familiares de enfermedades crónicas, hábito de fumar y actividad física mediante un cuestionario estandarizado. Se evaluaron parámetros antropométricos (IMC, circunferencia de la cintura, porcentaje de grasa corporal) y bioquímicos (glucemia, perfil lipídico en suero). La información relativa a la ingestión de la dieta se evaluó mediante un registro de alimentación de tres días.

**Resultados:** el riesgo de enfermedades cardiovasculares se caracterizó por los antecedentes familiares de enfermedades cardiovasculares (44,6%), hábito tabáquico (10,7%), actividad física (35,7%), colesterol y concentración de LDL-c en el límite superior (16,1% y 5,4, respectivamente), disminución de las concentraciones de HDL-c (8,9%), aumento de las concentraciones de triglicéridos (8,9%) u sobrepeso y obesidad (17,8% y 7,1%, respectivamente). La dieta de los estudiantes fue inapropiada: su contenido era elevado en grasas y proteínas y bajo en hidratos de carbono y fibra de la dieta.

**Conclusiones:** la prevalencia de factores de riesgo para enfermedades cardiovasculares en adultos jóvenes reclama la atención hacia la necesidad de planes preventivos en el ámbito universitario.

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Palabras clave: Factores de riesgo cardiovascular. Índice de masa corporal. Circunferencia de la cintura. Colesterol. Glucemia. Adultos jóvenes.

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## Introduction

Cardiovascular diseases remain the leading cause of death worldwide,<sup>1</sup> and in Brazil these diseases are responsible for more than 48% of the total number of deaths.<sup>2</sup>

Several risk factors for cardiovascular diseases have been identified, increasing the ability to prevent and manage chronic conditions. Risk factors for cardiovascular diseases comprise modifiable variables (smoking, sedentary lifestyle, inappropriate dietary habits, hypertension, hypercholesterolaemia, glucose intolerance, and obesity) and non-modifiable variables (age, gender, race, and heredity).<sup>3</sup>

Although cardiovascular diseases typically occur in middle age or later, risk factors for these diseases are determined to a large extent by the lifestyle behaviours learned early in life and maintained during adulthood.<sup>4</sup> In Brazil, in part due to changes in dietary habits and the degree of physical activity, a high prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors, particularly overweight and a sedentary lifestyle, have been reported among young adults.<sup>2,5</sup>

Given that several cardiovascular risk factors are modifiable, it is necessary to determine prevalence of these risk factors and, if the results warrant, to carry out prevention programs aimed at reducing their frequency. The aim of this study was to examine the prevalence of some of the main cardiovascular risk factors in a population of first-year students from a public university in a city in the southeast region of Brazil.

## Methods

In the 2005 academic year, all first-year university students from a Brazilian public university, located in the city of Sao Paulo, were invited to take part in the present study. Fifty-six students pursuing career in the medical field (20% men, mean age  $19.7 \pm 0.9$  years; and 80% women, mean age  $20.6 \pm 2.6$  years) voluntarily participated in the study, representing 19% of the student population who entered the university that year. The study was approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of the Federal University of Sao Paulo and all participants signed a consent form for participation in the protocol.

A standardised interview was carried out together with an anthropometric assessment by a team of expert nutritionists at the Student Health Services of the university. Through the standardised interview, information regarding family history of chronic diseases, regardless of the age of onset, as well as lifestyle habits such as smoking and physical activity were obtained. Smoking was classified in accordance of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention<sup>6</sup> and the Brazilian Health Ministry.<sup>7</sup> Sedentary lifestyle was defined as being fewer than two weekly periods of physical activity with at least 30 minutes of duration.

Anthropometric assessment consisted of measurements of weight, height, waist circumference (WC) and skin folds, performed with the student in the standing position, barefoot, and in light garments. Weight and height were obtained by means of a scale bearing a stadiometer (Filizola®, model 31, São Paulo, Brazil). WC was obtained by means of a non-stretch fibreglass metric tape in the midline between the lower costal margin and the iliac crest. Body mass index (BMI) and WC were classified in accordance with the parameters of the World Health Organization.<sup>8,9</sup> Four skin fold thickness were measured on the left side of the body, in triplicate, to the nearest 0.1 mm, by means of a Lange skin-fold calliper (Cambridge Scientific Industries, Inc.). The skin fold of the triceps was measured on the vertical fold; on the posterior midline of the upper arm (halfway between the acromion and olecranon processes, with the arm held freely to the side of the body). The biceps skin fold was also measured on the vertical fold, on the anterior aspect of the arm over the belly of the biceps muscle, 1 cm above the level used to mark the triceps site. The subscapular skin fold was taken from the diagonal fold at a 45° angle, 1 to 2 cm below the inferior angle of the scapula; and the suprailiac skin fold, also taken from the diagonal fold (in line with the natural angle of the iliac crest), was taken in the anterior axillary line immediately superior to the iliac crest. The body density was calculated from the sum of the four skin folds,<sup>10</sup> and the body fat percentage (%BF) was obtained and classified in accordance with Siri<sup>11</sup> and Lohman,<sup>12</sup> respectively.

Dietary data were evaluated by means of a non-consecutive three-day food record. Participants were provided with food record forms and were taught how to complete them. Total energy intake and percentage of total energy from macronutrients were obtained using the software NutWin® version 2.5 (Center for Health Informatics, Federal University of Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil), and data were analysed in accordance with the recommendations of the World Health Organization<sup>13</sup> and the Institute of Medicine.<sup>14</sup>

Annually, all students are assessed for metabolic parameters at the Student Health Services of the university. In brief, blood samples were collected after overnight fasting by a team of nurses from the Central Laboratory of the Sao Paulo Hospital. Glycaemia was determined in plasma fluoride, and triglycerides, total cholesterol, and HDL-c were determined in serum by means of conventional laboratory enzymatic techniques. LDL-c and oxidised LDL-c levels were calculated using the equations of Friedwald et al.,<sup>15</sup> and Tsimihodimos et al.,<sup>16</sup> respectively. The metabolic parameters were analysed according to the definitions of the Brazilian Diabetes Society<sup>17</sup> and the National and International Cholesterol Education Program-NCEP/ ATPIII.<sup>1</sup> The prevalence of metabolic syndrome was assessed according to the NCEP/ATPIII<sup>18</sup> classification.

Statistical analyses were performed using the software GraphPad Prism, version 4.03 (GraphPad Soft-

**Table I**  
Anthropometric and metabolic parameters of the university students according to gender

|                                           | Men              |      | Women            |             | P          |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------|------|------------------|-------------|------------|
|                                           | Mean $\pm$ SD    | %    | Mean $\pm$ SD    | %           |            |
| <i>Body Mass Index (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</i> | 23.8 $\pm$ 2.8   |      | 22.9 $\pm$ 4.5   |             | 0.21 m     |
| 18.5-24.99                                |                  | 72.7 |                  | 75.6        |            |
| 25.0-29.99                                |                  | 27.3 |                  | 15.6        | 0.50 fh    |
| $\geq 30.0$                               |                  | 0.0  |                  | 8.8         |            |
| <i>Waist Circumference (cm)</i>           | 79.8 $\pm$ 6.4   |      | 78.6 $\pm$ 9.8   |             | 0.35 m     |
| < 94 (M); 80 (W)                          |                  | 100  |                  | 68.8        |            |
| 94-102 (M); 80-88 (W)                     |                  | 0.0  |                  | 15.6 $\geq$ | 0.23 fh    |
| 102 (M); 88 (W)                           |                  | 0.0  |                  | 15.6        |            |
| <i>Body Fat (%)</i>                       | 17.9 $\pm$ 4.9   |      | 29.6 $\pm$ 6.2   |             | < 0.001 m  |
| $\leq 19.9$ (M); 24.9 (W)                 |                  | 63.6 |                  | 17.8        |            |
| 20.0-25.0 (M); 25.0-29.9 (W)              |                  | 27.3 |                  | 24.4        | < 0.001 fh |
| $\geq 25.1$ (M); 30.0 (W)                 |                  | 0.0  |                  | 57.8        |            |
| <i>Fasting Glycaemia (mg/dL)</i>          | 78.7 $\pm$ 9.8   |      | 73.4 $\pm$ 7.2   |             | 0.32 m     |
| < 100                                     |                  | 100  |                  | 100         |            |
| <i>Total Cholesterol (mg/dL)</i>          | 141.4 $\pm$ 17.8 |      | 168.8 $\pm$ 29.9 |             | < 0.001 m  |
| < 200                                     |                  | 100  |                  | 80.0        |            |
| 200-239                                   |                  | 0.0  |                  | 20.0        | 0.18 f     |
| <i>LDL-c (mg/dL)</i>                      | 84.1 $\pm$ 14.7  |      | 93.6 $\pm$ 23.6  |             | 0.08 m     |
| < 100                                     |                  | 72.7 |                  | 75.6        |            |
| 100-129                                   |                  | 18.2 |                  | 20.0        | 0.83 fh    |
| 130-159                                   |                  | 9.1  |                  | 4.4         |            |
| <i>Oxidised LDL-c</i>                     | 2.54 $\pm$ 1.98  |      | 1.39 $\pm$ 0.55  |             | 0.05 m     |
| < 3                                       |                  | 100  |                  | 100         |            |
| <i>HDL-c (mg/dL)</i>                      | 38.9 $\pm$ 6.8   |      | 58.3 $\pm$ 10.9  |             | < 0.001 m  |
| < 40                                      |                  | 45.5 |                  | 0.0         |            |
| $\geq 40$                                 |                  | 54.5 |                  | 100         | < 0.001 f  |
| <i>Triglycerides (mg/dL)</i>              | 94.9 $\pm$ 50.4  |      | 79.7 $\pm$ 31.3  |             | 0.89 m     |
| < 150                                     |                  | 90.9 |                  | 91.1        |            |
| 150-199                                   |                  | 9.1  |                  | 8.9         | 1.00 f     |

Mann-Whitney test (m); Fisher exact test (f); Fisher-Freeman-Halton test (fh).

ware Inc., San Diego, USA). Descriptive analysis was carried out using means, standard deviations and percentages. The normality of the distributions was assessed using the D'Agostino-Pearson test. Comparisons between two variables were done using the Mann-Whitney test or the Kruskal-Wallis test for continuous variables and using the Fischer's exact test or the Fisher-Freeman-Halton test for the comparison of percentages. Correlations between anthropometric and metabolic parameters were determined using the Spearman correlation test. The level of significance was set at  $p < 0.05$ .

## Results

A family history of dyslipidaemia was present in 18.2% of males and 44.4% of females; hypertension in

45.5% and 55.6% (respectively), diabetes mellitus in 54.5% and 71.1%, overweight/obesity in 45.5% and 44.4%, and cardiovascular disorders in 45.5% and 44.4%. None of the men and 13.3% of the women was smokers, and a sedentary lifestyle was presented in 27.3% of the men and 37.8% of the women, with no differences between genders in any of these variables.

Data regarding anthropometric and metabolic parameters of the students according to gender are summarised in Table 1. The mean values for BMI and WC were in the normal range for both men and women, with no difference between genders. However, according to the BMI classification, 27.3% of the men and 15.6% of the women were overweight, and 8.8% of the women were obese. Additionally, a WC associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular diseases was present in 31.2% of the women. The mean %BF levels were in the normal range for men, and they were mod-

**Table II**  
Means and standard deviations of LDL-c and HDL-c according to other cardiovascular risk factors

|                                           | LDL-c           |        |                  |        | HDL-c           |        |                 |        |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|------------------|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
|                                           | Men             |        | Women            |        | Men             |        | Women           |        |
|                                           | Mean $\pm$ SD   | P      | Mean $\pm$ SD    | P      | Mean $\pm$ SD   | P      | Mean $\pm$ SD   | P      |
| <i>Body Mass Index (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</i> |                 |        |                  |        |                 |        |                 |        |
| 18.5-24.99                                | 82.3 $\pm$ 15.7 | 0.54 m | 92.3 $\pm$ 25.6  | 0.53 m | 40.13 $\pm$ 6.4 | 0.47 m | 58.0 $\pm$ 10.9 | 0.98 m |
| $\geq 25.0$                               | 88.3 $\pm$ 7.6  |        | 98.6 $\pm$ 18.1  |        | 36.0 $\pm$ 6.9  |        | 58.6 $\pm$ 11.8 |        |
| <i>Waist Circumference (cm)</i>           |                 |        |                  |        |                 |        |                 |        |
| $\leq 94$ (M); 80 (W)                     | 84.1 $\pm$ 14.7 | –      | 91.9 $\pm$ 20.8  | 0.39 k | 38.9 $\pm$ 6.8  | –      | 59.4 $\pm$ 10.8 | 0.53 k |
| 94-102 (M); 80-88 (W)                     | –               | –      | 99.6 $\pm$ 17.3  |        | –               | –      | 55.3 $\pm$ 15.0 |        |
| $\geq 102$ (M); 88 (W)                    | –               | –      | 104.7 $\pm$ 19.4 |        | –               | –      | 58.1 $\pm$ 9.9  |        |
| <i>Body fat (%)</i>                       |                 |        |                  |        |                 |        |                 |        |
| $\leq 19.9$ (M); 24.9 (W)                 | 83.5 $\pm$ 15.2 | 0.44 m | 104.0 $\pm$ 25.0 | 0.08 k | 37.3 $\pm$ 7.3  | 0.24 m | 55.5 $\pm$ 9.6  | 0.58 k |
| 20.0-25.0 (M); 25.0-29.9 (F)              | 92.3 $\pm$ 8.1  |        | 83.6 $\pm$ 12.1  |        | 44.0 $\pm$ 3.5  |        | 61.8 $\pm$ 12.2 |        |
| $\geq 25.1$ (M); 30.0 (W)                 | –               |        | 100.2 $\pm$ 18.5 |        | –               |        | 57.7 $\pm$ 9.4  |        |
| <i>Sedentary Lifestyle</i>                |                 |        |                  |        |                 |        |                 |        |
| Present                                   | 80.0 $\pm$ 24.0 | 0.52 m | 88.0 $\pm$ 29.3  | 0.45 m | 36.5 $\pm$ 4.9  | 0.58 m | 58.6 $\pm$ 10.6 | 0.94 m |
| Absent                                    | 84.9 $\pm$ 12.8 |        | 96.6 $\pm$ 20.2  |        | 39.6 $\pm$ 6.9  |        | 58.2 $\pm$ 11.3 |        |
| <i>Smoking</i>                            |                 |        |                  |        |                 |        |                 |        |
| Present                                   | –               | –      | 95.8 $\pm$ 20.9  | 0.81 m | –               | –      | 54.8 $\pm$ 13.5 | 0.37 m |
| Absent                                    | 84.1 $\pm$ 14.7 |        | 93.3 $\pm$ 24.3  |        | 38.9 $\pm$ 6.8  |        | 58.9 $\pm$ 10.6 |        |

Mann-Whitney test (m); Kruskal-Wallis test (k).

erately high for women. The mean %BF levels were significantly higher in women than in men ( $P = < 0.001$ ) and an increased %BF was observed in 57.8% of the women.

The mean fasting glycaemia levels were in the normal range for both men and women and did not differ between genders. A significant alteration in fasting glycaemia concentration was observed in neither gender.

Mean total cholesterol, LDL-c, oxidised LDL-c, HDL-c and triglycerides levels were in the normal range for both genders. Women presented mean total cholesterol and HDL-c levels that were higher than those of the men ( $P < 0.001$ ), mean LDL-c levels tended to be higher in the women ( $P = 0.08$ ), and mean oxidised LDL-c levels were higher in men than in women ( $P < 0.001$ ). Dyslipidaemias, characterised by increased levels of total cholesterol, LDL-c and triglycerides were not observed in the present sample. However, borderline high total cholesterol levels were observed in 20.0% of the women, borderline high LDL-c levels were observed in 9.1% of the men and 4.4% of the women and borderline high triglycerides levels were observed in 9.1% of the men and 8.9% of the women, with no difference between genders. Additionally, reduced HDL-c levels were observed in 45.5% of the men and none of the women. Tables 2 and 3 show the mean levels of the metabolic parameters, according to the other cardiovascular risk factors analysed. In the present sample, it was not able to observe any statistically significant associations

between the metabolic parameters and the other cardiovascular risk factors. Importantly, BMI showed a directly proportional relation to WC ( $P < 0.001$ ), BF% ( $P < 0.001$ ), total cholesterol ( $P = 0.04$ ), LDL-c ( $P = 0.01$ ), and triglyceride levels ( $P = 0.04$ ). Based on the parameters evaluated, i.e., WC, fasting glycaemia, HDL-c, and triglycerides levels, no men or women had metabolic syndrome.

Dietary data according to gender are shown in Table 4. Energy intake was statistically higher in the male students than in the female students ( $P < 0.001$ ). The mean carbohydrate intake was below the adequate range, whereas the mean protein and lipid intakes were above recommended levels in both men and women, with no difference between genders. In both genders, the mean cholesterol and fibre intakes were, respectively, in the normal range and below the recommended range. No statistically significant difference in the average intake of these nutrients was observed between genders.

## Discussion

Epidemiological trends indicate that there will be an increase in incidences of cardiovascular diseases worldwide, particularly in developing countries.<sup>3,19,20</sup> Accordingly, the incidence of cardiovascular risk factors has increased among Brazilians in recent years, and mortality from cardiovascular diseases remains the

**Table III**  
Means and standard deviations of serum total cholesterol, triglycerides and glycaemia according to other cardiovascular risk factors

|                                           | Total cholesterol |      |                  |      | Triglycerides    |      |                  |      | Glycaemia       |      |                |      |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|------|------------------|------|------------------|------|------------------|------|-----------------|------|----------------|------|
|                                           | Men               |      | Women            |      | Men              |      | Women            |      | Men             |      | Women          |      |
|                                           | Mean $\pm$ SD     | P    | Mean $\pm$ SD    | P    | Mean $\pm$ SD    | P    | Mean $\pm$ SD    | P    | Mean $\pm$ SD   | P    | Mean $\pm$ SD  | P    |
| <b>Body Mass Index (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b> |                   |      |                  |      |                  |      |                  |      |                 |      |                |      |
| 18.5 - 24.99                              | 137.7 $\pm$ 18.1  | 0.54 | 167.0 $\pm$ 32.3 | 0.50 | 74.83 $\pm$ 27.4 | 0.71 | 77.5 $\pm$ 32.7  | 0.21 | 76.6 $\pm$ 9.9  | 0.76 | 73.3 $\pm$ 7.9 | 0.98 |
| $\geq 25.0$                               | 147.7 $\pm$ 14.7  | m    | 174.8 $\pm$ 23.7 | m    | 116.7 $\pm$ 81.4 | m    | 87.6 $\pm$ 28.4  | m    | 79.0 $\pm$ 13.9 | m    | 73.9 $\pm$ 6.0 | m    |
| <b>Waist Circumference (cm)</b>           |                   |      |                  |      |                  |      |                  |      |                 |      |                |      |
| < 94 (M); 80 (W)                          | 141.4 $\pm$ 17.8  |      | 167.5 $\pm$ 28.8 | 0.70 | 94.9 $\pm$ 50.4  |      | 76.9 $\pm$ 35.9  | 0.42 | 78.7 $\pm$ 9.8  |      |                | 0.35 |
| 94-102 (M); 80-88 (W)                     | -                 | -    | 163.3 $\pm$ 45.4 | k    | -                | -    | 86.2 $\pm$ 20.5  | k    | -               | -    |                | k    |
| $\geq 102$ (M); 88 (W)                    | -                 |      | 179.9 $\pm$ 20.7 |      | -                |      | 85.1 $\pm$ 29.3  |      | -               |      |                |      |
| <b>Body fat (%)</b>                       |                   |      |                  |      |                  |      |                  |      |                 |      |                |      |
| $\leq 19.9$ (M); 24.9 (W)                 | 141.2 $\pm$ 17.6  |      | 175.0 $\pm$ 34.2 | 0.23 | 112.3 $\pm$ 67.4 | 0.63 | 78.5 $\pm$ 36.9  | 0.19 | 76.7 $\pm$ 7.7  | 0.60 | 73.7 $\pm$ 7.0 | 0.42 |
| 20.0-25.0 (M); 25.0-29.9 (W)              | 151.7 $\pm$ 8.1   | 0.30 | 157.8 $\pm$ 23.4 | k    | 76.0 $\pm$ 29.5  | m    | 62.1 $\pm$ 17.8  | k    | 84.0 $\pm$ 15.1 | m    | 76.4 $\pm$ 7.0 | k    |
| $\geq 25.1$ (M); 30.0 (W)                 | -                 | m    | 175.8 $\pm$ 27.1 |      |                  |      | 88.7 $\pm$ 38.3  |      | -               |      | 71.7 $\pm$ 7.3 |      |
| <b>Sedentary Lifestyle</b>                |                   |      |                  |      |                  |      |                  |      |                 |      |                |      |
| Yes                                       | 135.5 $\pm$ 33.2  | 0.60 | 167.8 $\pm$ 23.1 | 0.73 | 95.0 $\pm$ 18.4  | 0.52 | 71.2 $\pm$ 21.6  | 0.30 | 80.5 $\pm$ 7.8  | 0.37 | 71.9 $\pm$ 8.6 | 0.32 |
| No                                        | 141.6 $\pm$ 14.9  | m    | 169.5 $\pm$ 33.2 | m    | 87.0 $\pm$ 37.8  | m    | 84.1 $\pm$ 34.8  | m    | 76.6 $\pm$ 11.2 | m    | 74.3 $\pm$ 6.4 | m    |
| <b>Smoking</b>                            |                   |      |                  |      |                  |      |                  |      |                 |      |                |      |
| Yes                                       | -                 |      | 161.2 $\pm$ 58.8 | 0.78 | -                | -    | 104.0 $\pm$ 49.1 | 0.16 | -               | -    | 75.0 $\pm$ 4.3 | 0.50 |
| No                                        | 141.4 $\pm$ 17.8  | -    | 170.1 $\pm$ 24.3 | m    | 94.9 $\pm$ 50.4  |      | 75.7 $\pm$ 26.3  | m    | 78.7 $\pm$ 9.8  |      | 73.3 $\pm$ 7.5 | m    |

Mann-Whitney test (m); Kruskal-Wallis test (k).

leading cause of death in Brazil.<sup>2</sup> The reversal of this situation requires the adoption of preventive measures, which has been extensively shown to be effective in modifying cardiovascular risk factors.<sup>21,22</sup> In view of this, the identification of groups with risk factors for cardiovascular diseases is essential for the development of effective preventive plans.

In agreement with national and international literature, the data from the present study shows a considerable prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors among young adults. A family history for chronic diseases was reported by many of the university students. Several studies have revealed a greater prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors in relatives of individuals with cardiovascular diseases and type 2 diabetes mellitus, when compared with those without family history of these diseases.<sup>23,24</sup>

An important prevalence of smoking and sedentary lifestyle has been reported in Brazilian young adults,<sup>25,26</sup> and in the present sample as well. Smoking is one of the greatest risk factors for cardiovascular diseases, and even in young people, a relationship between serum lipoprotein cholesterol concentrations and smoking has been reported.<sup>27</sup> A sedentary lifestyle has been shown to be an independent risk factor for cardiovascular diseases.<sup>3,28,29</sup> Currently, computers occupy a great part of the students' time, and this habit has been shown to be negatively associated with physical activity.<sup>30</sup> Additionally, the possible reduction in extracur-

ricular activities after entering university might have contributed to the elevated frequency of a physical inactivity.

Anthropometric variables have extensively been shown to predict cardiovascular risk.<sup>31</sup> A considerable prevalence of overweight and obesity, particularly in women, was observed among university students. Accordingly, some of the women presented abdominal obesity, as measured by WC, and a higher %BF than men did. Our results show a higher prevalence of a BMI  $> 25$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> than that reported in young adults from Brazil,<sup>25,26,32</sup> and a similar prevalence to studies conducted in developed countries.<sup>33,34</sup>

In the present sample, undesirable levels of serum total cholesterol, LDL-c and triglycerides were observed in both genders. Alterations in the lipid profile have been extensively shown to be important in determining the development of cardiovascular diseases, and the lipid profile has also been shown to be related to the indices of mortality due to cardiovascular diseases.<sup>18,35-37</sup>

Diet is considered one of the most important modifiable variables involved in the determination cardiovascular risk.<sup>37-40</sup> The diet composition of the university students was found to be low in carbohydrates and high in proteins and lipids. Along with inadequate diet composition, all students reported a low dietary fibre intake. This profile is similar to that found in developed societies and features part of the nutritional transition, which has spread to the developing countries.<sup>5,41</sup>

**Table IV**  
Energy and nutrient intake of the university students according to gender

|                    | Men               |      | Women               |      | P         |
|--------------------|-------------------|------|---------------------|------|-----------|
|                    | Mean $\pm$ SD     | %    | Mean $\pm$ SD       | %    |           |
| Energy (kcal)      | 2,940 $\pm$ 829.5 |      | 2,131.2 $\pm$ 527.4 |      | < 0.001 m |
| Carbohydrate (% E) | 46.9 $\pm$ 13.4   |      | 52.1 $\pm$ 10.1     |      | 0.10 m    |
| < 55.0%            |                   | 81.8 |                     | 53.3 |           |
| 55.0-75.0%         |                   | 18.2 |                     | 46.7 | 0.10 f    |
| Protein (% E)      | 17.2 $\pm$ 3.2    |      | 15.9 $\pm$ 3.2      |      | 0.17 m    |
| 10.0-15.0%         |                   | 36.4 |                     | 37.8 |           |
| > 15.0%            |                   | 63.6 |                     | 62.2 | 1.00 f    |
| Lipid (% E)        | 36.0 $\pm$ 14.3   |      | 32.0 $\pm$ 9.2      |      | 0.15 m    |
| 15.0-30.0%         |                   | 36.4 |                     | 37.8 |           |
| > 30.0%            |                   | 63.6 |                     | 62.2 | 1.00      |
| Cholesterol (mg)   | 188.8 $\pm$ 85.7  |      | 197.8 $\pm$ 44.6    |      | 0.43 m    |
| < 300 mg/d         |                   | 100  |                     | 100  |           |
| Fibre(g)           | 14.7 $\pm$ 5.3    |      | 11.8 $\pm$ 5.6      |      | 0.25 m    |
| < 25.0 g/d         |                   | 100  |                     | 100  |           |

% of Energy (% E); Mann Whitney test (m); Fisher exact test (f).

Despite the frequency of students with undesirable serum lipids and inadequate diet composition, we were unable to observe any association between serum parameters, dietary data and the other cardiovascular risk factors. Intra-individual variability, both in the diet and in serum parameters, have been shown to reduce the possibility of detecting the presence of associations in one population, i.e., associations are clearer in studies aiming to compare different populations.<sup>42</sup> On the other hand, in this study, BMI showed a directly proportional relationship with serum total cholesterol and LDL-c levels. The greater the BMI, the greater the prevalence of higher than desired values for these parameters, which indicates the importance of this simple and inexpensive anthropometric evaluation.

To sum up, an important prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors was observed in the university students included in the present study. Considering that some of the cardiovascular risk factors are modifiable by changes in lifestyle, educational programs aimed at motivating the adoption of healthy lifestyle choices would be helpful, especially in upcoming health care professionals, as it is them who will be taking care of the health of the population in the future.

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Original

# Modificación de los hábitos alimentarios del almuerzo en una población escolar

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## Resumen

**Introducción:** La implantación de hábitos alimentarios saludables en la población infantil en el ámbito escolar y familiar es de gran importancia para la prevención de la obesidad infanto-juvenil.

**Objetivos:** Conocer los hábitos de almuerzo de una población escolar, su prevalencia de sobrepeso y obesidad así como instaurar hábitos dietéticos saludables y educar nutricionalmente a ésta para mejorar las costumbres alimentarias a través de un almuerzo saludable.

**Métodos:** Se realizó un estudio prospectivo de intervención en escolares. Se incluyeron niños de 10-13 años. El estudio se llevó a cabo en 3 fases: preintervención (valoración antropométrica y cuestionario de frecuencia de almuerzo y de alimentos consumidos), intervención (charlas formativas al profesorado y los padres sobre “la importancia de una correcta alimentación en el escolar”, enfocadas en la trascendencia de una alimentación sana y equilibrada que incluyese un almuerzo saludable diariamente en el escolar y entrega del almuerzo durante dos semanas a los alumnos que incluía lácteos, fruta y bocadillo tradicional), postintervención (cuestionario de frecuencia de almuerzo y de alimentos consumidos).

**Resultados:** La frecuencia de sobrepeso fue del 10,6% y de obesidad del 2,6%. Tras la intervención se produjo un incremento del 9,2% de individuos que almorzaban y una modificación de los alimentos consumidos.

**Conclusión:** La modificación de los hábitos dietéticos del almuerzo de los escolares es posible con campañas sencillas de intervención nutricional.

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Palabras clave: Niños. Obesidad. Prevención. Hábitos dietéticos.

## CHANGES ON DIETARY HABITS OF THE LATE-BREAKFAST IN A SCHOOL POPULATION

### Abstract

**Background:** The establishment of healthy eating habits in children at school and in family life is very important for preventing obesity in children.

**Aims:** To know the habits of late-breakfast in a scholar population, the prevalence of overweight and obesity, and establish healthy dietary habits through the late-breakfast.

**Methods:** A prospective interventional study was performed in a school group. Children from 10 to 13 years-old were included. The study had three phases: pre-intervention (anthropometric assessment and questionnaire of late-breakfast frequency), intervention (parents and teachers received information about “the importance of proper nutrition in school” focused on the transcendence of a healthy and balanced diet that includes a suitable late-breakfast every day at school, and the students received the late-breakfast during two weeks that included milk, fruit and a traditional sandwich), and post-intervention (questionnaire of late-breakfast frequency).

**Results:** Frequency of overweight was 10.6% and obesity 2.6%. After the intervention the proportion of children who had late-breakfast increased by 9.2%, and the kind of food which they ate changed.

**Conclusion:** Dietary habits can be modified in a scholar population with an easy nutritional intervention.

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Key words: Children. Obesity. Prevention. Dietary habits.

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## Introducción

El Grupo Internacional de Trabajo para la Obesidad (IOTF) y la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) han calificado la obesidad como la epidemia del siglo XXI por las dimensiones adquiridas a lo largo de las últimas décadas, su impacto sobre la morbilidad, la calidad de vida y el gasto sanitario. La OMS, a través de su estrategia global en nutrición y actividad física aprobada en mayo de 2004, reconoce la urgencia para los países miembros de desarrollar planes de acción encaminados a promover hábitos alimentarios saludables y a estimular la práctica habitual de actividad física como principales estrategias preventivas.

La obesidad es una enfermedad crónica, compleja y multifactorial que se establece por un desequilibrio entre la ingesta y el gasto energético. Suele iniciarse en la infancia y la adolescencia y tiene su origen en una interacción genética y ambiental, siendo más importante el componente ambiental o conductual. Los datos preliminares del programa PERSEO (Programa piloto Escolar de Referencia para la Salud y el Ejercicio, contra la Obesidad; Ministerio de Educación y Ministerio de Sanidad) han detectado que la prevalencia de obesidad en España es del 19,8% en los niños y el 15% en las niñas. El aporte insuficiente de verduras, pescados, legumbres, huevos, yogur y fruta y el exceso de carnes y productos precocinados preparados en fritura, entre otros desequilibrios en la dieta, hacen necesario incidir en los aspectos que acerquen la forma de comer de los escolares a la dieta mediterránea<sup>1</sup>. Los cambios sociales y culturales han afectado el comportamiento alimentario de los niños y sus familias de diversas formas. En España, los jóvenes están abandonando la dieta mediterránea en favor de productos industriales con un alto contenido en calorías y ácidos grasos saturados, pero con un bajo contenido en componentes nutricionales saludables, lo que contribuye a la obesidad y al aumento de los niveles de colesterol. Además, se ha identificado que la ingesta diaria del desayuno es un factor relevante para un correcto estado nutricional de los niños, observándose en España un número cada vez mayor de escolares que no desayunan<sup>2</sup>.

Por lo tanto, las actuaciones dirigidas a prevenir la obesidad infanto-juvenil son de gran importancia y deben ser llevadas a cabo cotidianamente desde el ámbito escolar y familiar. Por ello se planteó la realización de un estudio prospectivo de intervención en población escolar para la mejora de las costumbres alimentarias y la prevención de la obesidad infantil a través de un almuerzo saludable. Los objetivos de este estudio fueron conocer los hábitos de almuerzo de una población escolar, su prevalencia de sobrepeso y obesidad así como instaurar hábitos dietéticos saludables y educar nutricionalmente a ésta.

## Material y métodos

Se trata de un estudio prospectivo de intervención realizado en el año 2008 en el colegio "Sagrado Corazón

Jesuitas" de León. La actividad fue realizada en este centro por su especial implicación en actividades relacionadas con la promoción de hábitos de vida saludable. Inicialmente se envió una carta informativa a los padres de todos los alumnos que se iban a incluir en el estudio para poner en su conocimiento la actividad y solicitar autorización para su realización. Se incluyó a todos los niños de 5º y 6º de primaria, con edades comprendidas entre 10 y 13 años. Se seleccionó a este grupo de alumnos por los siguientes motivos: presentaban una edad en la cual son todavía dependientes de las comidas proporcionadas tanto por el colegio (en el comedor escolar) y como por sus padres, tienen la capacidad de entender el porqué y la importancia de la actividad y además se trata de una etapa (segunda década de la vida) donde la prevalencia de sobrepeso u obesidad es un indicador de obesidad en el individuo adulto. Por lo tanto, la actividad de modificación de hábitos alimenticios en este grupo de actuación podía actuar con mayor fuerza que en un grupo de mayor o menor edad.

Se denominó "almuerzo" a la ingesta realizada a la hora del recreo, entre el desayuno y la comida. Se seleccionó esta ingesta ya que es la única comida que todos los escolares hacen en el centro, y por tanto la única susceptible de intervención en el ámbito escolar.

El estudio se llevó a cabo en las siguientes fases.

### *Estudio preintervención*

Durante dos días consecutivos, se llevó a cabo un estudio transversal para conocer la situación previa a la intervención nutricional. En esta etapa se realizó un cuestionario anónimo donde se recogió la frecuencia de realización del almuerzo y el consumo habitual de determinados alimentos a media mañana en el colegio (fruta, zumos, galletas, snacks, bocadillo, chocolate, cereales de desayuno o frutos secos). Una vez finalizado el cuestionario se llevó a cabo una valoración antropométrica donde se procedió a pesar y tallar a los alumnos seleccionados. Se pesó a los niños vestidos y descalzos en una báscula digital con una precisión de 0,1 kg y se les talló de pie, erectos y descalzos, con los pies unidos por los talones formando un ángulo de 45º y la cabeza situada con el plano de Frankfurt en posición horizontal en un tallímetro con una precisión de 1mm. Existen diversos métodos para valorar la obesidad en la infancia y la adolescencia, pero los más utilizados son estudios que relacionan edad, sexo, peso, talla e índice de masa corporal (IMC). Se obtuvo el percentil para el sexo y la edad a partir de las tablas de la Fundación Orbegozo. Se consideró sobrepeso un IMC > p85 y obesidad un IMC > p95, según el criterio del mismo autor<sup>3</sup>.

### *Etapas de intervención*

Realizada en los meses de abril y mayo de 2008. Para ello se desarrollaron diferentes actividades con los

profesores, los padres y los alumnos. Se impartieron unas charlas a los padres y al profesorado sobre “la importancia de una correcta alimentación en el escolar”, enfocadas en la trascendencia de una alimentación sana y equilibrada que incluyese un almuerzo saludable diariamente en el escolar. En estas se explicó de forma sencilla principios básicos de nutrición (nutrientes, grupos de alimentos), frecuencia de consumo de alimentos en la población escolar y características de un almuerzo saludable. Las charlas contaron con los 6 tutores de los cursos que participaron en el estudio y los padres y madres de 30 alumnos. Para su desarrollo se empleó una presentación de power-point elaborada e impartida por una dietista-nutricionista del estudio. La labor del profesorado y de los padres fue la formación directa de los niños del estudio en la alimentación saludable. A los niños se les entregó información escrita sobre “Pautas de un almuerzo saludable” con las que se pretendía dar unas pautas orientativas para mejorar los hábitos alimentarios en esta ingesta, incidiendo en la importancia del consumo de grupos de alimentos como fruta (preferiblemente piezas enteras a zumos de frutas comerciales), lácteos (a través de yogures, leche y queso) y farináceos (preferiblemente a través de pan blanco/integral o cereales de desayuno al pan de molde, galletas o bollería). Además se realizó el ejemplo de un almuerzo saludable y para ello se les facilitó el almuerzo durante dos semanas. Los alimentos distribuidos en el estudio fueron: lunes, zumo de frutas comercial de 200 ml; martes, lácteo de chocolate (Puleva Max Cacao y cereales 200 ml<sup>®</sup>); miércoles, una pieza de fruta fresca (Manzana troceada McDonalds<sup>®</sup>); jueves, lácteo (Puleva Max 200 ml<sup>®</sup>); viernes, bocadillo (Pan BIMBO<sup>®</sup>) de jamón cocido (CAMPOFRÍO<sup>®</sup>). La colaboración de las industrias alimentarias facilitó en gran medida la realización de la actividad. Los alimentos entregados fueron elegidos por su mayor comodidad y seguridad en el transporte, almacenamiento y distribución entre el alumnado siguiendo a la vez los patrones de un almuerzo saludable. Finalizadas estas dos semanas se facilitó a todos los niños un calendario semanal donde se indicó qué alimentos serían beneficiosos en su almuerzo diario para seguir una dieta saludable. Los alimentos recogidos en el calendario fueron: fruta fresca entera, zumo de fruta, yogur, bocadillo tradicional y leche.

#### *Etapas postintervención*

Realizada en octubre de 2008. Una vez finalizado todo el proyecto, se evaluó la actividad a través de una encuesta que incluía el cuestionario de la etapa preintervención junto con unas preguntas sobre la aceptación de la actividad, si almorzarían diariamente si el colegio les entregase el alimento y si habían aprendido la importancia de realizar un almuerzo saludable.

El estudio estadístico fue realizado con el programa SPSS 15.0 para Windows. Los datos cuantitativos se

expresan a través de la media y la desviación estándar (DS), mientras que los datos cualitativos se expresan como frecuencias relativas y se compararon mediante  $\chi^2$ . Se asumió como estadísticamente significativo un valor  $p < 0,05$ .

#### **Resultados**

El trabajo fue realizado en una población de 151 individuos, de los cuales un 53% eran niñas y un 47% niños, con una edad media de 10,79 (DS = 0,67) años, un peso de 41,36 (DS = 7,9) kg, una talla de 1,47 (DS = 0,07) m y un IMC de 19,07 (DS = 2,65) kg/m<sup>2</sup>. La frecuencia de peso normal fue del 86,80%, de sobrepeso del 10,6% y de obesidad del 2,6%. En el caso de las niñas presentaron una prevalencia de sobrepeso del 8,8% y de obesidad del 2,5%. Los niños presentaron una prevalencia de sobrepeso del 12,7% y de obesidad del 2,8%. No hubo diferencias estadísticamente significativas según el sexo ( $p = 0,726$ ). La prevalencia de obesidad fue de 3,8% a los 10 años, 1,3% a los 11 y 4,8% a los 12, y la de sobrepeso fue de 7,5%, 14,3% y 4,8% en esas mismas edades. No hubo diferencias estadísticamente significativas según la edad ( $p = 0,498$ ).

En la encuesta inicial se observó que un 50,3% de los individuos comían algún alimento a la hora del almuerzo. Existió una diferencia estadísticamente significativa entre ambos sexos: un 73,68% de los individuos que almorzaban fueron niñas y un 26,32% fueron niños ( $p < 0,0001$ ). La frecuencia de consumo de alimentos en la hora del almuerzo estratificado por sexos y su significación estadística aparece en la tabla I. No existieron diferencias estadísticamente significativas según la edad ( $p = 0,159$ ). La relación entre sujetos que almorzaban o no y la presencia de sobrepeso y obesidad presentó una diferencia estadísticamente significativa: el 7,89% de los individuos que almorzaban presentaban sobrepeso u obesidad, mientras que en aquellos que no almorzaban este porcentaje alcanzaba el 18,67% ( $p = 0,02$ ).

En la evaluación final tras la intervención se observó que un 59,5% de los individuos encuestados comían algún alimento a la hora del almuerzo. Esto supone un incremento del 9,2% (IC 95% -2,7% a 20,9%), sin significación estadística ( $p = 0,137$ ). Tras la intervención se produjo un incremento en el porcentaje de niños varones que almorzaban: del 28,17% inicial al 45,71% final, que supuso un incremento del 17,54% (IC 95% 0,5% a 34,6%) estadísticamente significativo ( $p = 0,047$ ). Existió un ligero incremento en el porcentaje de niñas que almorzaban: del 70,00% inicial al 70,89% final, que supuso un aumento del 0,89% (IC 95% -16,3% a 14,6%) estadísticamente no significativo ( $p = 0,959$ ). A pesar de estos cambios tras la intervención dietética seguía habiendo más niñas que almorzasen que niños (63,64% vs 36,36%,  $p = 0,0018$ ). La frecuencia de consumo de alimentos en la hora del almuerzo estratificado por sexos y su significación estadística aparece en

**Tabla I**  
*Comparación del consumo de alimentos de los escolares que almuerzan por sexo en la etapa preintervención y postintervención*

|                       | Inicial |       |        |                | Final  |       |        |                | Inicial-final  |
|-----------------------|---------|-------|--------|----------------|--------|-------|--------|----------------|----------------|
|                       | Total   | Niños | Niñas  | p <sup>1</sup> | Total  | Niños | Niñas  | p <sup>1</sup> | p <sup>2</sup> |
| Fruta                 | 11,50%  | 4,00% | 7,50%  | 0,202          | 14,09% | 5,09% | 9,00%  | 0,954          | 0,518          |
| Zumos                 | 5,00%   | 2,00% | 3,00%  | 0,645          | 15,45% | 3,90% | 11,57% | 0,137          | 0,0009         |
| Batidos               | 2,00%   | 0,50% | 1,50%  | 0,371          | 11,82% | 3,85% | 7,87%  | 0,685          | 0,0002         |
| Yogures               | 11,50%  | 1,50% | 10,00% | < 0,05         | 5,00%  | 1,39% | 3,24%  | 0,703          | 0,0238         |
| Snacks                | 13,50%  | 3,00% | 10,50% | 0,004          | 4,09%  | 1,85% | 2,24%  | 0,574          | 0,0011         |
| Bollería              | 5,00%   | 1,00% | 4,00%  | 0,076          | 13,64% | 5,44% | 8,20%  | 0,592          | 0,0044         |
| Bocadillo tradicional | 4,00%   | 1,50% | 2,50%  | 0,579          | 12,73% | 5,06% | 7,67%  | 0,667          | 0,0026         |
| Chocolate             | 19,00%  | 4,50% | 14,50% | 0,001          | 15,00% | 7,41% | 7,59%  | 0,094          | 0,336          |
| Gominolas             | 15,00%  | 4,50% | 10,50% | 0,037          | 5,45%  | 1,60% | 3,85%  | 0,552          | 0,002          |
| Otros <sup>3</sup>    | 13,50%  | 2,00% | 11,50% | < 0,05         | 2,73%  | 0,42% | 2,31%  | 0,325          | 0,0001         |

<sup>1</sup>Prueba de significación  $\chi^2$  de la diferencia entre niños-niñas.

<sup>2</sup>Prueba de significación  $\chi^2$  de la diferencia entre el consumo inicial y final de toda la muestra.

<sup>3</sup>Cereales (de desayuno o barrita de cereales), frutos secos.

la tabla I. No existieron diferencias estadísticamente significativas según la edad ( $p = 0,467$ ). El tipo de alimentos consumidos a la hora del almuerzo cambió significativamente tras la intervención (tabla I).

Respecto a la evaluación de la aceptación de la actividad, a un 92,62% de los niños y niñas que participaron en el estudio les gustó la actividad, un 92,84% almorzarían diariamente si se les facilitara el alimento en el colegio y un 88,56% respondieron que habían aprendido la importancia de realizar un almuerzo saludable.

## Discusión

La obesidad infantil es un problema altamente prevalente en las sociedades desarrolladas. En los años 1998-2000 fue realizado en España el estudio enKid para conocer la prevalencia de sobrepeso y obesidad, así como los hábitos de vida de la población española con edades comprendidas entre 2 y 24 años. Este estudio demostró que la prevalencia de obesidad en individuos de 2 a 24 años alcanza el 13,9%, y de sobrepeso el 12,4%. Además, existe una mayor proporción de niños varones obesos (15,6%) que de niñas (12,0%)<sup>4</sup>. La prevalencia de obesidad en el País Vasco en escolares menores de 13 años fue del 3,94% y de sobrepeso del 17,85%<sup>5</sup>. Un estudio realizado en niños de 6 a 13 años en la ciudad autónoma de Ceuta obtuvo una prevalencia de obesidad del 8,75%<sup>6</sup>. Estos datos parecen indicar que la prevalencia de sobrepeso-obesidad en la población escolar difiere de unas regiones a otras, lo que puede estar influido por factores culturales, económicos y sociales. Según los resultados obtenidos en nuestro estudio la prevalencia de obesidad y sobrepeso podría ser inferior a la media española y no existieron diferencias estadísticamente significativas entre niños

y niñas. Según el estudio enKid, el riesgo de desarrollar obesidad infantil está relacionado con el nivel socioeconómico y educacional en las familias, así como la práctica de ejercicio físico y la realización de un desayuno equilibrado<sup>7</sup>. Los resultados obtenidos en el estudio planteado pueden estar relacionados con estos factores de riesgo, ya que la población estudiada corresponde a un centro educativo concertado de un medio urbano.

A día de hoy las intervenciones que han demostrado ser eficaces en el tratamiento de la obesidad son, en la población infantil, las campañas de educación nutricional y en los adultos la cirugía bariátrica<sup>8</sup>. Se ha observado que el colectivo escolar español no sigue las pautas de la dieta mediterránea, por lo que tendría que darse prioridad a las campañas de instauración de hábitos dietéticos saludables<sup>9</sup>. A través de la intervención nutricional para mejorar los hábitos alimentarios del escolar se ha observado en el estudio enKid que los niños que recibían educación nutricional mejoraban las características de la dieta, alcanzando las características de consumo de grupos de alimentos del patrón de la dieta mediterránea<sup>10</sup>. Un estudio realizado en población de 18 meses en Alemania, cuyo objetivo era modificar los hábitos dietéticos para prevenir la obesidad infantil, logró a través de la educación nutricional disminuir el consumo de refrescos azucarados y aumentar el de frutas y vegetales incluso en poblaciones donde el nivel educativo y socioeconómico de las familias era bajo<sup>11</sup>. Resultados similares se obtienen en un estudio de intervención realizado en escolares de Gran Canaria donde se logró disminuir el consumo de embutidos, leche entera y dulces y aumentar el de frutas<sup>12</sup>.

Los datos obtenidos demuestran que la intervención sobre el almuerzo aumentó el número de individuos que almuerzan, a expensas de un incremento de niños varones que realizan esta ingesta, el grupo que previamente almorzaba con menor frecuencia. Además se ha produ-

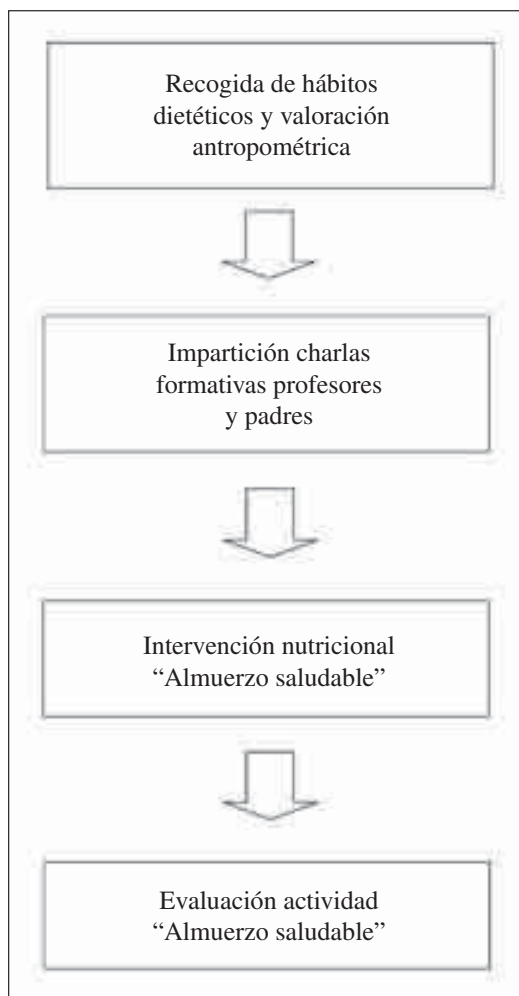


Fig. 1.—Actividad “Almuerzo saludable”.

cido una modificación en los hábitos de almuerzo en los estudiantes. Ha aumentado significativamente el consumo de zumos, batidos, bollería y bocadillos tradicionales, y ha disminuido el consumo de yogur, snacks, gominolas, cereales y galletas. Estos resultados pueden relacionarse con la intervención realizada en el centro, ya que ha aumentado el consumo de los cinco alimentos dados en ese periodo y disminuido el de alimentos no proporcionados. La excepción de estos resultados es la bollería, que no se entregó en el periodo de intervención ni se recomendó en el calendario de almuerzo saludable. Conviene destacar que tampoco es beneficiosa la disminución del consumo de yogures y cereales ya que son alimentos recomendados en las pautas de un almuerzo saludable.

La educación nutricional también puede resultar efectiva en población de educación secundaria<sup>13</sup>. Según diferentes estudios realizados en este colectivo, las preferencias alimentarias de los niños en edad escolar indican que a un 5,7% de los escolares no les gusta la

fruta y a un 47% las verduras y hortalizas<sup>14</sup> y que dedican poco tiempo a realizar las ingestas principales (desayuno, comida y cena)<sup>15</sup>. Además, el estudio enKid indica que el consumo de bollería, dulces, snacks y refrescos azucarados era mayor entre los niños con padres de bajo nivel educativo, y menor el consumo de frutas, vegetales y pescado<sup>16</sup>. Según un estudio realizado en escolares en la misma franja de edad que nuestro trabajo (11 a 13 años) observa que mayoritariamente los padres deciden los alimentos que compran en casa, pero los hijos tienen un papel importante en la decisión de los alimentos que consumen principalmente en el desayuno y en la merienda así como en las actividades que realizan mientras comen<sup>17</sup>.

Es importante destacar que la realización de este tipo de actividades implica predisposición y conciencia de la importancia de los hábitos nutricionales de la población escolar y el problema que supone la obesidad infantil en nuestra sociedad. Esta intervención ha sido realizada sin ningún tipo de financiación económica salvo la aportación gratuita de alimentos por parte de las industrias alimentarias.

Las limitaciones con las que ha contado el estudio han sido el tiempo limitado de intervención (dos semanas) que posiblemente no haya sido suficiente para mejorar los hábitos alimenticios del almuerzo de los escolares (el consumo de bollería). A su vez tampoco se han recogido factores que influyen en los hábitos nutricionales y en la prevalencia de obesidad infantil, como son el nivel socio-económico y educativo de las familias<sup>18</sup>. Por último, no se evaluó si hubo cambios en el peso en la etapa postintervención por considerar que el periodo transcurrido entre la intervención y la reevaluación era demasiado breve como para producir efectos relevantes.

La modificación de los hábitos nutricionales del almuerzo diario de la población escolar es posible con campañas de intervención dietética y educación nutricional. Frecuentemente los escolares, especialmente los varones, no almuerzan. Con campañas sencillas de intervención nutricional aumenta el número de niños que adquieren este hábito y además se logra modificar los alimentos ingeridos en esta toma.

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Original

## Utilización de micronutrientes en nutrición parenteral en los hospitales españoles

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### Resumen

Hace años se recomendó no añadir conjuntamente vitaminas y oligoelementos a las nutriciones parenterales (NP) y administrarlas inmediatamente después de la adición de los micronutrientes para evitar su degradación. Actualmente se ha visto que con bolsas multicapa, mezclas ternarias y fotoprotección la degradación de vitaminas es mínima. El aporte diario de micronutrientes es necesario al menos en pacientes críticos, malnutridos o con NP a largo plazo.

Con el objetivo de conocer las pautas de utilización de los micronutrientes en NP en los hospitales españoles y la forma de preparación de las bolsas de NP, en relación a los factores condicionantes de su estabilidad, se realizó una encuesta telefónica a los farmacéuticos responsables del área de NP de los diferentes hospitales. Los datos obtenidos se compararon con otras encuestas realizadas en 2001 y 2003.

Respondieron la encuesta 97 hospitales de los 110 hospitales a los que se llamó (tasa de respuesta 88%), cuyo número de camas estaba comprendido entre 104 y 1728.

En comparación con los datos de años anteriores se observa una mayor adecuación a las recomendaciones vigentes, aunque todavía casi un 30% de los hospitales aportan los micronutrientes en días alternos con independencia de la situación clínica del paciente. La mayoría de los hospitales utilizan bolsas multicapa y/o fotoprotección y mezclas ternarias.

A la vista de los resultados, en los que se pone en evidencia la disparidad de criterios en la administración de vitaminas y oligoelementos en las soluciones de NP parece necesario elaborar documentos de consenso que se adecuen a la realidad de las distintas prácticas además de favorecer la realización de estudios clínicos minuciosamente diseñados para establecer los requerimientos en situaciones clínicas especiales.

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Palabras clave: Micronutrientes. Nutrición parenteral. Vitaminas. Oligoelementos.

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### MICRONUTRIENT SUPPLEMENTATION IN PARENTERAL NUTRITION IN SPANISH HOSPITALS

### Abstract

Several years ago, it was recommended not to add vitamins or oligoelements to parenteral nutrition (PN) solutions and to administer them immediately after the addition of the micronutrients to avoid their decay. Nowadays, it has been observed that with multilayer bags, ternary mixtures and sunlight protection vitamins degradation is minimal. Daily intake of micronutrients is necessary in the critically ill, malnourished or long-term PN patients.

Aiming at knowing the schedules of use of micronutrients in PN in Spanish hospitals and the way PN bags are prepared regarding the factors conditioning their stability, we undertook a telephone survey to the pharmacists in charge of PN at the different hospitals. We compared the data obtained with those from other surveys performed in 2001 and 2003.

Pharmacists from 97 hospitals answered the questionnaire (answer rate 88%). The hospital sizes ranged 104-1728 beds.

As compared to the data from preceding years, we observed a better adequacy to the current recommendations, although there are still 30% of the hospitals that administer micronutrients on an every other day basis independent of the clinical situation of the patients. In most of the hospitals, multilayer bags are used and/or sunlight protection and ternary mixtures.

According to these results showing the different criteria for administering vitamins and oligoelements in PN solutions, it seems necessary to elaborate consensus documents that adapt to the reality of the diverse practices besides promoting the performance of well-designed clinical studies establishing the requirements under special clinical situations.

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Key words: Micronutrients. Parenteral nutrition. Vitamins. Oligoelements.

## Abreviaturas

NP: Nutrición parenteral.  
NPD: Nutrición parenteral domiciliaria.  
Zn: Zinc.  
Mn: Manganese.  
Se: Selenio.  
IR: Insuficiencia renal.

## Introducción

Existen diferentes documentos de consenso y guías clínicas sobre nutrición parenteral (NP), elaboradas tanto en nuestro país<sup>1</sup> como en el extranjero<sup>2,3,4</sup>. Surgen con el objetivo de estandarizar las indicaciones, los requerimientos de macro y micronutrientes, así como otros aspectos relacionados con la prescripción y elaboración de la NP.

La falta de presentaciones intravenosas individuales de los distintos oligoelementos y vitaminas en nuestro país dificulta la adecuación de los aportes de micronutrientes a las necesidades de cada enfermo, especialmente en el caso de insuficiencia renal o hepática y en el paciente crítico. En la práctica clínica se utilizan diferentes soluciones polivitámicas y multielectrolíticas con concentraciones fijas de cada micronutriente. Sin embargo, aunque todas se pueden usar como aporte diario rutinario, su composición es diferente. Además, no todos los hospitales disponen del mismo material de partida para la elaboración de las nutriciones (como nutrientes, bolsas, sobrebolsas de fotoprotección o sistemas de administración), lo que puede afectar a la estabilidad de los micronutrientes.

Todo lo anterior favorece que en nuestros hospitales se dé una mezcla heterogénea de prácticas que no siempre se adecuan a las recomendaciones.

Este estudio se realizó con el propósito de conocer las pautas de utilización de los micronutrientes en NP y las diferentes metodologías de elaboración en los servicios de farmacia de los hospitales españoles, en relación con los factores condicionantes de la estabilidad de los mismos.

## Material y métodos

Se diseñó una encuesta para recoger información relativa a la metodología de elaboración de la NP, centrada en la utilización de micronutrientes y en diferentes factores condicionantes de la estabilidad de los mismos. Se preguntó sobre el tipo de vitaminas, oligoelementos y las pautas de utilización en diversas situaciones clínicas y diferentes tipos de pacientes. También se interrogó sobre otros aspectos técnicos (utilización de bolsas multicapa, fotoprotección, filtros...).

De la página web del Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo se obtuvo un listado de hospitales españoles. Se contactó con todos los hospitales del territorio nacional con un número de camas superior a 355 y a tres más de menor tamaño que también preparaban NP. La encuesta se realizó mediante entrevista telefónica a los farmacéuticos responsables del área de NP de los distintos hospitales, o a la persona encargada en su ausencia.

Los datos obtenidos se compararon con otras dos encuestas, una realizada en el 2003<sup>5</sup> y otra sobre NP pediátrica realizada en 2001<sup>6</sup>.

## Resultados

Respondieron a la encuesta 97 hospitales de los 110 hospitales a los que llamamos (tasa de respuesta 88%), cuyo número de camas estaba comprendido entre 104 y 1.728.

1) *Uso de micronutrientes*: La mayoría de hospitales que preparan NP pediátricas aportan oligoelementos y vitaminas diariamente. Pero sólo algo más de la mitad de los hospitales realiza este aporte a diario en las NP de adultos.

Los resultados referentes a las pautas de vitaminas/oligoelementos utilizadas se recogen en las tablas I y II.

Tan solo el 10,5% de los hospitales utilizan el preparado de oligoelementos comercializado con menor concentración de manganeso para pacientes domiciliarios.

El 51% de los hospitales añade Zinc (Zn) extra de manera rutinaria a las NP de niños prematuros.

**Tabla I**  
*Multioligoelementos: frecuencia de los aportes*

| Oligoelementos       | Adultos (n = 94) | Adultos domiciliaria (n = 38) | Niños (n = 78) | Niños domiciliaria (n = 20) |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Aporte diario        | 59,50%           | 66%                           | 61,50%         | 80%                         |
| Aporte días alternos | 30%              | 21%                           | 28%            | 15%                         |

**Tabla II**  
*Multivitámicos: frecuencia de los aportes*

| Vitaminas            | Adultos (n = 95) | Adultos domiciliaria (n = 46) | Niños (n = 80) | Niños domiciliaria (n = 20) |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Aporte diario        | 63%              | 78%                           | 65%            | 90%                         |
| Aporte días alternos | 28,50%           | 17,50%                        | 24%            | 5%                          |

La dosificación tanto de vitaminas como de oligoelementos se hace mayoritariamente (> 90%) por viales enteros para pacientes adultos y por peso en pacientes pediátricos.

2) *Frecuencia de suplementación*: El 28% de los hospitales alterna el aporte de vitaminas y oligoelementos en las NP destinadas a pacientes adultos hospitalizados. En comparación con el año 2003 el número de hospitales que incluyen vitaminas y oligoelementos diariamente ha aumentado un 30% (pasando del 42% al 72%).

En pacientes adultos con nutrición parenteral domiciliaria (NPD), tan sólo el 18.5% de los hospitales alterna los aportes. Cuando las NP están destinadas a pacientes pediátricos hospitalizados, el porcentaje de hospitales que alterna los aportes es ligeramente inferior. Y tan sólo uno de los hospitales que prepara NPD pediátrica alterna el aporte de vitaminas y oligoelementos.

3) *Uso en insuficiencia renal y hepática*: Tan sólo el 32% de los hospitales encuestados tiene protocolizados cambios en la pauta de vitaminas/oligoelementos para pacientes adultos con insuficiencia renal y el 25% para niños. En el caso de pacientes con insuficiencia hepática, los porcentajes son ligeramente inferiores (29% en adultos y 22% en niños).

4) *Material accesorio*: La mayoría de los hospitales utilizan bolsas multicapa. Un 79% las utiliza para pacientes adultos (5% más que en 2003) y un 82% para pediátricos (31% más que en 2001). Un 71,5% utiliza sobrebolsa de fotoprotección (frente al 76% en adultos en 2003 y el 83,7% en pediatría en 2001). Sólo dos hospitales no utilizan ni bolsas multicapa, ni bolsas de fotoprotección en adultos y tan sólo uno en niños. Alrededor de un 20% de los hospitales que utilizan bolsas multicapa ponen también los oligoelementos y vitaminas alternos. Además, el 57% de los hospitales que elaboran NP para neonatos utilizan sistemas de administración fotoprottegidos.

5) *Mezclas ternarias*: En cuanto a la preparación de nutriciones "todo en uno", hasta el 94% de los hospitales lo hacen para los pacientes adultos mientras que sólo dos terceras partes (66%) las preparan para pediatría. Si comparamos con los datos de años anteriores, el uso de mezclas ternarias se ha incrementado (36% en adultos desde el 2003 y 16% en pediatría desde el 2001).

## Discusión

En los hospitales españoles no existe disponibilidad de presentaciones intravenosas individuales para la mayoría de vitaminas y oligoelementos. Además se dispone, en general, de escasos métodos analíticos para determinar deficiencias o excesos de cada uno de ellos.

La práctica común es el empleo de mezclas de vitaminas y de soluciones de oligoelementos que contienen cantidades fijas de cada micronutriente (tablas III y IV).

Existen pocas recomendaciones específicas sobre los requerimientos de micronutrientes por vía intravenosa. Las distintas presentaciones disponibles comercialmente difieren de forma importante en su composición. En la mayoría de pacientes hospitalizados en los que la duración de la NP va a ser corta (inferior a 14 días) la elección de un tipo u otro de solución no parece prioritario. Distinto es el caso para los recién nacidos, o para los pacientes con NP prolongada, en especial los de NPD.

La literatura médica señala de forma específica al manganeso (Mn), ya que se ha descrito su acumulación en ganglios basales en pacientes con NP de larga duración<sup>7,8</sup>. Esa acumulación puede ser causa de neurotoxicidad, probablemente en relación con el estrés oxidativo. Aunque las recomendaciones establecen unos aportes intravenosos de 60-100 mcg/día en adultos<sup>9</sup> y 1 mcg/kg/d en niños<sup>4</sup>, el contenido de las soluciones disponibles es considerablemente superior. Al riesgo de

**Tabla III**  
*Composición en mcg de las diferentes soluciones de oligoelementos comercializadas en España*

|                | <i>Peditrace<br/>(pediatría)</i> | <i>Braun<br/>pediátrico</i> | <i>Braun</i> | <i>Grifols</i> | <i>Addamel<br/>Fresenius</i> | <i>Decan<br/>(Baxter)</i> | <i>Oligoplus<br/>(Braun)</i> | <i>Oligos<br/>Zinc</i> |
|----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Contenido vial | 10 mL                            | 10 mL                       | 10 mL        | 10 mL          | 10 mL                        | 40 mL                     | 10 mL                        | 10 mL                  |
| Selenio        | 20                               |                             |              | 60             | 31,58                        | 70                        | 24                           |                        |
| Molibdeno      |                                  |                             |              |                | 19,19                        | 25                        | 10                           |                        |
| Hierro         |                                  |                             |              |                | 1.117                        | 1.000                     | 2.000                        |                        |
| Zinc           | 2.500                            | 1.000                       | 3.000        | 3.000          | 6.593                        | 10.000                    | 3.300                        | 10.000                 |
| Manganeso      | 10                               | 25                          | 200          | 300            | 274.7                        | 200                       | 550                          |                        |
| Cobre          | 200                              | 100                         | 500          | 1000           | 1.271                        | 480                       | 760                          |                        |
| Cromo          |                                  | 1                           | 10           | 11.8           | 10,4                         | 15                        | 10                           |                        |
| Fluor          | 570                              |                             |              |                | 950                          | 1.450                     | 570                          |                        |
| Cobalto        |                                  |                             |              |                |                              | 1,47                      |                              |                        |
| Yodo           | 10                               |                             |              | 120            | 126,9                        | 1,52                      | 127                          |                        |

**Tabla IV**  
*Composición de las diferentes soluciones de vitaminas comercializadas en España*

|                       | <i>Soluvit</i> | <i>Vitalipid adultos</i> | <i>Vitalipid infant</i> | <i>Infuvite pediatric</i> | <i>Cemevit</i> |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Volumen (ml)          | 10             | 10                       | 10                      | 4 + 1                     | 5              |
| Tiamina (mg)          | 2,5            |                          |                         | 1,2                       | 3,5            |
| Riboflavina (mg)      | 3,6            |                          |                         | 1,4                       | 4,1            |
| Nicotinamida (mg)     | 40             |                          |                         | 17                        | 46             |
| Ac.Pantoténico (mg)   | 15             |                          |                         | 5                         | 17,3           |
| Piridoxina (mg)       | 4              |                          |                         | 1                         | 4,5            |
| Cianocobalamina (mcg) | 5              |                          |                         | 1                         | 6              |
| Biotina (mcg)         | 60             |                          |                         | 20                        | 69             |
| Ácido fólico (mcg)    | 400            |                          |                         | 140                       | 414            |
| Ácido ascórbico (mg)  | 100            |                          |                         | 80                        | 125            |
| Retinol (U.I.)        |                | 3.300                    | 2.300                   | 2.300                     | 3.500          |
| Ergocalciferol (U.I.) |                | 200                      | 400                     | 400                       | 220            |
| Tocoferol (mg)        |                | 9,1                      | 6,4                     | 7                         | 10,2           |
| Fitomenadiona (mg)    |                | 0,15                     | 0,2                     | 0,2                       | 0              |

acúmulo contribuyen además su eliminación por la vía biliar (afectada en caso de colestasis) y la contaminación con Mn de otras soluciones empleadas en la elaboración de NP<sup>10</sup>. Basándose en este último hecho algunos autores cuestionan la necesidad de adicionarlo a las soluciones de oligoelementos para NP<sup>11,12</sup>. Es interesante constatar que sólo el 10,5% de los hospitales que respondieron a nuestra encuesta emplean en NPD el preparado comercial con menor contenido en Mn.

Situación contraria ocurre con el selenio (Se), cofactor en numerosas reacciones enzimáticas. Las recomendaciones actuales establecen una necesidades de 20 a 100 mcg/día en adultos<sup>9,13</sup> y de 1 a 3 mcg/kg/día en niños<sup>2,4</sup>, aunque algunos autores sugieren que deberían ser superiores en el paciente crítico<sup>14,15</sup>. Aunque las soluciones de oligoelementos aportan cantidades dentro de estos rangos, si la administración no se realiza todos los días el aporte puede ser insuficiente.

En relación con el Zn, especial consideración merecen los recién nacidos pretérmino. Este elemento es necesario para asegurar un desarrollo y crecimiento adecuados. La mitad de los hospitales encuestados añaden Zn (además del contenido en la solución de oligoelementos) de manera rutinaria a las NP destinadas a prematuros.

Algo parecido ocurre con las soluciones de vitaminas, con concentraciones fijas de cada vitamina, aunque se dispone también de soluciones separadas de vitaminas hidro y liposolubles. Mientras que la toxicidad debida a la acumulación de vitaminas hidrosolubles es muy infrecuente, debido a su fácil eliminación, no ocurre lo mismo con las liposolubles.

Durante muchos años fue práctica habitual alternar la administración de vitaminas y oligoelementos. La justificación se basaba en la interacción de unos nutrientes con otros, como es el caso de la degradación de la vitamina C catalizada por el cobre en presencia de oxígeno<sup>16</sup>. Mientras que en la encuesta de 2003 alrede-

dor del 60% de los hospitales alternaba la administración de vitaminas y oligoelementos, la cifra ha disminuido considerablemente en 2009 (28%) y aún menos en el paciente pediátrico y en NPD.

El uso de bolsas multicapa evita el paso de oxígeno y, por tanto, la oxidación de vitaminas como la vitamina C<sup>17</sup>. Aunque en la encuesta se muestra que mayoritariamente se emplean bolsas multicapa, en un 20% de los hospitales que las usan se sigue alternando la administración de ambos micronutrientes. Podría justificarse que no se administren diariamente cuando se trate de NP de corta duración y con limitación de recursos<sup>18</sup>. Sin embargo, esta práctica no es aconsejable para NPD<sup>19,20</sup>.

Algunas vitaminas se degradan en presencia de la luz como es el caso de la vitamina A, la E, el ácido fólico, la riboflavina y la tiamina. Las bolsas multicapa proporcionan cierta fotoprotección. Un 71,5% de los hospitales encuestados utilizaban sobrebolsas de fotoprotección, porcentaje similar al obtenido en 2003. Sólo en dos hospitales no se utilizaban ni bolsas multicapa ni sobrebolsas de fotoprotección cuando se elaboran NP para adultos y en uno solo para niños.

Además de la protección de las bolsas, muchos hospitales incorporan sistemas de fotoprotección en los sistemas de administración en las unidades de neonatología.

La fotoprotección no sólo disminuye la degradación de vitaminas<sup>21</sup> sino que también evita la producción de peróxidos<sup>22,23</sup>. Khashu et al. han encontrado niveles mas altos de glucosa y triglicéridos en sangre en aquellos neonatos que habían recibido NP expuestas a la luz<sup>24</sup>.

En relación con el empleo de preparaciones ternarias (todo-en-uno), ha aumentado su uso en un 36% en adultos y un 16% en niños respecto a años anteriores<sup>5,6</sup>. Esta práctica disminuye la degradación de ciertas vitaminas como la vitamina A<sup>17</sup>.

No existen muchos estudios en cuanto a la necesidad de ajustar el aporte de vitaminas y oligoelementos en pacientes con insuficiencia renal (IR) o con colestasis, y esto se refleja en el bajo porcentaje de hospitales que realizan ajustes de la NP en este tipo de pacientes.

En la IR aguda se observan niveles plasmáticos elevados de retinol por lo que su administración debe realizarse con cuidado<sup>3</sup>. Por el contrario, la necesidad de otras vitaminas como la D<sup>25</sup> o la C puede estar aumentada. En situaciones de hemodiálisis se producen pérdidas de vitamina C, tiamina, folato, magnesio, calcio y selenio en cada sesión, por lo que deberán aumentarse los aportes<sup>3</sup>.

Otros autores señalan también bajos niveles de piridoxina (vit.B6) y ácido fólico en los pacientes con IR y déficits de vitaminas K y E, Se y Zn en pacientes en hemodiálisis<sup>9</sup>. El exceso o acumulación de oligoelementos en estos pacientes no es probable, ya que su eliminación se produce también a través del tracto gastrointestinal<sup>26</sup>.

De los hospitales que respondieron a nuestra encuesta solo un pequeño porcentaje tenían protocolizadas modificaciones en pacientes con IR, un 32% y un 25% para pacientes adultos y pediátricos, respectivamente. Llama la atención que en la inmensa mayoría de los casos se reduce el aporte de vitaminas tanto liposolubles como hidrosolubles, cuando existen en el mercado separadamente. Lo mismo ocurre con los oligoelementos, administrando solamente la mitad de los viales o administrándolos a días alternos.

En el caso de los pacientes con insuficiencia hepática o colestasis existe una situación de déficit vitamínico que afecta tanto a las vitaminas hidrosolubles como a las liposolubles<sup>9,25,27</sup>. En las guías de la European Society for Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism (ESPEN) se recomienda el aporte diario estándar de vitaminas en este tipo de pacientes<sup>28</sup>. Los déficits de oligoelementos como el Zn y Se son también habituales, pero ocurre lo contrario con otros como el Mn o el Cu, ya que ambos se eliminan por vía hepática<sup>27</sup>, por lo que puede existir riesgo de acumulación<sup>13,29,30</sup>.

Al igual que sucedía con la insuficiencia renal, los hospitales españoles que tienen protocolizados cambios en el aporte de vitaminas y oligoelementos en pacientes con insuficiencia hepática (22% de los hospitales en niños, 29% en adultos) generalmente los disminuyen o eliminan por completo. Esto es recomendable en el caso de los elementos traza para evitar la acumulación de Cu y Mn, pero algunos hospitales también eliminan por completo el aporte de vitaminas a pesar de la evidencia en contra.

Nuestra revisión acerca de la práctica clínica en la prescripción y elaboración de NP pone de manifiesto la necesidad de disponer de soluciones de cada una de las vitaminas y oligoelementos por separado. Especialmente para la elaboración de la NP en situación de IR o en colestasis.

A la vista de los resultados de las encuestas, en las que se pone en evidencia la disparidad de criterios en la

administración de vitaminas y oligoelementos en las soluciones de NP, parece necesario elaborar documentos de consenso que se adecuen a la realidad de las distintas prácticas además de favorecer la realización de estudios clínicos minuciosamente diseñados para establecer los requerimientos en situaciones clínicas especiales.

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Original

# Percentile values for aerobic performance running/walking field tests in children aged 6 to 17 years; influence of weight status

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**Abstract**

The aim of this study was to provide percentiles values for four different aerobic performance tests in 2752 (1,261 girls) Spanish children aged 6 to 17.9 years. Aerobic performance was assessed by the shuttle run test (20mSRT), 1-mile, 1/2-mile and 1/4-mile run/walk tests. Height and weight were measured, and body mass index was calculated. Boys had significantly better score than girls in the studied tests in all age groups, except in 1/4-mile test in 6-7 year old children. Underweight children had similar performance than their normalweight counterparts, and underweight boys had better performance than their obese counterparts. Overweight and obese children had lower performance than their normalweight counterparts. Having percentile values of the most used field tests to measure aerobic performance in youth may help to identify children and adolescents at risk for the major chronic diseases, as well as to evaluate the effects of alternative interventions.

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Key words: *Fitness. 20m shuttle run test. 1-mile. 1/2-mile. 1/4-mile. Children.*

## VALORES DE PERCENTILES DE LOS TESTS DE CAMPO DE CAPACIDAD AERÓBICA EN NIÑOS DE 6 A 17 AÑOS; INFLUENCIA DEL PESO CORPORAL

**Resumen**

El propósito de este estudio fue proporcionar los valores de percentiles para cuatro pruebas de rendimiento aeróbico en 2752 (1261 chicas) niños españoles con edades de 6 a 17,9 años. El rendimiento aeróbico se evaluó mediante la carrera durante 20 minutos (20mSRT), y las pruebas de correr / caminar 1 milla, 1/2 milla y 1/4 de milla. Se midieron el peso y la talla y se calculó el índice de masa corporal. Los chicos tuvieron puntuaciones significativamente mejores que las chicas en las pruebas evaluadas y para todos los grupos de edad, excepto en la prueba de 1/4 de milla en el grupo de 6-7 años. Los niños con peso bajo mostraron un rendimiento similar a sus homólogos con peso normal y los primeros tuvieron un rendimiento mejor que sus homólogos obesos. Los niños obesos y con sobrepeso tuvieron un menor rendimiento que sus homólogos con peso normal. El disponer de valores de percentiles para las pruebas empleadas más habitualmente para evaluar el rendimiento aeróbico en los jóvenes podría ayudar a identificar a niños y adolescentes en riesgo de enfermedades crónicas importantes así como a evaluar los efectos de intervenciones alternativas.

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Palabras clave: *Forma física. Prueba de carrera de 20 min. 1 milla. 1/2 milla. 1/4 de milla. Niños.*

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## Abbreviations

20mSRT: The 20m shuttle run test.  
BMI: Body mass index.  
CD: Compact Disk.  
SD: Standard deviations.  
L: Transformation.  
M: Median.  
S: Coefficient of variation.  
SPSS: Statistical Package for Social Sciences.

## Introduction

Cardiorespiratory fitness is a direct indicator of individual's physiological status and reflects the overall capacity of the cardiovascular and respiratory system.<sup>1</sup> There are a number of cross-sectional studies showing that children and adolescents with higher levels of cardiorespiratory fitness have also a more favourable cardiovascular profile compared with their unfit counterparts.<sup>2</sup> Likewise, findings from prospective cohort studies have suggested that a low cardiorespiratory fitness during childhood and adolescence is associated with later cardiovascular risk factors such as hyperlipidemia, hypertension and obesity.<sup>2,3</sup> There is evidence indicating that the level of cardiorespiratory fitness during childhood and adolescence is moderately associated with the level of fitness in adulthood.<sup>4</sup> Taken together, these findings support the existence of an association between cardiorespiratory fitness and health-related outcomes in young people, and highlight the importance to include cardiorespiratory fitness tests in monitoring systems from early ages.

Cardiorespiratory fitness can be objectively and accurately measured through laboratory tests, which seems to provide a valid and reliable measure of the outcome. However, laboratory tests present some disadvantages, as necessity of sophisticated instruments, qualified technicians, cost and time constraints. Therefore, the feasibility and cost efficiency have to be taken into consideration in field-based testing. In some circumstances, field tests may be a better option because the tests are generally easy to administer and time efficient, a large number of subjects can be tested simultaneously, are relatively safe, involve minimal equipment and low cost, and often are the only feasible methods. Among various field-based cardiorespiratory fitness tests, the 20m shuttle run test (20mSRT), 1-mile, +1/2-mile, and 1/4-mile run/walk tests are the most used in children and adolescents, and are included in the most important fitness test batteries for young people such as EUROFIT,<sup>5</sup> FITNESSGRAM,<sup>6</sup> the Australian Fitness Education Award,<sup>7</sup> and the President's Challenge: The Health Fitness Test.<sup>8</sup> Sex- and age-specific data for different cardiorespiratory fitness tests may help to identify the target population for primary prevention, as well as for health promotion policies.

Obesity is an important public health threat for the coming years. Therefore, to better understand how weight status influence cardiorespiratory fitness in children is also of public health interest.

The aim of this study was to provide percentile values for 20mSRT, 1-mile, 1/2-mile and 1/4-mile in a large sample of girls and boys aged 6 to 17.9 years, and to examine the influence of weight status on the fitness level across age groups.

## Methods

### *Design and sample*

A random sample of 2,752 (1261 girls and 1491 boys) healthy white children (6 to 17.9 years of age) was selected by a two-phase proportional-cluster sampling using as a reference the database of the Census of the province of Cádiz (Spain). In the first phase, the school was selected from the stratum. The different strata were selected according to the geographical localization, by age and sex. A total of 18 governmental schools agreed to participate in the study. In the second phase, classes from schools were randomly selected and used as the smallest sampling units. All the children of the selected classrooms were invited to participate in the study. The participation rate was higher than 95%.

A comprehensive verbal description of the nature and purpose of the study was given to the children, adolescents, their parents and teachers. This information was also sent to parents or children supervisors by regular mail, and written consents from parents, children and adolescents were requested. The study was approved by the Review Committee for Research Involving Human Subjects at the University of Cádiz, Spain.

### *Body mass index assessment*

Height and weight were measured with physical education clothing (shorts and T-shirts) and with barefoot. Height was assessed to the nearest 0.1 cm using a stadiometer (Holtain LTd, Crymmych, Pembro, United Kingdom). Weight was measured to the nearest 0.1 kg using a Seca scale. Instruments were calibrated to ensure the acceptable accuracy. Body mass index (BMI) was calculated as weight/height squared ( $\text{kg/m}^2$ ). Participants were categorized according to the BMI international cut-off values as underweight, normalweight, overweight and obese.<sup>9,10</sup>

### *20m shuttle run test*

The test was performed as previously described by Léger et al.<sup>11</sup> In brief, participants were required to run between two lines 20 m apart, while keeping the pace with audio signals emitted from a pre-recorded com-

pact disk (CD). The initial speed was 8.5 km/h, which was increased by 0.5 km/h per minute (one minute equal one stage). The CD used was calibrated over one minute of duration. Participants were instructed to run in a straight line, to pivot on completing a shuttle, and to pace themselves in accordance with the audio signals. The participants were encouraged to keep running as long as possible throughout the course of the test. The test was finished when the participant failed to reach the end lines concurrent with the audio signals on two consecutive occasions. Otherwise, the test ended when the subject stopped because of fatigue. All measurements were carried out under standardized conditions on an indoor rubber floored gymnasium. The last stage completed was scored (precision of 0.5 steps).

#### *1-mile, 1/2-mile and 1/4-mile run/walk tests*

Participants were instructed and encouraged to complete the distance (i.e. 1-mile, 1/2-mile, or 1/4-mile) as fast as possible. Walking was permitted if the participant could not keep running. The tests were performed on a 200 m track in the schools play ground field. The time of completion was recorded to the nearest second.

All the participants received a comprehensive instruction of all the tests after which they also practiced the tests. They were instructed to abstain from strenuous exercises 48 hours prior to the test. The tests were randomly performed 7 to 10 days apart.

#### *Statistical analysis*

Participants were divided into five age groups: 6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15, 16-17 years. Age- and sex-specific means, and standard deviations (SD) were determined, unless otherwise indicated. Percentile values were calculated and percentile curves were fitted to the data using Cole's transformation, median, and coefficient of variation (LMS) method.<sup>12</sup> Briefly, this assumes that the data can be transformed to normality by a suitable power transformation (L), and the distrib-

ution is then summarized by the median (M) and coefficient of variation (S). The values of L, M and S are constrained to change smoothly with age, and the fitted values can be used to construct any required percentile curves. Sex and age groups differences were compared by two-way analysis of variance. Differences in aerobic performance tests among BMI categories (i.e., underweight, normalweight, overweight and obese) were compared by one-way analysis of covariance after adjusting for age. We adjusted multiple comparisons for mass significance as described by Holm.<sup>13</sup> All the residuals showed a satisfactory pattern. Nominal variables were analyzed by Chi-squared tests. All analyses were performed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS, version 15.0 for WINDOWS; SPSS Inc, Chicago). For all analyses, the significance level was set at 5%.

#### **Results**

The prevalence of underweight, normalweight, overweight and obese in girls was of 7%, 67%, 21%, and 5%, respectively, whereas in boys was 5%, 62%, 25%, and 8%, respectively.

Table I shows the means and SD for the four fitness tests by age group and sex. Boys had significantly better scores than girls in all four tests and in all age groups, except in 1/4-mile test in the 6-7 year old group.

Means and SD for the fitness tests by sex groups and weight status are presented in table II. Underweight children had similar performance than their normalweight counterparts, except in the 1/4-mile test, where underweight boys had lower performance than their normalweight counterparts. Underweight boys had higher performance than their obese counterparts in all the studied tests, and the former had also better performance than their overweight peers in the 20mSRT. Normalweight children had significantly better performance than their overweight and obese counterparts. Obese boys had significantly worse performance than their overweight counterparts, but not in girls.

**Table I**  
*Means and standard deviation for aerobic performance tests by sex and age*

| <i>Fitness test</i>      | <i>Sex</i> | <i>n</i> | <i>6-7 yr</i> | <i>8-9 yr</i> | <i>10-11 yr</i> | <i>12-13 yr</i> | <i>14-15 yr</i> | <i>16-17 yr</i> |
|--------------------------|------------|----------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 20m shuttle run (stages) | Girls      | 1173     | 2.3 ± 1.0**   | 2.9 ± 1.2***  | 3.4 ± 1.8***    | 4.3 ± 1.9***    | 4.2 ± 2.0***    | 3.9 ± 1.7***    |
|                          | Boys       | 1424     | 2.6 ± 1.4     | 3.6 ± 1.8     | 4.1 ± 1.9       | 5.5 ± 2.2       | 6.7 ± 2.5       | 6.6 ± 2.5       |
| 1/4-mile run/walk (min)  | Girls      | 1166     | 2.5 ± 0.4     | 2.5 ± 0.5***  | 2.4 ± 0.7**     | 2.2 ± 0.7***    | 2.1 ± 0.5***    | 2.2 ± 0.5***    |
|                          | Boys       | 1443     | 2.4 ± 0.4     | 2.3 ± 0.5     | 2.3 ± 0.5       | 1.8 ± 0.4       | 1.7 ± 0.4       | 1.6 ± 0.4       |
| 1/2-mile run/walk (min)  | Girls      | 1079     | 5.4 ± 0.7     | 5.6 ± 1.3***  | 5.3 ± 1.0***    | 4.9 ± 1.3***    | 4.9 ± 1.1***    | 4.9 ± 1.0***    |
|                          | Boys       | 1321     | 5.2 ± 1.0     | 5.0 ± 1.0     | 4.8 ± 1.0       | 4.2 ± 0.8       | 3.9 ± 0.9       | 3.6 ± 0.8       |
| 1-mile run/walk (min)    | Girls      | 1221     | 11.5 ± 2.0    | 12.0 ± 1.9*** | 11.5 ± 2.2***   | 11.1 ± 2.7***   | 11.0 ± 2.2***   | 10.9 ± 1.9***   |
|                          | Boys       | 1120     | 11.0 ± 1.6    | 10.7 ± 2.1    | 10.5 ± 2.2      | 9.4 ± 2.0       | 8.8 ± 2.1       | 8.1 ± 1.5       |

\*\*P < 0.01; \*\*\*P < 0.001 for comparison between sexes.

**Table II**  
Means and standard deviation for aerobic performance tests by weight status and sex

|                          | n    | Underweight<br>(A) | Normal weight<br>(B) | Overweight<br>(C) | Obese<br>(D) | P for<br>trend | Post hoc pairwise comparisons |        |        |        |        |        |
|--------------------------|------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                          |      |                    |                      |                   |              |                | A vs B                        | A vs C | A vs D | B vs C | B vs D | C vs D |
| <i>Girls</i>             |      |                    |                      |                   |              |                |                               |        |        |        |        |        |
| 20m shuttle run (stages) | 1075 | 3.8 ± 0.2          | 3.6 ± 0.1            | 2.9 ± 0.1         | 2.4 ± 0.2    | <0.001         | NS                            | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | NS     |
| 1/4-mile run/walk (min)  | 1047 | 2.3 ± 0.1          | 2.3 ± 0.0            | 2.4 ± 0.0         | 2.6 ± 0.1    | <0.001         | NS                            | NS     | NS     | <0.001 | <0.001 | NS     |
| 1/2-mile run/walk (min)  | 976  | 5.3 ± 0.1          | 5.0 ± 0.0            | 5.5 ± 0.1         | 5.9 ± 0.2    | <0.001         | NS                            | NS     | NS     | <0.001 | <0.001 | NS     |
| 1-mile run/walk (min)    | 880  | 11.5 ± 0.3         | 11.0 ± 0.1           | 11.9 ± 0.2        | 12.6 ± 0.4   | <0.001         | NS                            | NS     | NS     | <0.001 | <0.001 | NS     |
| <i>Boys</i>              |      |                    |                      |                   |              |                |                               |        |        |        |        |        |
| 20mSRT (stages)          | 1387 | 4.8 ± 0.2          | 5.1 ± 0.1            | 4.0 ± 0.1         | 3.1 ± 0.2    | <0.001         | NS                            | 0.012  | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| 1/4-mile run/walk (min)  | 1380 | 2.2 ± 0.1          | 2.0 ± 0.0            | 2.1 ± 0.0         | 2.4 ± 0.0    | <0.001         | 0.001                         | NS     | 0.009  | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| 1/2-mile run/walk (min)  | 1271 | 4.5 ± 0.1          | 4.3 ± 0.0            | 4.8 ± 0.0         | 5.4 ± 0.1    | <0.001         | NS                            | NS     | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 |
| 1-mile run/walk (min)    | 1162 | 9.9 ± 0.2          | 9.4 ± 0.1            | 10.4 ± 0.1        | 11.3 ± 0.2   | <0.001         | NS                            | NS     | <0.001 | <0.001 | <0.001 | 0.002  |

NS indicates non significant, P > 0.05.

**Table III**  
Smoothed and age- and sex-specific percentile values for aerobic performance tests in girls aged 6-17 years

|                                 | n   | 10 <sup>th</sup> | 20 <sup>th</sup> | 30 <sup>th</sup> | 40 <sup>th</sup> | 50 <sup>th</sup> | 60 <sup>th</sup> | 70 <sup>th</sup> | 80 <sup>th</sup> | 90 <sup>th</sup> |
|---------------------------------|-----|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <i>20m shuttle run (stages)</i> |     |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 6-7                             | 192 | 0.3              | 0.5              | 0.8              | 1.2              | 1.7              | 2.3              | 3.0              | 4.0              | 5.1              |
| 8-9                             | 276 | 0.4              | 0.6              | 1.0              | 1.5              | 2.1              | 2.9              | 3.8              | 5.0              | 6.5              |
| 10-11                           | 227 | 0.4              | 0.7              | 1.2              | 1.8              | 2.5              | 3.5              | 4.8              | 6.3              | 8.1              |
| 12-13                           | 219 | 0.5              | 0.9              | 1.4              | 2.2              | 3.1              | 4.3              | 5.8              | 7.6              | 9.8              |
| 14-15                           | 126 | 0.4              | 0.8              | 1.4              | 2.2              | 3.2              | 4.4              | 5.9              | 7.6              | 9.6              |
| 16-17                           | 133 | 0.4              | 0.8              | 1.3              | 2.1              | 3.0              | 4.1              | 5.4              | 6.9              | 8.6              |
| <i>1/4-mile (min)</i>           |     |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 6-7                             | 173 | 3.8              | 3.3              | 2.9              | 2.6              | 2.3              | 2.2              | 2.0              | 1.9              | 1.7              |
| 8-9                             | 266 | 4.4              | 3.5              | 3.0              | 2.6              | 2.3              | 2.1              | 1.9              | 1.7              | 1.6              |
| 10-11                           | 222 | 4.7              | 3.5              | 2.8              | 2.4              | 2.1              | 1.9              | 1.7              | 1.5              | 1.4              |
| 12-13                           | 247 | 4.6              | 3.3              | 2.6              | 2.2              | 1.9              | 1.6              | 1.5              | 1.3              | 1.2              |
| 14-15                           | 128 | 4.3              | 3.2              | 2.6              | 2.2              | 1.8              | 1.6              | 1.4              | 1.3              | 1.2              |
| 16-17                           | 130 | 4.2              | 3.3              | 2.7              | 2.3              | 2.0              | 1.7              | 1.5              | 1.4              | 1.2              |
| <i>1/2-mile (min)</i>           |     |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 6-7                             | 157 | 8.4              | 7.1              | 6.2              | 5.6              | 5.1              | 4.7              | 4.3              | 4.1              | 3.8              |
| 8-9                             | 249 | 9.5              | 7.6              | 6.5              | 5.6              | 5.0              | 4.5              | 4.2              | 3.8              | 3.6              |
| 10-11                           | 202 | 9.4              | 7.6              | 6.3              | 5.4              | 4.8              | 4.3              | 3.9              | 3.5              | 3.3              |
| 12-13                           | 218 | 8.7              | 7.1              | 5.9              | 5.1              | 4.4              | 3.9              | 3.5              | 3.2              | 2.9              |
| 14-15                           | 122 | 8.4              | 7.0              | 5.9              | 5.1              | 4.4              | 3.9              | 3.5              | 3.1              | 2.8              |
| 16-17                           | 131 | 8.1              | 6.8              | 5.9              | 5.1              | 4.4              | 3.9              | 3.5              | 3.1              | 2.8              |
| <i>1-mile (min)</i>             |     |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 6-7                             | 101 | 16.0             | 14.7             | 13.4             | 12.2             | 11.1             | 10.0             | 8.9              | 8.0              | 7.0              |
| 8-9                             | 221 | 17.3             | 15.5             | 13.9             | 12.5             | 11.2             | 10.0             | 8.9              | 8.0              | 7.1              |
| 10-11                           | 204 | 18.0             | 15.6             | 13.7             | 12.0             | 10.6             | 9.4              | 8.4              | 7.5              | 6.7              |
| 12-13                           | 203 | 18.2             | 15.4             | 13.2             | 11.4             | 10.0             | 8.8              | 7.8              | 7.0              | 6.3              |
| 14-15                           | 122 | 17.9             | 15.2             | 13.1             | 11.4             | 10.0             | 8.8              | 7.8              | 7.0              | 6.2              |
| 16-17                           | 128 | 16.9             | 14.8             | 13.0             | 11.4             | 10.0             | 8.9              | 7.8              | 6.9              | 6.2              |

Smoothed age- and sex-specific percentiles for the fitness tests in girls and boys are presented in table III and IV, respectively. There was a trend towards increased aerobic performance level in boys as their age increased, whereas in girls, the performance in all the selected tests seem to achieve a plateau already at 12-13 years.

## Discussion

There is increasing evidence indicating that fitness is a powerful indicator of health in youngsters.<sup>2,3</sup> Despite

the important diagnostic information that can be provided by fitness tests, its use is often ignored in schools and clinical settings. The present study provides percentile values of four aerobic performance tests in children aged 6 to 17.9 years. Having percentile values of the most used field tests to measure aerobic performance in young people may help to identify children and adolescents at risk for the major public health diseases, as well as to evaluate the effects of alternative interventions. In this regard, schools may play an important role. Firstly by identifying children with low fitness levels, and secondly by promoting positive

**Table IV**  
Smoothed and age- and sex-specific percentile values for aerobic performance tests in boys aged 6-17 years

|                                 | <i>n</i> | 10 <sup>th</sup> | 20 <sup>th</sup> | 30 <sup>th</sup> | 40 <sup>th</sup> | 50 <sup>th</sup> | 60 <sup>th</sup> | 70 <sup>th</sup> | 80 <sup>th</sup> | 90 <sup>th</sup> |
|---------------------------------|----------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <i>20m shuttle run (stages)</i> |          |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 6-7                             | 201      | 0.2              | 0.5              | 0.8              | 1.2              | 1.9              | 2.8              | 4.0              | 5.5              | 7.4              |
| 8-9                             | 317      | 0.3              | 0.6              | 1.1              | 1.8              | 2.7              | 3.9              | 5.3              | 7.0              | 9.0              |
| 10-11                           | 277      | 0.2              | 0.7              | 1.4              | 2.3              | 3.3              | 4.6              | 6.1              | 7.7              | 9.5              |
| 12-13                           | 285      | 0.2              | 0.9              | 1.9              | 3.1              | 4.5              | 6.0              | 7.7              | 9.5              | 11.4             |
| 14-15                           | 159      | 0.2              | 1.2              | 2.5              | 3.9              | 5.5              | 7.2              | 9.0              | 10.9             | 12.9             |
| 16-17                           | 185      | 0.4              | 1.5              | 2.8              | 4.2              | 5.8              | 7.4              | 9.1              | 10.9             | 12.8             |
| <i>1/4-mile (min)</i>           |          |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 6-7                             | 200      | 3.9              | 3.3              | 2.9              | 2.5              | 2.3              | 2.0              | 1.9              | 1.7              | 1.6              |
| 8-9                             | 314      | 3.8              | 3.2              | 2.8              | 2.5              | 2.2              | 1.9              | 1.7              | 1.5              | 1.4              |
| 10-11                           | 277      | 3.4              | 3.0              | 2.6              | 2.3              | 2.0              | 1.7              | 1.5              | 1.3              | 1.1              |
| 12-13                           | 312      | 3.1              | 2.6              | 2.2              | 1.9              | 1.7              | 1.5              | 1.3              | 1.2              | 1.0              |
| 14-15                           | 158      | 3.0              | 2.3              | 2.0              | 1.7              | 1.5              | 1.3              | 1.2              | 1.1              | 1.0              |
| 16-17                           | 182      | 3.3              | 2.3              | 1.9              | 1.6              | 1.4              | 1.3              | 1.2              | 1.1              | 1.1              |
| <i>1/2-mile (min)</i>           |          |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 6-7                             | 172      | 8.5              | 7.0              | 6.0              | 5.3              | 4.8              | 4.4              | 4.0              | 3.7              | 3.5              |
| 8-9                             | 298      | 8.3              | 6.8              | 5.8              | 5.1              | 4.6              | 4.1              | 3.8              | 3.5              | 3.2              |
| 10-11                           | 240      | 7.9              | 6.5              | 5.6              | 4.9              | 4.3              | 3.9              | 3.5              | 3.2              | 3.0              |
| 12-13                           | 275      | 7.1              | 5.9              | 5.0              | 4.3              | 3.8              | 3.5              | 3.1              | 2.9              | 2.7              |
| 14-15                           | 155      | 6.7              | 5.4              | 4.5              | 3.9              | 3.5              | 3.1              | 2.9              | 2.6              | 2.5              |
| 16-17                           | 181      | 6.5              | 5.1              | 4.3              | 3.7              | 3.3              | 3.0              | 2.7              | 2.5              | 2.4              |
| <i>1-mile (min)</i>             |          |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 6-7                             | 116      | 15.7             | 14.2             | 12.8             | 11.5             | 10.3             | 9.3              | 8.3              | 7.4              | 6.6              |
| 8-9                             | 280      | 16.2             | 14.4             | 12.7             | 11.3             | 10.0             | 8.8              | 7.8              | 6.9              | 6.1              |
| 10-11                           | 238      | 16.6             | 14.3             | 12.4             | 10.8             | 9.5              | 8.4              | 7.4              | 6.6              | 5.9              |
| 12-13                           | 253      | 16.1             | 13.3             | 11.3             | 9.8              | 8.6              | 7.7              | 6.9              | 6.2              | 5.7              |
| 14-15                           | 150      | 15.5             | 12.2             | 10.2             | 8.8              | 7.8              | 7.1              | 6.5              | 6.0              | 5.6              |
| 16-17                           | 183      | 14.3             | 11.1             | 9.3              | 8.2              | 7.4              | 6.8              | 6.4              | 6.0              | 5.6              |

health behaviours, such as encouraging children to engage in physical activity, and decrease time in sedentary activities. The leadership of schools, as a powerful setting to promote a healthy lifestyle among young populations, has been recently highlighted by the American Heart Association.<sup>14</sup>

The findings presented in this study confirm the frequently observed sex differences in aerobic performance. Boys had better performance than girls in all ages and in the four studied fitness tests. These differences became greater with increasing age. Ortega et al.<sup>15</sup> reported that female adolescents aged 13-18 years had worse performance in the 20mSRT than males had. Similar results were reported in a sample of undernourished rural primary school children aged 7-14 years when performing the 1-mile test.<sup>16</sup> Aerobic performance increased with age in boys, whereas in girls, it increased up to 12-13 years, and after that all the studied tests tended to achieve a plateau. These results are consistent with those reported in other studies.<sup>14,17</sup> These sex differences might be due to physical developmental factors such as sex-related changes in lean body weight and body fat during puberty,<sup>18</sup> haemoglobin concentration,<sup>19</sup> or hormonal changes.<sup>20</sup> The fact that girls are less active than boys might be another factor explaining these differences.<sup>21</sup>

We compared the levels of aerobic performance measured by the 20mSRT with 14 studies carried out in 11

different countries: Belgium,<sup>22</sup> Finland,<sup>23</sup> Republic of Seychelles,<sup>24</sup> Denmark,<sup>25,26</sup> United Kingdom,<sup>27</sup> Greece,<sup>28</sup> Spain,<sup>15</sup> Netherlands,<sup>29</sup> Sweden,<sup>30</sup> Portugal,<sup>31</sup> and North America<sup>32</sup>. The children in our study had better performance than their age-matched peers from Greece and Portugal, whereas better scores were reported in the rest of studies. These data confirm the results of Olds et al.<sup>17</sup> who also showed that Mediterranean children seem to perform worse on aerobic performance tests relative to their peers from other European countries. Further, these countries have also the highest levels of obesity.<sup>33</sup> The consequences of having low fitness and high fatness in these ages and later in life are well known, therefore, the situation calls for urgent action.

Results of the present study also indicated that overweight and obese children had worse performance on all tests compared with their normalweight counterparts. These data are consistent with other studies conducted among school-aged children, showing that overweight and obesity was inversely related to fitness in both girls and boys.<sup>23,24,34-37</sup> In Canadian children aged 8-10 years, low levels of aerobic performance was associated with overweight and obesity in boys but not in girls,<sup>25</sup> whereas in Portuguese children aged 8-10 years, these differences were much more pronounced in girls than boys.<sup>38</sup> We also observed that underweight children had similar performance than their normal-weight counterparts, and underweight boys had better

performance than their obese counterparts. Others reported similar observations, assessing aerobic performance by the 20mSRT.<sup>16,24,37,39</sup>

The poorer performances in overweight and obese children are probably due to the fact that the higher body weight is an extra load to be moved during weight-bearing tasks. Differences in body composition among weight status groups may also explain the differences observed in the performance. Unfortunately, body composition data are not available in this study, which hamper further comparisons. Moreover, overweight and obese children seem to avoid weight-bearing activities because of the greater energy cost compared with non-overweight/obese counterparts.

Several studies have shown the validity of the 20mSRT<sup>11,40,41</sup> and 1-mile tests,<sup>42,43</sup> whereas studies examining the validity of the 1/2-mile and 1/4-mile tests are lacking. We analysed the validity of the 1-mile test in children aged 8-17 years,<sup>44</sup> and we observed that one of the widely used equation to estimate  $\text{VO}_{2\text{peak}}$  in children, the Cureton's equation,<sup>44</sup> systematically underestimates  $\text{VO}_{2\text{peak}}$  in endurance trained children. Fernhall et al.<sup>45</sup> studied the validity of the 1/2-mile test and concluded that this test has a questionable validity as an indicator on cardiorespiratory fitness in children with mild and moderate mental retardation. We also analysed the validity of the 1/2-mile test in children aged 6-17 years.<sup>46</sup> We developed and cross-validated a regression equation for estimating  $\text{VO}_{2\text{peak}}$  from the 1/2-mile time, sex, and BMI. We did not observe a significant difference between measured and estimated  $\text{VO}_{2\text{peak}}$ , nor heteroscedascity, and an acceptable error was also reported.<sup>46</sup> Further, we showed that the new regression equation was more accurate than the Fernhall's equation. To our knowledge, there are not data available regarding the validity of the 1/4-mile test. It has been suggested that in adolescents, field-running tests of aerobic performance should be at least 1/2 mile,<sup>47</sup> but ideally one mile or longer. For younger individuals, tests between 1/2 mile and 1 mile seems to be better predictors of aerobic performance.<sup>48</sup> Therefore, the 1/4-mile test might not be adequate test to assess aerobic performance in youth. However, the 1/4-mile distance is probably approaching the upper limit of maximal performance capabilities and motivation to perform in younger children. This issue warrants further investigation.

The limitations of this study include its cross-sectional nature. Level of fitness and fatness in growing children and adolescents should be obtained in longitudinal studies, which gives the possibility to assess natural changes in individual growth and development. It should also be recognized that the studied sample is not representative of the Spanish children and adolescent population; yet, our data are fully comparable with nationally representative data obtained from the AVENA study.<sup>15,49</sup> The large sample of children and adolescents aged 6 to 17.9 years measured together

with several widely used tests to measure aerobic performance is a strength of this study.

## Conclusions

Percentiles values of four aerobic performance tests are provided. The presented percentiles values will be of interest to classify youth, and to estimate the proportion of children with high or low aerobic performance levels. The level of aerobic performance of children and adolescents in the present study was worse than that of children and adolescents in other countries. Overweight and obese children have an impaired aerobic performance compared to their normalweight peers, which was not observed in underweight children. To note is that Mediterranean countries seem to have the lowest aerobic performance levels as well as the highest prevalence of overweight and obesity. Given that overweight and obesity and low aerobic performance levels are associated with increased cardiovascular risk factors in adolescence and later in life, effective measures, strategies and intervention programs are needed to prevent the increase of childhood obesity and to improve the fitness levels.

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Original

## Complicaciones hepatobiliares asociadas a la Nutrición Parenteral Domiciliaria (NPD)

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### Resumen

La Nutrición Parenteral Domiciliaria (NPD) permite recuperar o mantener el estado nutricional de los pacientes con insuficiencia intestinal crónica que no pueden cubrir sus requerimientos nutricionales por vía digestiva. Es frecuente que a lo largo del tratamiento aparezcan alteraciones de la función hepática que, en los casos más graves y sobretodo en niños prematuros y de bajo peso, pueden condicionar un fallo hepático irreversible. La correcta composición de la bolsa de nutrición parenteral, evitando un excesivo aporte de energía, junto con el uso de nuevos tipos de emulsiones lipídicas (con menor contenido en ácidos grasos de la serie  $\omega$ -6 y exentas de fitosteroles) así como la utilización, aunque sea mínima, de la vía digestiva pueden contribuir a disminuir la aparición de la hepatopatía asociada a la NPD. Es imprescindible realizar controles periódicos clínicos y analíticos para detectar precozmente las alteraciones de la función hepática con objeto de realizar los cambios adecuados en el tratamiento y valorar la indicación de un posible trasplante intestinal antes de que el fallo hepático sea irreversible.

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Palabras clave: Insuficiencia intestinal crónica. Nutrición parenteral domiciliaria. Hepatopatía. Fallo hepático irreversible. Emulsiones lipídicas. Sobrecrecimiento bacteriano. Trasplante intestinal.

### HOME-BASED PARENTERAL NUTRITION (HBPN)-ASSOCIATED HEPATOBIILIARY COMPLICATIONS

#### Abstract

Home-based parenteral nutrition (HBPN) allows recovering or maintaining the nutritional status of patients with chronic intestinal failure that cannot afford their nutritional requirements through the digestive route. Frequently, liver function impairments develop along the treatment, which in the most severe cases, and especially in premature and low-weight infants, may lead to an irreversible liver failure. The proper composition of the parenteral nutrition bag, avoiding an excess of energy intake, together with the use of new types of lipid emulsions (with lower content in  $\omega$ -6 fatty acids and voided of phytosterols) as well as the use, although being minimal, of the enteral route, may contribute to a decrease in the occurrence of HBPN-associated liver disease. It is necessary to perform monthly clinical and biochemical checks to early detect liver function impairments in order to perform the appropriate changes in the treatment and assess the indication of a potential bowel transplant before the liver damage becomes irreversible.

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Key words: Chronic intestinal failure. Home-based parenteral nutrition. Liver disease. Irreversible liver failure. Lipid emulsions. Bacterial overgrowth. Bowel transplant.

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## Introducción

La Nutrición Parenteral Domiciliaria (NPD) supone la primera opción terapéutica para los pacientes con insuficiencia intestinal severa que no pueden cubrir sus requerimientos nutricionales por vía digestiva. Con este tratamiento se puede reintegrar al paciente a su medio sociofamiliar, evitando estancias hospitalarias muy prolongadas y manteniendo un adecuado estado nutricional<sup>1</sup>. Sin embargo, es una técnica compleja por lo que debe ser manejada por equipos especializados con experiencia en este tipo de soporte nutricional, ya que puede producir diversas complicaciones, unas veces relacionadas con el catéter venoso y en otras ocasiones de carácter metabólico asociadas al aporte de nutrientes por vía venosa y a la escasa utilización del tubo digestivo<sup>2</sup>.

En este artículo revisaremos las complicaciones hepatobiliares de la NPD, que suponen un fenómeno habitual bien reconocido en este tipo de pacientes y que, en sus formas más graves, pueden llegar a comprometer su vida.

## Epidemiología

Durante las primeras semanas de tratamiento se ha descrito una elevación transitoria de enzimas hepáticas en el 40-70% de los pacientes que reciben NPD. En adultos suele ser transitoria y tender a la normalización al cabo de varias semanas aunque en algunos casos y, más frecuentemente en niños, sobretodo prematuros o con NPD prolongada, puede persistir y evolucionar hacia una hepatopatía crónica e incluso a una insuficiencia hepática severa.

Desde los inicios de la NPD en los años 70 se ha descrito una incidencia de alteraciones en la funcionalidad hepática de un 25-100% con una progresión hacia una hepatopatía avanzada en el 15-40% de los casos<sup>3,4</sup>.

Recientemente, diversos estudios de cohortes sugieren, al menos en adultos, que la incidencia de la enfermedad hepática grave asociada a NPD puede estar disminuyendo, aunque sigue siendo común observar elevaciones discretas de enzimas hepáticos<sup>5</sup>. Así, Salvino y col en el año 2006 describen una cohorte histórica de 162 pacientes adultos en la que el 57% presentan alteraciones en la función hepática a lo largo de un seguimiento medio de 2,14 años. Utilizando únicamente el criterio de bilirrubina > 3 mg/dl reportan un 12,3% de hepatopatía mientras que sólo el 4,3% presentaba hepatopatía severa combinando criterios clínicos y analíticos<sup>6</sup>. Los datos procedentes de otra serie publicada por Lloyd y cols.<sup>7</sup> muestran un 24% de pacientes con datos analíticos compatibles con colestasis crónica pero sin consecuencias clínicas posteriores en el seguimiento.

En población pediátrica está descrita una prevalencia de hepatopatía en un 40-60% de los sujetos<sup>8</sup> y su-

**Tabla I**  
*Factores etiológicos de la enfermedad hepática asociada a NP a largo plazo*

1. *Factores relacionados con la NP:*
  - 1.1. Exceso de nutrientes:
    - glucosa
    - lípidos
    - tipo de emulsión lipídica (fitosteroles)
    - aminoácidos
    - manganeso
  - 1.2. Déficit de nutrientes:
    - desnutrición
    - colina
    - taurina
    - ácidos grasos esenciales
  - 1.3. Modo de infusión de la NP
    - continua vs cíclica
2. *Factores relacionados con el paciente:*
  - 2.1. Patología de base:
    - longitud de intestino remanente
    - características del intestino remanente
    - edad
  - 2.2. Reposo digestivo:
    - sobrecrecimiento bacteriano
    - hipomotilidad intestinal y de la vesícula biliar
    - estasis vía biliar
3. *Otros factores:*
  - sepsis intercurrente
  - prematuridad
  - fármacos
  - tóxicos: etanol,
  - infecciones por virus (VHB, VHC)

pone una de las principales causas de mortalidad y morbilidad. Sondheimer y cols.<sup>9</sup> incluso describen una rápida progresión hacia el fallo hepático en un 13% de los pacientes tras 6 semanas de duración del soporte.

Una publicación más reciente<sup>10</sup> describe una serie de 302 niños en programa de NPD en un mismo centro de referencia detectando sólo un 23% de afectación hepática con un 2,7% de pacientes que han precisado trasplante hepático. Atribuyen la baja tasa de complicaciones (no sólo hepáticas) al manejo de la NPD en centros de referencia altamente especializados en este tipo de soporte.

## Etiopatogenia

Las causas por las que se produce la afectación hepatobiliar no están claras. Aunque se han postulado varias hipótesis, hoy en día se asume que es una enfermedad de etiología multifactorial en donde influye tanto la escasa utilización del tubo digestivo como el aporte de nutrientes por una vía distinta a la fisiológica<sup>11</sup>.

Los posibles mecanismos que producen la enfermedad hepática (tabla I) pueden estar relacionados con el aporte parenteral de nutrientes, con el reposo digestivo o con la interconexión de otros procesos.

### Factores relacionados con la NPD

Distintos componentes de la NP han sido objeto de estudio y se han relacionado con la aparición de enfermedad hepatobiliar.

1. *Exceso de aporte de nutrientes:* El aporte excesivo de nutrientes ha sido clásicamente relacionado con las alteraciones hepáticas asociadas a NP<sup>12</sup>. Un aporte energético elevado, sobretodo si es a expensas de glucosa, con infusiones superiores a 7 mg/kg/min, puede condicionar un estado de hiperinsulinismo que, a su vez, induce un aumento de la concentración hepática de acetil-CoA. El aumento de este sustrato produciría un incremento en la síntesis de ácidos grasos (lipogénesis) que, al acumularse en el hepatocito, conducirían a la esteatosis. También se podría observar un aumento de triglicéridos en sangre.

Tanto la cantidad como el tipo de lípidos administrados pueden favorecer la aparición de la enfermedad hepática asociada a la NPD. Se han descrito algunos casos, sobre todo en niños, en los que una sobrecarga de lípidos (2,5-3 g/kg/d) puede producir colestasis, hipoxia, trombocitopenia y coagulación intravascular diseminada<sup>13</sup>. Cavicchi y cols.<sup>4</sup>, en un estudio de 90 pacientes con NPD durante más de 6 meses, observaron que la administración de lípidos en cantidades superiores a 1 g/kg/d, aumentaba el riesgo presentar alteraciones hepáticas; hay que reseñar que las emulsiones lipídicas utilizadas tenían un elevado contenido en ácidos grasos de la serie  $\omega$ -6.

Estas emulsiones lipídicas clásicas, basadas en el aceite de soja, pueden predisponer a un aumento de la producción de metabolitos proinflamatorios derivados de los ácidos grasos  $\omega$ -6 e inducir un menor aclaramiento hepático de los lípidos infundidos; además, contienen esteroles vegetales (fitosteroles) en pequeñas cantidades.

En condiciones normales, alrededor de un 5% de los esteroles vegetales de la dieta son absorbidos en el intestino, y una media de 15 mg son transportados al hígado diariamente. Sin embargo, con la NP los niveles de fitosteroles circulantes son 4 veces superiores y son transportados al hígado y a otros tejidos. Clayton y cols.<sup>14</sup> en un estudio en población pediátrica con 29 niños en tratamiento con NP observaron que, a mayor cantidad de fitoesteroles infundidos a través de las emulsiones lipídicas, sus niveles plasmáticos son más elevados y mayor la alteración de pruebas hepáticas. Esta relación entre niveles plasmáticos de fitosteroles y alteración de función hepática ha sido confirmada en población adulta por otros autores como Ellegard y cols.<sup>15</sup>, Llop y cols.<sup>16</sup>, Hallikainen y cols.<sup>17</sup>, viéndose agravada si no existe ingestión de alimentos por vía digestiva<sup>16</sup>.

Estudios recientes han sugerido que el uso de emulsiones lipídicas basadas en aceite de pescado, con alto contenido en ácidos grasos  $\omega$ -3 y libres de fitosteroles, pueden ser útiles en el tratamiento de la hepatopatía

asociada a NP. En experimentación animal se ha observado que estas emulsiones lipídicas no se asocian con la existencia de alteraciones en el flujo biliar e incluso pueden prevenir la litogénesis<sup>18</sup>. Gura y cols.<sup>19-20</sup> han mostrado que el uso de emulsiones lipídicas basadas en aceite de pescado en población infantil con hepatopatía podía revertir esta situación, normalizar los niveles de bilirrubina y mejorar la supervivencia.

Por su parte, el manganeso es un componente de la solución de oligoelementos que se incorpora a las bolsas de NP. Se ha descrito elevación de los niveles plasmáticos de este mineral cuando se administra el soporte parenteral de forma prolongada. En niños se ha observado una correlación directa entre los niveles séricos de manganeso y los de bilirrubina total; esto probablemente sea una consecuencia de la hepatopatía ya que el manganeso, al igual que otros metales, se elimina por la vía biliar y cuando aparece la colestasis se altera su salida al flujo biliar con el consiguiente aumento plasmático. Otros contaminantes presentes en las mezclas de NP como aluminio, cobre pueden también contribuir a la aparición de alteraciones en la función hepática.

2. *Déficit de nutrientes:* Los nutrientes infundidos directamente en una vía venosa son metabolizados de forma diferente que cuando se administran por vía enteral. Esto puede tener importancia ya que algunos nutrientes son sintetizados prioritariamente en el hígado a partir de precursores durante el primer paso hepático. Cuando el aporte nutricional se realiza prioritariamente por vía parenteral pueden cambiar los requerimientos nutricionales de determinados compuestos. En el caso de los *aminoácidos* se modifica, entre otras, su vía de transulfuración, especialmente de la metionina. Ésta se transamina desproporcionadamente a mercaptanos en vez de metabolizarse a colina, taurina, carnitina y cisteína, que son sustancias que desempeñan un papel importante en la movilización de las grasas.

Se ha tratado de relacionar los niveles bajos de carnitina, colina y taurina con las alteraciones de las enzimas hepáticas sin que existan resultados totalmente concluyentes hasta el momento.

La colina es un aminoácido esencial para la síntesis de las lipoproteínas de muy baja densidad (VLDL) y su déficit conduce a un descenso en la producción de estas moléculas, con acumulación de triglicéridos en los hepatocitos, favoreciendo la aparición de esteatosis. Diversos estudios realizados hasta la fecha en humanos parecen confirmar la correlación entre los niveles bajos de colina plasmática y la elevación de las enzimas hepáticas, así como con el grado de esteatosis. Por otro lado, la administración endovenosa de este aminoácido favorece que reviertan ambas alteraciones<sup>21</sup>. En la actualidad no se dispone de preparados comerciales de colina y es preciso realizar más estudios que confirmen su eficacia.

La taurina es un aminoácido esencial en niños por lo que los preparados específicos para este grupo de

población suelen estar suplementados con esta sustancia. Se conjuga con el ácido litocólico y su déficit produciría por tanto ácidos biliares menos solubles, con mayor riesgo de colestasis<sup>22-23</sup>. El déficit de carnitina es una causa potencial de hepatopatía pues no se incluye en las fórmulas de NP y sus niveles plasmáticos descienden durante los tratamientos de larga duración. Este aminoácido es esencial para el transporte de los ácidos grasos de cadena larga a través de la membrana mitocondrial para su oxidación. Sin embargo, no se ha encontrado correlación entre los niveles de carnitina y la alteración de enzimas hepáticas y, además, su suplementación no mejora las alteraciones analíticas ni disminuye el grado de esteatosis.

El déficit de ácidos grasos esenciales (AGE), especialmente en pacientes con esteatorrea o en pacientes que no incluyen emulsiones lipídicas en su NP, puede ser causa de esteatosis. Un mínimo de 4-6% del total de calorías debe ser administrado en forma de lípidos para prevenir el déficit de AGE. Actualmente esta causa es infrecuente pues de forma habitual la NP contiene lípidos con cantidades suficientes de AGE.

3. *El modo de infusión* de la NPD también puede influir en el desarrollo de enfermedad hepática. El aporte continuo de la NP puede predisponer a un estado de hiperinsulinismo que favorece el acúmulo de grasa en el hígado. La perfusión cíclica comparada con la infusión continua durante las 24 horas ha demostrado que contribuye a disminuir las concentraciones séricas de las enzimas hepáticas y de bilirrubina conjugada tanto en pacientes adultos como pediátricos<sup>24-25</sup>.

#### *Factores relacionados con el paciente*

1. *Patología de base.* La gravedad del fallo intestinal determinará el grado de dependencia de NPD. En el caso del síndrome de intestino corto, la longitud del intestino residual es un factor relacionado con la aparición de enfermedad hepática asociada a NPD. Luman y Shaffer<sup>26</sup>, mediante un análisis multivariante, estudiaron los factores de riesgo para desarrollar enfermedad hepática asociada a NPD y observaron que una longitud del intestino remanente < 100 cm se asocia significativamente al riesgo de presentar colestasis. También Cavicchi y cols.<sup>4</sup> en su estudio observaron que los pacientes con una longitud intestinal < 50 cm tenían mayor probabilidad de desarrollar colestasis crónica.

La edad del paciente es otro factor a considerar pues estos hallazgos son más acusados en población infantil, donde se ha llegado a describir hasta un 70% de pacientes con colestasis. Este hecho puede estar relacionado con alteraciones en la circulación enterohepática de las sales biliares, con afectación del metabolismo y la excreción hepática de los ácidos biliares.

2. *Reposo digestivo.* Al disminuir el aporte por vía enteral se produce un menor estímulo para la secreción de hormonas intestinales (gastrina, motilina, secretina, polipéptido pancreático, glucagón, colecistocinina (CCK), péptido intestinal vasoactivo) que condiciona una disminución de la motilidad intestinal y de la contracción de la vesícula biliar. Las asas intestinales, muchas veces dilatadas y atónicas, son más susceptibles de ser colonizadas por bacterias y producirse el fenómeno del sobrecrecimiento bacteriano con liberación de endotoxinas a la circulación portal, las cuales pueden afectar a los hepatocitos<sup>27</sup>. Por otra parte, ese sobrecrecimiento bacteriano puede contribuir a la aparición de colestasis favoreciendo la desconjugación de los ácidos biliares e impidiendo su posterior reabsorción. Por último, el descenso de los niveles de CCK induce una disminución en la motilidad biliar, lo que condiciona una situación de estasis biliar que predispone a la formación de barro y/o cálculos e incluso a la aparición de colecistitis.

#### *Otros factores*

La probabilidad de presentar colestasis está aumentada en los lactantes prematuros o con bajo peso, lo que sugiere una relación entre la afectación hepática y la inmadurez del hígado en estos pacientes<sup>28</sup>. Comparado con el niño nacido a término la circulación enterohepática de los niños prematuros está disminuida debido tanto a un descenso en la síntesis de ácidos biliares como a una reducción en su captación.

La coexistencia de procesos infecciosos de repetición (fundamentalmente sepsis por catéter o de origen abdominal) es un factor de riesgo independiente para la aparición de enfermedad hepática, sobretodo si se trata de recién nacidos prematuros de bajo peso, en relación con la inmadurez del hígado del niño<sup>29</sup>. La sepsis puede causar un daño inflamatorio hepático debido a la liberación sistémica de citoquinas proinflamatorias que son activadas por endotoxinas<sup>30</sup>. Estas citoquinas pueden alterar el funcionamiento de la membrana de los canalículos biliares con la consiguiente reducción del flujo biliar.

A todos los factores anteriores pueden añadirse otras causas reconocidas de afectación hepática como el consumo de ciertos fármacos o tóxicos como el etanol, infecciones por virus entre otros, que pueden favorecer la aparición o agravar el curso de la hepatopatía.

#### **Alteraciones clínico-patológicas**

Se pueden diferenciar cuatro patrones principales de afectación hepática: colestasis, esteatosis, esteatohepatitis y litiasis biliar. Estas alteraciones se pueden observar en un mismo sujeto y los hallazgos histológicos no siempre se correlacionan bien con las alteraciones analíticas.

**Tabla II**  
*Pruebas de función hepática en enfermedad hepatobiliar asociada a NPD*

| <i>Parámetro</i> | <i>Alteración</i>  | <i>Comentario</i>                                                                |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AST              | Daño hepatocelular | Poco sensible y específico                                                       |
| ALT              | Daño hepatocelular | Poco sensible y específico                                                       |
| FA               | Colestasis         | Sensible, no específico                                                          |
| GGT              | Colestasis         | Sensible, no específico                                                          |
| BRC              | Colestasis         | Principal indicador de colestasis (> 2 mg/dl)                                    |
| BRNC             | Hemólisis          | Raramente se eleva en patología hepática de forma aislada                        |
| BRT              | Colestasis         | Incluye BRC y BRNC, ambas fracciones se pueden elevar en la enfermedad hepática. |

AST: Aspartato aminotransferasa; ALT: Alanino aminotransferasa; FA: Fosfatasa alcalina; GGT:  $\gamma$  Glutamil Transferasa; BRC: Bilirrubina Conjugada; BRNC: Bilirrubina No Conjugada; BRT: Bilirrubina Total.

En niños la lesión predominante es la colestasis cuyo signo más precoz es la elevación de la bilirrubina junto con la alteración de la fosfatasa alcalina, transaminasas y gammaglutamiltransferasa. Aparece hasta en el 60% de los niños que precisan NPD y se relaciona fundamentalmente con la prematuridad, el bajo peso, la duración de la NPD y los episodios recurrentes de sepsis. En el estudio histológico se suelen observar tapones de bilis en los canalículos con pericolangitis y, en las fases más avanzadas, fibrosis portal progresiva<sup>31</sup>.

En adultos el patrón más habitual es la esteatosis con infiltración grasa de los hepatocitos la cual aparece con frecuencia (40-50% de NPD prolongada) y tiende a ser reversible. Los hallazgos anatomopatológicos pueden mostrar una infiltración grasa de los hepatocitos con o sin inflamación asociada.

En ambos grupos de edad la enfermedad puede evolucionar hacia esteatohepatitis, fibrosis y/o cirrosis hepática, con hipertensión portal, esplenomegalia, coagulopatía, ascitis,... El factor pronóstico más reconocido es la cifra de bilirrubina conjugada (BRC). Diversos estudios parecen demostrar que un valor mantenido por encima de 3,5 mg/dl durante más de un mes supone una expectativa de supervivencia inferior a los 10 meses. Si la NP puede suspenderse antes que el daño hepático sea irreversible, puede esperarse una recuperación de las alteraciones hepáticas.

La litiasis biliar no es una alteración específicamente asociada a la NP a largo plazo, pues puede presentarse como complicación del síndrome de intestino corto sin NP. Puede ocurrir en los dos grupos de edad aunque en los niños es una entidad rara (2%). La falta de la estimulación enteral reduce la producción de bilis, la contractilidad de la vesícula biliar y del flujo biliar lo que favorece la formación de barro biliar y cálculos. Los pacientes adultos que reciben NPD desarrollan casi sistemáticamente barro biliar al cabo de 6-8 semanas de recibir NPD y en el transcurso del tiempo un 42% llega a formar cálculos biliares. Los cálculos se componen predominantemente de bilirrubinato cálcico. Asociada a estas afectaciones biliares se ha descrito una incidencia de colecistitis del 19% en pacientes con cálculos y del 4% en pacientes sin ellos<sup>32</sup>.

## Diagnóstico

Todos los pacientes que reciben NP deben seguir controles periódicos de función hepática. En los pacientes hospitalizados éstos serán con una frecuencia al menos semanal mientras que los pacientes en programa de NPD inicialmente deberían tener controles de función hepática mensuales<sup>12</sup> y posteriormente, según la evolución clínica, se podrá individualizar la frecuencia de las determinaciones analíticas<sup>33</sup>. Los parámetros bioquímicos recomendados se detallan en la tabla II.

Al inicio de la NPD es frecuente observar pequeñas elevaciones de las aminotransferasas sin aumento de la bilirrubina que no suelen tener transcendencia y tienden a revertir en las siguientes semanas.

Cuando la bilirrubina está elevada o se produce un aumento progresivo de las cifras de las aminotransferasas, fosfatasa alcalina o  $\gamma$ -Glutamilttransferasa es necesario realizar otra serie de estudios para excluir otro tipo de procesos que puedan cursar con afectación hepática reversible (serología viral, Ecografía abdominal para descartar obstrucción biliar). No existe un único dato analítico o histológico que identifique selectivamente a los pacientes con enfermedad hepatobiliar asociada a la NPD, por tanto el diagnóstico clínico debe acompañarse de la exclusión de otras posibles causas. Para completar el estudio suele ser necesario la realización de una biopsia hepática para tipificar los cambios histológicos y valorar el grado de fibrosis. Recientemente una nueva técnica diagnóstica, la elastometría (fibroscan®) nos permite determinar el grado de fibrosis hepática evaluando, por medio de ultrasonografía, la elasticidad del tejido hepático evitando en algunas ocasiones la realización de técnicas invasivas<sup>34</sup>.

La elevación sostenida de las enzimas hepáticas en pacientes que reciben NPD, suele ser indicativa de colestasis crónica. Ésta se define como la elevación 1,5 veces el límite superior de la normalidad de los niveles séricos de dos de los siguientes parámetros: gamma glutamil transferasa, fosfatasa alcalina y bilirrubina conjugada de forma persistente durante al menos 6 meses<sup>4,22</sup>. El principal marcador de colestasis es el va-

| <b>Tabla III</b><br><i>Clasificación evolutiva de la hepatopatía asociada a NPD</i> |                                                                                                 |                                                                   |                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                     | <i>Fase precoz</i>                                                                              | <i>Fase establecida</i>                                           | <i>Fase terminal</i>                                                                    |
| <i>FA/γGT</i>                                                                       | > 1,5 veces por encima del límite superior<br>Mantenida 6 semanas en niños o 6 meses en adultos | > 1,5 veces por encima del límite superior                        | > 3 veces por encima del límite superior                                                |
| <i>BRC</i>                                                                          | < 1,5 g/l                                                                                       | 1,5-3 g/l                                                         | > 3 g/l                                                                                 |
| <i>Ecografía</i>                                                                    | Aspecto ecogénico                                                                               | Groseramente ecogénico<br>Bazo aumentado<br>Barro/litiasis biliar |                                                                                         |
| <i>Biopsia</i>                                                                      | 25% esteatosis<br><br>50% cambios fibróticos                                                    | > 25% esteatosis<br><br>> 50% fibrosis                            | Hígado graso con áreas de fibrosis intensa<br>No se suele asociar cirrosis generalizada |
| <i>Otros</i>                                                                        |                                                                                                 |                                                                   | INR > 1,5<br>Ascitis<br>Varices esofágicas<br>Hiperesplenismo                           |

FA: Fosfatasa Alcalina; γGT: gammaglutamiltransferasa; BRC: Bilirrubina Conjugada; INR: International Normalized Ratio.

lor de BRC ya que sus niveles elevados reflejan una reducción del flujo biliar y si está por encima de 2 mg/dL se considera como un dato significativo de colestasis. Además, la elevación progresiva y mantenida se ha confirmado como un indicador pronóstico prediciendo la severidad de la afectación hepática y la mortalidad. También es el parámetro más útil para valorar el momento de remitir al paciente a un centro de referencia para valorar realizar trasplante intestinal y se ha sugerido que un valor de bilirrubina conjugada > 3 mg/dL mantenido durante más de tres meses (después de haber ajustado la composición de la NP e implementado el aporte enteral) es el criterio fundamental de derivación.

Los niveles de enzimas hepáticas son de poco valor pronóstico ya que en estadios avanzados el parénquima hepático está disminuido, condicionando una menor liberación de estas moléculas.

En el X Simposio Internacional de Trasplante de Intestino Delgado celebrado en 2007 en Los Ángeles y publicado al año siguiente en *Transplantation*<sup>35</sup> se definen 3 fases evolutivas de la hepatopatía asociada a NP prolongada, en la que incluyen no solo criterios analíticos, sino también de exploraciones complementarias (ecografía, biopsia hepática) y que quedan reflejados en la tabla III.

### Prevención y tratamiento

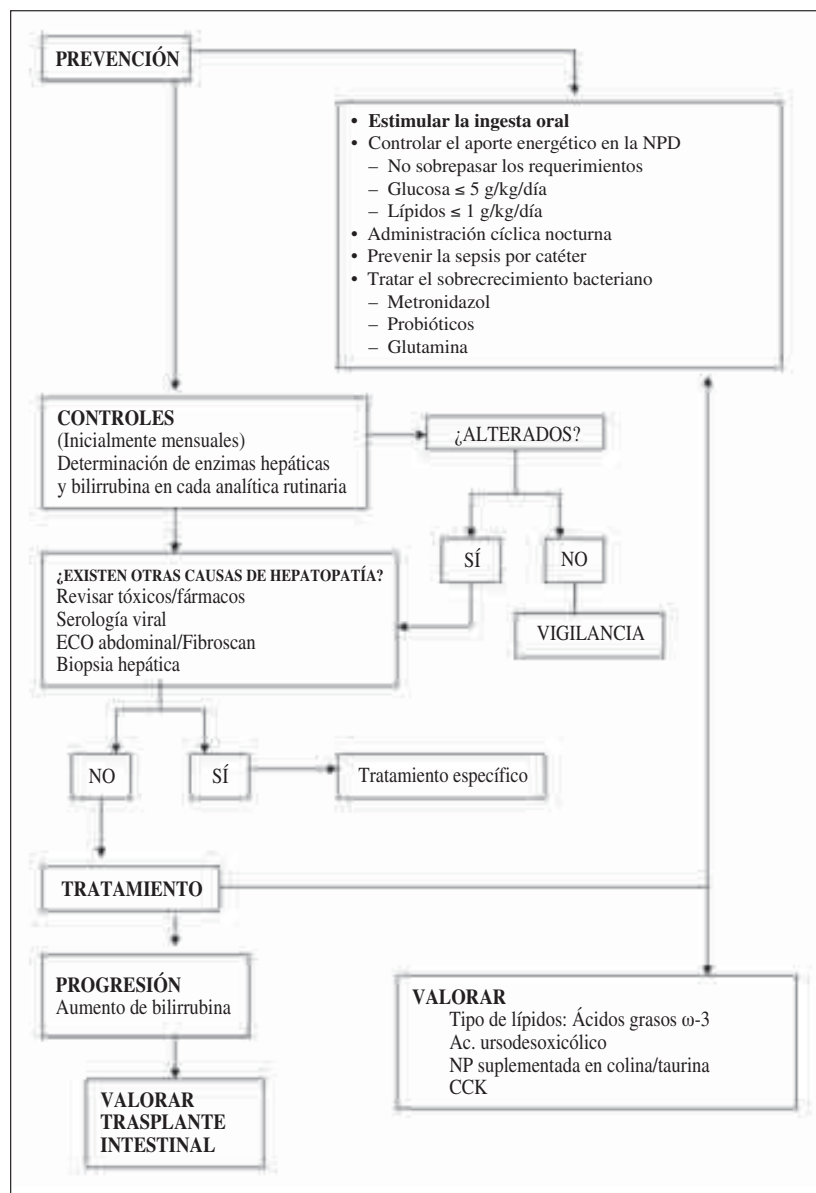
Cuando la enfermedad hepática alcanza una fase avanzada hay pocas posibilidades terapéuticas y el trasplante combinado de hígado e intestino puede ser la única opción. Esto hace necesario disponer de pro-

tolos de actuación que permitan extremar los cuidados para prevenir o retrasar la aparición de alteraciones hepáticas y, por otro lado, que ayuden a detectar precozmente estas alteraciones iniciales para poder implementar todas las medidas terapéuticas en las fases precoces cuando aún se pueda revertir el daño tisular (tabla IV).

La administración de pequeñas cantidades de alimentos o de fórmulas enterales pueden ser de gran utilidad

**Tabla IV**  
*Tratamiento de la hepatopatía asociada a la nutrición parenteral domiciliaria*

- Estimular la ingesta oral*
  - Considerar el uso de Nutrición Enteral
  - Valorar cirugía de alargamiento intestinal
  - Fármacos en experimentación (teduglutide)
- Ajustar el aporte energético por vía parenteral*
  - Glucosa < 5 g/kg/día
  - Lípidos < 1 g/kg/día
- Valorar tipo de emulsión lipídica*
  - Evitar emulsiones basadas únicamente en aceite de soja.
  - Considerar el uso de preparados enriquecidos en ácidos grasos ω3.
- Tratamiento del sobrecrecimiento bacteriano*
- Prevención y tratamiento precoz de los procesos infecciosos*
- Fármacos*
  - Ácido ursodesoxicólico
  - CCK
- Trasplante intestinal*



para promover la circulación enterohepática de los ácidos biliares, por lo que se debe forzar la utilización del tubo digestivo, bien sea por vía oral o enteral. Con todo ello se estimula la secreción enzimática y hormonal del tubo digestivo y se conserva, al menos parcialmente, el metabolismo fisiológico de los nutrientes.

Se han utilizado determinados fármacos, como la hormona de crecimiento o el glucagón, para favorecer la rehabilitación intestinal, con resultados controvertidos. Actualmente se están realizando estudios con Teduglutide, un análogo del GLP-2 (*glucagon-like peptide-2*) con resultados prometedores ya que se consigue

un aumento en la absorción de grasa e hidratos de carbono y disminución de las pérdidas fecales<sup>36</sup>.

La cirugía de alargamiento intestinal se puede plantear en pacientes con intestino residual muy escaso o cuando existen complicaciones asociadas al uso de la NPD, con el fin de evitar o retrasar la necesidad del trasplante intestinal. Las técnicas más habituales son el alargamiento intestinal longitudinal de Bianchi y más recientemente se ha introducido la enteroplastia transversa seriada; ambas muestran resultados similares en cuanto al porcentaje de pacientes que pueden prescindir de NPD (39-57%) y en cuanto a morbilidad<sup>37</sup>.

Es importante ajustar el aporte de nutrientes por vía venosa para evitar la sobrealimentación reduciendo si es preciso la cantidad de glucosa ( $< 5\text{g/kg/día}$ ) y de lípidos ( $< 1\text{g/kg/día}$ ) a la par que, si es posible, se aumenta el aporte por vía digestiva<sup>38</sup>.

La administración de suplementos de taurina o de colina está todavía en fase experimental, con datos contradictorios respecto a su efecto beneficioso.

Las emulsiones lipídicas basadas en aceite de pescado (Omegaven®) utilizadas en sustitución de las habituales basadas en aceite de soja se están comenzando a emplear con éxito en población infantil con enfermedad hepática asociada al uso de NP, consiguiendo la reversión de la colestasis en un porcentaje importante de los casos sin objetivar efectos secundarios destacables. Aunque existen aún pocos estudios, los resultados tan prometedores observados hacen que se considere esta medida en primera línea de tratamiento en el niño con hepatopatía establecida<sup>19,39</sup>. Dado que contienen un 0,7-1,7% de ácido linoleico algunos autores consideran que podrían ser la fuente exclusiva de aporte lipídico sin producir deficiencia de ácidos grasos esenciales<sup>40-43</sup>. De hecho, el primer uso clínico reflejado en la literatura médica de este preparado fue en un niño con alergia a los productos derivados de la soja consiguiendo revertir el estado de deficiencia de dichos ácidos grasos<sup>20</sup>. Otros autores optan por combinar el uso de emulsiones lipídicas basadas en aceite de soja y de pescado al 50% argumentando que así se previene el déficit de ácidos grasos esenciales y además permite aumentar el aporte calórico global<sup>44</sup>. En esta revisión no hemos encontrado ninguna publicación en la que se utilizaran las nuevas emulsiones lipídicas que combinan aceite de pescado con otro tipo de grasas como SMOFlipid® o Lipoplus® y que por su composición podrían resultar atractivas para el tratamiento de la hepatopatía asociada a la NPD. Tampoco disponemos de información sobre el uso de preparados con mezclas de ácidos grasos de cadena larga (LCT) y media (MCT). Las emulsiones lipídicas basadas en aceite de oliva (Clinoleic®) se están comenzando a utilizar en pacientes con NPD con buenos resultados<sup>45-47</sup>, incluso se ha publicado el caso de un paciente adulto que ha experimentado regresión de una hepatopatía severa con el uso de esta emulsión<sup>48</sup>.

A la vista de todo lo anterior, queda, por tanto, pendiente de definir la relación óptima  $\omega$ -6/ $\omega$ -3 que se debe aportar y tampoco está claro el papel que puede jugar el uso de estos preparados en la población adulta, pero, por los conocimientos actuales lo que sí parece recomendable es no utilizar emulsiones lipídicas a base de aceite de soja exclusivamente<sup>49</sup>.

En fechas recientes se acaban de publicar los resultados de un estudio prospectivo aleatorizado llevado a cabo en Boston<sup>50</sup> para determinar el posible beneficio del uso en monoterapia de las emulsiones lipídicas basadas en aceite de pescado en la prevención de la hepatopatía asociada a NP en niños. Los resultados muestran una reducción de la mortalidad y la rever-

sión de la colestasis en el 50% de los niños tratados con emulsiones lipídicas de estas características respecto a un 5% de los controles que recibieron emulsiones con aceite de soja.

Los protocolos de manejo de la vía central deben ser seguidos estrictamente tanto en el medio hospitalario como en el domicilio, extremando las medidas de asepsia para prevenir los episodios de sepsis relacionados con el catéter<sup>51</sup>. Los procesos infecciosos que ocurren deben ser tratados precoz y agresivamente tomando posteriormente las medidas adecuadas para prevenir recurrencias. En pacientes con episodios repetidos de sepsis por catéter puede ser de utilidad la técnica del sellado diario del catéter con taurolidina, una nueva solución antiséptica que en una serie publicada ha contribuido a disminuir drásticamente el número de infecciones por catéter en esta población<sup>52</sup>.

Cuando existe la sospecha de un posible sobrecrecimiento bacteriano la administración oral de antibióticos es más eficaz que la terapia endovenosa ya que el objetivo del tratamiento está en la luz intestinal. La pauta antibiótica en principio estará dirigida hacia las bacterias anaerobias que componen la flora colónica normal (metronidazol, gentamicina o neomicina, ciprofloxacino, doxiciclina). El tratamiento es empírico y el metronidazol suele ser la primera elección por su cobertura sobre anaerobios (250 mg/8 h durante 10-14 días). Si no fuera eficaz se podría ensayar con otro antibiótico. Si el paciente responde al tratamiento, además de la mejoría directa sobre la funcionalidad hepática y la desaparición de la clínica digestiva (meteorismo, dolor abdominal, diarrea) puede mejorar la ingesta oral lo que revierte también en una mayor protección hepática.

Para prevenir la reaparición del sobrecrecimiento bacteriano es aconsejable evitar el uso de inhibidores de la secreción gástrica, disminuir el consumo de alimentos que contengan azúcares simples y se puede valorar asociar probióticos (*Saccharomyces Boulardii*) o suplementos de glutamina que pueden contribuir a aumentar la producción de IgA por parte de las células de la lámina propia.

Son pocos los estudios realizados en humanos que utilicen el ácido ursodesoxicólico en el tratamiento de la hepatopatía asociada a la NPD. En dosis de 15-30 mg/kg/día puede producir una disminución de la ictericia y la hepatoesplenomegalia a partir del aumento del pool de ácidos biliares hidrofílicos no hepatotóxicos.

La administración de CCK, en dosis de 50 ng/kg/día por vía intravenosa consigue una disminución significativa del barro biliar y un mejor vaciamiento de la vesícula biliar. Sin embargo, su uso no debe ser indiscriminado, ya que se ha descrito la presencia de leucopenia, náuseas y colecistitis como efectos secundarios.

Cuando la hepatopatía se encuentra en fase avanzada se debe considerar la opción del trasplante intestinal<sup>53-54</sup>. El uso exclusivo de las cifras de bilirrubina conjugada para predecir el fallo hepático irreversible,

a pesar de su alta sensibilidad y especificidad, se correlaciona con un estadio avanzado de la enfermedad y el futuro trasplante puede verse comprometido. Putchakayala et al.<sup>55</sup> proponen el uso en adultos de la puntuación MELD (*Model of End-Stage Liver Disease*) asociado a la medición de la proteína C reactiva para definir el momento de referir a un centro especializado en trasplante.

Teniendo en cuenta que el trasplante intestinal aislado, cuando la hepatopatía no está todavía muy evolucionada, puede favorecer la regresión del fallo hepático<sup>56</sup> y que el trasplante combinado hepático-intestinal condiciona una mortalidad muy superior al trasplante aislado tanto en lista de espera (90% vs 6%) como tras la intervención (40% vs 19% al año)<sup>57</sup> es fundamental no diferir la derivación del paciente a un centro especializado en trasplante intestinal<sup>58-59</sup> cuando se objetiva la progresión de la afectación hepática.

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Original

# Increased resting energy expenditure by fat-free mass in children and teenagers with constitutional leanness

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Abstract

**Background/objectives:** To compare the resting energy expenditure (REE) and the REE/Fat-free-mass (FFM) quotient in children with constitutional leanness (CL) and children with normal body weight, and to describe the within-family clustering of CL.

**Subjects/methods:** We have studied 18 children and teenagers with CL, 10 girls and 8 boys, and 18 gender and age matched normal controls, with the same pubertal stage. All were recruited from the outpatient pediatric clinic nutrition unit. None of the children with CL showed symptoms of chronic illness, they had normal laboratory results, they had a normal caloric food intake, and they did not agree with the DSM-IV-TR criteria for anorexia nervosa. We describe the body mass index (BMI) of children and their parents. The children were classified according to Cole's recently published BMI cut-offs for thinness: under 18.5 points in CL group, stable at least in the last year, and between 18.5 and 25 cut-offs in the control group. The body composition was calculated by anthropometric methods (skinfold thickness measurements). In addition REE was measured using fasting indirect calorimetry.

**Results:** The CL group had a higher mean percentage of FFM, and a mean FM significantly less, relative to controls ( $p < 0.001$ ). The average absolute REE was significantly lower in the CL group ( $1,106.55 \pm 240.72$  kcal) than the control group ( $1,353.33 \pm 270.01$  kcal/día) ( $p < 0.01$ ). However, the REE adjusted for FFM showed a mean significantly greater in the CL group ( $41.39 \pm 2.26$  kcal/kg FFM) (Mean confidence interval (CI) 95 %: 40.33-42.45) than the controls ( $37.37 \pm 3.06$  kcal/kg FFM) (Mean CI 95 %: 35.93-38.81) ( $p < 0.001$ ). Finally, in the family study, the mean BMI of fathers of CL group was significantly lower ( $p < 0.01$ ), but there were not any differences in the mean BMI of mothers. Among parents with BMI known, 8 of 35 parents of CL group

## INCREMENTO DEL GASTO ENERGÉTICO EN REPOSO POR MASA LIBRE DE GRASA EN NIÑOS Y ADOLESCENTES CON DELGADEZ CONSTITUCIONAL

Resumen

**Objetivos:** Comparar el gasto energético en reposo (GER) y el cociente GER/masa libre de grasa (MLG) entre niños con delgadez constitucional (CL) y niños con peso normal, y describir la agregación familiar de la DC.

**Material y métodos:** Hemos estudiados 18 niños y adolescentes con DC, 10 niñas y 8 niños, y 18 controles pareados con aquellos por edad, sexo y mismo estadio puberal. Todos fueron captados en la consulta externa de la Unidad de Nutrición clínica infantil. Ninguno de los niños con DC mostraba síntomas de enfermedad crónica, todos presentaban hallazgos de laboratorio normales, tuvieron una ingesta calórica normal, y no cumplieron en ningún caso criterios de anorexia nerviosa según la DSM-IV-TR. Se describe el índice de masa corporal (IMC) de los niños y de sus padres. Los niños fueron clasificados según los puntos de corte de IMC para definición de delgadez recientemente publicados por Cole: inferior al punto 18.5 en el grupo de DC, estable durante al menos un año, y entre los puntos de corte 18.5 y 25 en el grupo control. La composición corporal fue calculada por métodos antropométricos (medida de pliegues cutáneos). Además, el GER fue determinado mediante calorimetría indirecta en ayunas.

**Resultados:** El grupo de DC tuvo un porcentaje de MLG medio mayor, y una masa grasa (MG) media significativamente menor, en relación con los controles ( $p < 0.001$ ). El GER absoluto medio fue significativamente más bajo en el grupo con DC ( $1,106.5 \pm 240.72$  kcal) que en el grupo control ( $1,353.3 \pm 270.01$  kcal/día) ( $p < 0.01$ ). Sin embargo, el GER ajustado por MLG mostró una media significativamente mayor en el grupo de DC ( $41.39 \pm 2.26$  kcal/kg MLG) (Intervalo de confianza (IC) de la media al 95 %: 40.33-42.45) que en los controles ( $37.37 \pm 3.06$  kcal/kg MLG) (CI 95 %: 35.93-38.81) ( $p < 0.001$ ). Finalmente, en el estudio familiar, el IMC medio de los padres del grupo con DC fue significativamente más bajo ( $p < 0.01$ ), pero no hubo ninguna diferencia entre el IMC de las madres. Entre los padres con IMC conocido, 8/35 padres del grupo con DC presentaron un IMC menor de 18.5, por sólo 2/36 padres del grupo control ( $p < 0.05$ ).

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had an BMI lower 18.5, and only 2 of 36 parents in the control group ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Conclusions:** This increased energy expenditure-to-FFM ratio differentiates between CL and controls. These metabolic differences are probably genetically determined.

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Key words: *Resting energy expenditure. Fat-free mass. Constitutional leanness. Children. Teenagers.*

**Conclusiones:** El incremento en el GER por MLG diferencia niños con DC de controles. Estas diferencias metabólicas podrían estar determinadas genéticamente.

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Palabras clave: *Gasto energético en reposo. Masa libre de grasa. Delgadez constitucional. Niños. Adolescentes.*

## Introduction

Despite the obesity trend in developed countries, some individuals usually maintain low weight for many years.<sup>1</sup> Constitutional leanness (CL) is generally defined as a thinness not secondary to organic disease or anorexia nervosa. Body weight and body mass index (BMI) have always been in the lower percentiles for age and gender, without any hormonal abnormality.<sup>2</sup> The mechanisms underlying the development and maintenance of this condition remain unknown,<sup>3</sup> but seem to have a common familial aggregation.<sup>4</sup>

Little is known nor has been written about the characteristics of persistently thin individuals, despite the frequency of this condition.<sup>1</sup> The recent development of new growth charts in different countries, using the pattern of children of today, shows overweight and obesity prevalence has decreased and that thinness has increased, although this prevalence depends on the references used.<sup>5,6</sup>

The BMI is the most widely used weight/height index since the 60's. International BMI cut-offs to assess overweight and obesity in adults and more recently in children, were developed previously, but the concept of thinness in children was not clearly established. However, the published references of Cole et al. for this condition, available since 2007,<sup>7</sup> based on data from six countries, are useful for comparative studies, and they also establish three degrees of thinness below the cut-off 18.5.<sup>5</sup>

The body weight regulation is carried out by different factors, but a negative energy balance may lead to weight loss and growth delay. In this sense, several hypotheses have been established to try to explain the CL. An abnormality in food intake control, a high level of physical activity, or a constitutional increase in resting energy expenditure (REE) may be involved.<sup>3,8</sup>

Regarding this matter, REE is the largest component of metabolic rate in children, and contributes to about two-thirds (60-70%) of the total daily energy expenditure;<sup>9</sup> the remaining third is the sum of that related to physical activity, thermogenesis, and growth.<sup>10</sup> Up to 80% of the variance in energy intake and energy expenditure is explained by body composition.<sup>11</sup> Fat-free mass (FFM) and fat mass (FM) are both determinants

of REE, but the contribution of lean mass to REE is three to five times greater per kg than fat mass, and there is a good correlation between REE and lean mass.<sup>8,12</sup> However, there may be differences in the REE of individuals with similar characteristics of age, gender and lean body mass, which can reach up to 30%.<sup>13</sup> Therefore, similar people require different energy intake to maintain body weight.

In the obese, a lower resting metabolic rate adjusted for fat-free mass with respect to the control group has been observed,<sup>14</sup> which is considered a risk factor for weight gain and obesity.<sup>15</sup> However, in other cases no differences were found either in children<sup>9</sup> or young women,<sup>15</sup> among the obese and the non-obese also adjusting REE for FFM.

Several studies, all performed on young adult women with CL, show a higher REE, when corrected for FFM, than in control subjects.<sup>2,3,16</sup> The only study conducted on children does not confirm these findings, and found a decrease in REE adjusted for FFM. The authors conclude that children with CL have a low resting metabolic rate, probably adaptive.<sup>8</sup>

The objective of our study was to compare the resting energy expenditure (REE) and the REE/FFM quotient in children and teenagers with CL and children with normal body weight, taking advantage of recent international references for thinness, and to describe the within-family clustering of constitutional leanness.

## Material and methods

In this observational cross-sectional study, we have studied 18 children with CL, 10 girls and 8 boys, and 18 gender and age matched normal controls, with the same pubertal stage (Tanner).<sup>17</sup> All patients and controls were caucasian subjects, and they were recruited from the outpatient pediatric clinic nutrition unit.

The children with CL, all of whom wished to gain weight, were selected from patients evaluated for thinness. The evaluation included a detailed medical history and physical examination and the following additional tests: basic laboratory tests (erythrocyte, leukocyte and platelet counts; plasma hemoglobin, erythrocyte sedimentation rate, and routine biochemical studies), always

including thyroid hormones and IgG/IgA anti gliadin and IgA tissue transglutaminase antibodies determination. None of the children with CL showed symptoms of chronic illness, they had normal laboratory results, they had a normal caloric food intake (above the 80% of RDA for their age, in a three day prospective survey, including one at the weekend), and they did not agree with the DSM-IV-TR criteria for anorexia nervosa (refusal to maintain body weight at or above a minimally normal weight for age and height; intense fear of gaining weight or becoming fat, even though underweight; disturbance in the way in which one's body weight or shape is experienced, and finally, in postmenarcheal females, amenorrhea, with the absence of at least three consecutive menstrual cycles).<sup>18</sup>

Anthropometric measurements of both children and their parents, were always carried out in the same clinic office, using standard techniques. We describe the weight, height and body mass index (BMI) of children and their parents. BMI was defined as the ratio weight/height<sup>2</sup> (in kg/m<sup>2</sup>). The children were classified according to Cole's recently published BMI cut-offs for thinness: under 18.5 points in CL group, stable at least in the last year, and between 18.5 and 25 cut-offs in the control group.<sup>7</sup>

The body composition was calculated by anthropometric methods (skinfold thickness measurements to determine the subcutaneous fat layer, using a Holtain Skinfold Caliper), at the biceps, triceps, subscapular and suprailiac sites. All skinfold thickness measurements were done in triplicate by the same person. Fat-free mass and fat mass were first calculated using the Brook formula up to the age of 11, and Durnin and Womersley formula for those over 12 years.<sup>19,20</sup> Once body density is obtained, the body fat percentage is determined by applying the Siri equation, based on the two compartment model.<sup>21</sup>

In addition REE was measured using fasting indirect calorimetry with a canopy system (Deltatrac calorimeter), in standardized conditions, lying down on a bed, in a quiet environment. Oxygen consumption (VO<sub>2</sub>) and carbon dioxide production (VCO<sub>2</sub>) were continuously recorded for at least 30 minutes, using an open-circuit indirect calorimeter.

Statistical analyses. All results are expressed as mean and standard deviation (SD). The Student t test was carried out for between-groups comparison of means, after checking normal distribution of variables (Kolmogorov-Smirnov test), and for qualitative variables we used the Chi-square test, by SPSS software (v. 15). Informed consent was obtained from parents of all patients and controls before their participation.

## Results

We have studied 18 children, 10 girls and 8 boys, with CL (6.8-19 years), with an average age of 12.29 ± 2.63 years (6.8-19 y), and 18 gender, age and pubertal stage matched normal controls, with an average age of 12.54 ± 2.24 years (8-17 y). Their characteristics are summarized in table I.

Obviously, there was no difference between groups in mean age (about 12 years-old), sex or mean height, among children with CL and the control group chosen matched with that.

However, there was a significant difference in weight and BMI, which were obviously lower in the group with CL. The children with CL had a BMI cut-off between 17-18.5 in 6 cases, 16-17 in 9 cases, and lower than 16 in 3 cases. All control children were among those cut-offs 18.5 and 25 for their age and sex.

The CL group had a higher mean percentage of FFM, and a mean FM significantly less, relative to controls (p < 0.001).

With regard to the study of the basal metabolic rate by indirect calorimetry, the average absolute REE was significantly lower in the CL group (1,106.5 ± 240.72 kcal) than the control group (1,353.3 ± 270.0 kcal/día) (p < 0.01). However, the REE adjusted for FFM showed a mean significantly greater in the CL group (41.39 ± 2.26 kcal/kg FFM) (Mean confidence interval (CI) 95%: 40.33-42.45) than the controls (37.37 ± 3.08 kcal/kg FFM) (Mean CI 95%: 35.93-38.81) (p < 0.001).

Finally, in the family study, the mean BMI of fathers of CL group was significantly lower (p < 0.01), but there were not any differences in the mean BMI of mothers. Among parents with BMI known, 8 of 35 par-

**Table I**  
*Physical characteristics of patients with CL and controls*

|          | Total | Age<br>(y)  | Height<br>(cm) | Weight<br>(kg)   | BMI<br>kg/m <sup>2</sup> | FFM<br>kg        | FFM<br>%         | FM<br>kg         | REE<br>kcal  | REE/<br>kg FFM   |
|----------|-------|-------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| CL       | x     | 12.29       | 146.65         | 31.28            | 14.23                    | 26.93            | 86.48            | 4.35             | 1,106.5      | 41.39            |
|          | SD    | 2.63        | 15.41          | 8.09             | 1.02                     | 6.57             | 3.31             | 1.84             | 240.72       | 2.26             |
| Controls | x     | 12.54       | 155.62         | 47.36            | 19.16                    | 36.54            | 77.79            | 10.93            | 1,353.3      | 37.37            |
|          | SD    | 2.24        | 13.15          | 11.73            | 2.32                     | 7.92             | 6.05             | 4.56             | 270.0        | 3.06             |
| P        |       | <b>0.76</b> | <b>0.069</b>   | <b>&lt;0.001</b> | <b>&lt;0.001</b>         | <b>&lt;0.001</b> | <b>&lt;0.001</b> | <b>&lt;0.001</b> | <b>0.007</b> | <b>&lt;0.001</b> |

Abbreviations: CL: Constitutional Leanness; BMI: Body Mass Index; FFM: Fat-Free-Mass; FM: Fat Mass; REE: Resting Energy Expenditure; X: Mean; SD: Standard Deviation.

| <b>Table II</b><br><i>Within-family clustering of constitutional leanness</i> |         |                        |                        |                                       |                                       |                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
|                                                                               |         | <i>BMI<br/>fathers</i> | <i>BMI<br/>mothers</i> | <i>Fathers with<br/>BMI &lt; 18.5</i> | <i>Mothers with<br/>BMI &lt; 18.5</i> | <i>Total parents<br/>BMI &lt; 18.5</i> |
| <i>CL</i>                                                                     | X<br>SD | 21.26<br>2.13          | 20.92<br>2.19          | 3/17                                  | 5/18                                  | 8/35                                   |
| <i>Controls</i>                                                               | X<br>SD | 25.36<br>3.85          | 22.16<br>2.79          | 1/18                                  | 1/18                                  | 2/36                                   |
| <i>P</i>                                                                      |         | <b>0.001</b>           | 0.232                  |                                       |                                       | <b>0.046</b>                           |

Abbreviations: CL: Constitutional Leanness; BMI: Body Mass Index; X: mean; SD: Standard Deviation.

ents of CL group had an BMI lower 18.5 (3 fathers and 5 mothers), and only 2 of 36 parents in the control group (1 father, 1 mother) ( $p = 0.046$ ) (table II).

## Discussion

The recently published references on thinness, based on a large historical sample of nationally representative surveys of six countries (Brazil, United Kingdom, Hong Kong, The Netherlands, Singapore and the United States), have allowed us to gain some universal criteria for the same.<sup>7</sup> Curves were defined based on BMI < 18.5, 17 and 16 at the age of 18 y, providing definitions of thinness grades 1, 2, and 3 in children and adolescents consistent with the World Health Organization adult definitions. The cut-off 17 gave mean BMI close to a z score of -2.

The proposed cut-off points may help to provide a better distinction between different grades of undernutrition, specially for comparative studies of the prevalence rates of thinness in children and teenagers, rather than as standards for recommended body mass index by age and sex in each country.<sup>22</sup> We have used the cut-off 18.5 as criteria for inclusion in our study of children with CL.

Constitutional leanness seems a non-pathological condition, and some authors believe that persistent thinness appears to be associated with greater well-being,<sup>1</sup> even with better health indicators.<sup>23</sup> However, it has been reported that young women with CL present bone mineral density significantly lower than in controls (like patients with anorexia nervosa),<sup>24,25</sup> and a level of oxidative stress in prepubertal children with CL similar to the obese was found.<sup>26</sup>

Among other possible mechanisms, it has been proposed that an increase in REE could be involved in the CL.<sup>3,8</sup> For example, fasting REE is depressed in patients with anorexia nervosa for an adaptation mechanism,<sup>27</sup> but it is higher in obese subjects.<sup>3,28</sup> However, it seems more useful to express the REE in terms of free-fat mass. Most studies in this area do not find differences, with similar values of REE expressed per kg FFM between obese and non-obese subjects,<sup>9,15,29-33</sup> and there

is only some communication that reports a lower REE adjusted for FFM in obese patients.<sup>14</sup>

However, in constitutional thinness, several studies found a significantly higher REE when corrected for kg of FFM than in control subjects,<sup>2,3,16</sup> although the only carried out on children does not confirm these findings.<sup>8</sup> In our study, absolute REE was significantly lower in the CL group than the controls. However, REE/kg FFM ratio was greater in the CL than the control group, in keeping with most of the previous reports. This increased energy expenditure-to-FFM ratio differentiates between CL and controls, and could account for the resistance to weight gain observed in this condition.<sup>2</sup>

Marra et al. report similar findings to ours in young women with CL, but also they find that fidgeting, or spontaneous muscle contractions, was significantly increased in comparison to the obese and controls, and this can significantly increase energy expenditure above standard levels.<sup>3</sup> The three main components of energy expenditure are resting metabolic rate, the thermic effect of food, and activity thermogenesis, that usually accounts for 10-15% of daily energy expenditure, including the latter exercise related and non-exercise related activity thermogenesis (NEAT).<sup>34</sup> NEAT is a significant component of energy balance, and these authors believe that increased fidgeting represents a facilitating factor for thinness and appears to be a biological marker of constitutional leanness.<sup>3</sup>

These metabolic differences observed in CL subjects with regard to the controls are probably genetically determined.<sup>27,35,36</sup> In fact, within-family clustering, both of obesity and CL, is common,<sup>4</sup> as we have noted in our study, despite the small sample size. Genetic studies of thinness or obesity resistance could complement the genetic advances in obesity.<sup>37</sup>

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Original

## The use of biochemical and immunological parameters in nutritional screening and assessment

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### Abstract

**Objective:** To evaluate the relationship between serum albumin, total cholesterol and total lymphocyte count with two nutritional assessment methods, to verify if their use is justified in nutritional screening tools.

**Methods:** 101 patients admitted to medical/surgical wards underwent the SGA and the Full Nutritional Assessment (FNA). Blood test which included serum albumin, total cholesterol and total lymphocyte count (TLC), were made. Percentage of weight loss and BMI were calculated. An Anova test was done to measure the differences in the mean levels of the three parameters for the nutritional status evaluated by SGA and FNA. The probability of a patient being malnourished in the four ranges established for each parameter was calculated, as well as the relationship between the ranges and the percentage of weight loss and BMI. Sensitivity and specificity were calculated and the corresponding ROC curves, using SGA as gold standard.

**Results:** Prevalence of undernutrition is 43.6% and 44.6% for SGA and FNA respectively. Mean levels of the three parameters decrease as the undernutrition degree increases ( $p < 0.005$  for all cases). The probability of a patient being malnourished gets higher as parameter lowers ( $p = 0.000$  for all cases). Total cholesterol shows a relationship with BMI  $\leq 18.5$  and presence/absence of weight loss ( $p = 0.074$  and  $p = 0.002$  respectively). The area under ROC curves are albumin (0.823), cholesterol (0.790) and TLC (0.758) respectively.

**Conclusions:** The analytical parameters analyzed show a statistically significant relationship with the nutritional status. Therefore, they are suitable for use in nutritional screening.

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Key words: Undernutrition. Malnutrition. Nutritional screening. Serum albumin. Total cholesterol. Total lymphocyte count.

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### UTILIDAD DE LOS PARÁMETROS BIOQUÍMICOS E INMUNOLÓGICOS EN LA EVALUACIÓN Y CRIBADO NUTRICIONAL

#### Resumen

**Objetivo:** evaluar la relación entre albúmina sérica, colesterol total y linfocitos totales y dos métodos de evaluación nutricional, para verificar si su uso en las herramientas de cribado nutricional está justificado.

**Métodos:** a 101 pacientes de servicios médicos y quirúrgicos se les realizó el SGA y la Valoración del Estado nutricional Completa (VEN). Se les realizaron análisis de albúmina sérica, colesterol total y linfocitos totales. Se calculó el porcentaje de pérdida de peso y el IMC. Las diferencias entre los niveles medios de los tres parámetros en los distintos niveles nutricionales evaluados por SGA y VEN se hizo mediante el test de ANOVA. Se calculó la probabilidad de estar desnutrido en los cuatro rangos establecidos para cada parámetro, así como la relaciones entre esos rangos y el porcentaje de pérdida de peso y el IMC. Se calculó la sensibilidad y especificidad y sus curvas ROC correspondientes, tomando el SGA como *gold standard*.

**Resultados:** LA prevalencia de desnutrición es 43,6% (SGA) y 44,6% (VEN). Los valores medios de los tres parámetros disminuyen según aumenta el grado de desnutrición ( $p < 0,005$ ). La probabilidad de que un paciente esté desnutrido aumenta a medida que disminuyen los niveles de los parámetros ( $p = 0,000$  para los tres). El colesterol total se relaciona con el IMC  $\leq 18,5$  y con la presencia/ausencia de pérdida de peso ( $p = 0,790$  y  $p = 0,002$  respectivamente).

**Conclusiones:** Los parámetros analíticos analizados muestran una relación significativa con el estado nutricional y por tanto son válidos para su uso en el cribado de desnutrición.

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Palabras clave: Desnutrición. Malnutrición. Cribado nutricional. Albúmina sérica. Colesterol total. Linfocitos totales.

## Abbreviations

SGA: Subjective Global Assessment.  
FNA: Full Nutritional Assessment.  
TLC: Total Lymphocyte Count.  
BMI: Body Mass Index.  
ANOVA: Analysis of Variance.  
VEN: Valoración del Estado Nutricional.  
IMC: Índice de Masa Corporal.  
ASPEN: American Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition.  
MNA: Mini Nutritional Assessment.  
NRS-2002: Nutritional Risk Index 2002.  
MUST: Malnutrition Universal Screening Tool.  
BAPEN: British Association of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition.  
ESPEN: European Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition.  
NRI: Nutritional Risk Index.  
INA: Instant Nutritional Index.  
SENPE: Sociedad Española de Nutrición Parenteral y Enteral.  
Na: sodio.  
K: potasio.  
Cl: cloro.  
g/dL: gramos/decilitro.  
mg/dL: miligramos/decilitro.  
Cell/mL: células/mililitro.  
SD: Standard Deviation.  
AUC: Area Under de Curve.  
Alb: Albumin.  
Sens: Sensibility.  
Specf: Specificity.  
LOS: Length of Stay.  
UN: Undernutrition.

## Introduction

For almost three decades, it has been recognized that hospital patients frequently present undernutrition or have a high probability of developing it due to their underlying disease and/or treatment received. The classic works, published in 1974 and 1976 by Bristian and col., reported that about 50% of patients admitted to a university hospital, in surgical and medical services, presented some degree of undernutrition varying from 45% to 54%.<sup>1,2</sup>

More recent studies continue to prove that the prevalence of undernutrition upon admission to hospital remains high, although the reported figures are quite variable and generally oscillate between 30% and 60%, depending on the diagnostic criteria employed and the specific population studied.<sup>3-9</sup>

Clinical undernutrition goes further than hospital undernutrition. It persists after discharge, extends length of stay and convalescence, increases sanitary costs and frequently leads to readmissions.<sup>10-16</sup>

There are many tools for nutritional screening and assessment. The most commonly used and widely validated are:

Subjective Global Assessment (SGA) suggested by ASPEN for nutritional Assessment,<sup>17</sup> the Mini Nutritional Assessment (MNA) developed for elderly patients,<sup>18</sup> Nutritional Risk Screening-2002 (NRS-2002),<sup>19</sup> and the Malnutrition Universal Screening Tool (MUST) developed by the Malnutrition Advisory Group of BAPEN,<sup>20</sup> all three recommended by the ESPEN to detect the prevalence of malnutrition.<sup>21</sup> All of them are based on different clinical information such as body mass index (BMI), weight loss, intakes changes, eating difficulties, severity of disease, etc.

In an ideal situation personnel in charge of the patient assess the nutritional risk using one of these screening tools, and when malnourished patients are identified they are referred to the nutritional unit or team, and a nutritional intervention is decided. In practice this is difficult to carry out due to the lack of staff and consciousness of personnel in charge of the patient so hospital undernutrition remains under diagnosed and therefore not treated.

In the past, analytical parameters were frequently used in nutritional indexes, combined with other nutritional status parameters, and they proved to be valid and reliable for this purpose. However, in the last years, analytical parameters have not been used for nutritional screening because many authors argue that they reflect severity of disease rather than nutritional status.<sup>22</sup> Serum albumin and TLC are the most commonly used; the Nutritional Risk Index (NRI) is based on serum albumin and the ratio of actual to usual weight,<sup>23</sup> the equation developed by Elmore includes serum albumin, TLC and % weight loss for nutritional screening,<sup>24</sup> the Instant Nutritional Assessment (INA) combines both serum albumin and TLC for the screening.<sup>25</sup>

The aim of this study was to evaluate the relationship between serum albumin, total cholesterol and total lymphocyte count with different nutritional assessment methods and to verify if they are valid to be used in nutritional screening tools.

## Methods

### Subjects

The study was carried out in Hospital Universitario de la Princesa, a 500 beds hospital, only for adults, with approximately 17,000 patients admitted per year. Inclusion and exclusion criteria are as follows: 101 patients were randomly selected from all departments except from Psychiatric, Hemodialysis and Intensive Care Units. Patients with no routine analysis done during their first week of hospitalization, those who were admitted for a diagnostic test or a short term stay, or those who didn't sign the inform consent were excluded from the study.

**Table I**  
*Parameters classification according to their deficiency levels*

| Parameter                 | Deficiency degree |             |           |        |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------|--------|
|                           | Normal            | Light       | Moderate  | Severe |
| Serum Albumin (g/d)       | 3.5-4.5           | 3-3.49      | 2.5-2.9   | < 2.5  |
| Total Cholesterol (mg/dl) | > 180             | 140-180     | 100-139   | < 100  |
| Total Lymphocyte Count/ml | > 1,600           | 1,200-1,599 | 800-1,200 | < 800  |

#### *Assessments of nutritional state*

Selected patients underwent two different nutritional assessments methods during their first week of hospitalization:

*Subjective Global Assessment (SGA)*, is made by a nutritionist of the Dietetic Unit. The SGA assesses nutritional status based on clinical history and physical examination. The history records data related to weight changes in the last six months, modification on diet intakes, presence of gastrointestinal symptoms and functional capacity. The physical examination includes: presence of loss of subcutaneous fat, muscle wasting, ankle oedema and ascites. The exam classifies patients as well nourished, moderately or suspected of being undernourished and severely malnourished.<sup>17</sup>

*Full Nutritional Assessment (FNA)*, is made by a physician of the Dietetic Unit. It is based on the SENPE (Sociedad Española de Nutrición Enteral y Parenteral) protocol for Nutritional Assessment. It includes:

*Anamnesis*: principal diagnose, admission's reason, food allergies and/or intolerances, metabolic disorders, presence of gastrointestinal symptoms, changes on diet intakes, digestive loss, personal records, previous surgeries, treatment.

*Physical examination*: general look/aspect, loss of subcutaneous fat, muscle wasting, oedema, ascites, mucocutaneous lesions and changes in skin appendages.

*Anthropometrics*: Patients were weighed, whenever clinically possible, using the scale available, they were asked about their height and an estimated weight six months prior to admission. Percentage of weight loss was calculated, as well as body mass index (BMI).

This assessment classifies patients as well nourished, moderately or suspected of being malnourished and severely malnourished.

*Blood test*: includes serum determinations of albumin, total cholesterol, total lymphocyte count, hemogram, pre-albumin, transferrin, iron, lipids profile, serum and urine ions (Na, K, Cl) and hepatic, renal and endocrine-metabolic function.

#### *Analytical variables and ranges*

The three parameters analyzed (serum albumin, total cholesterol and total lymphocyte count) are classified

according to their normality or deficiency levels in four categories as shown in table I. Serum albumin (g/dL) is used as an indicator of protein reserves,<sup>26-28</sup> total cholesterol (mg/dL) is used as a caloric depletion parameter,<sup>29-30</sup> and finally, total lymphocyte (Cell/mL) count is used as an indicator of loss of immune defences caused by undernutrition.<sup>31-33</sup> Serum albumin and total cholesterol were analyzed by a "Roche Modular Analyzer", and total lymphocyte count was analyzed by a "Roche SYSMES Hematological".

#### *Statistical analysis*

Categorical variables were described as the number of cases and percentages and age with the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (SD). The association level between the results of the SGA and the FNA was measured using the X<sup>2</sup> Test, and the agreement degree was measured by contingency tables using the kappa index.<sup>34</sup>

The relationship between the three parameters and the nutritional status was measured as follows:

First, an ANOVA test was carried out to test the significance of the difference in the mean levels of albumin, cholesterol and lymphocytes for the three nutritional status evaluated by SGA and FNA.

Second, the probability of a patient being malnourished in the four ranges established for each parameter was calculated using contingency tables. For this analysis, patients were classified as malnourished (if moderately or severely undernourished) or not malnourished (if well nourished).

Third, the relationship between the three parameters and BMI and weight loss was tested by an ANOVA test. BMI was classified into two categories: BMI > or < than 18.5 as these ranges/limits are considered as an indicators of malnutrition, and weight loss was categorized in presence or absence.

Fourth, to compare the malnutrition diagnostic efficacy of the biochemical and immunological parameters studied, different efficacy rates were calculated (sensitivity, specificity, and their corresponding confidence intervals) for the different cut points and the corresponding ROC curves and Kruskal-Wallis tests). SGA was used as the gold standard.

The level of significance was established for a probability of 0.05. All tests were performed using SPSS package vs. 13.0.

| Table II<br>Sample description               |                       |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| N° of patients                               | 101                   |
| Age (years), mean (SD)                       | 68.4 ± 16.8           |
| Males/Females, n (%)                         | 42 (41.6)/59 (58.4)   |
| Internal ward/ Surgical ward<br>n (%)        | 80 (79.21)/21 (20.80) |
| BMI<br>(n = 96), n (%)                       |                       |
| • > 25                                       | 53 (55.2)             |
| • 20-25                                      | 24 (25)               |
| • 18.5-20                                    | 9 (9.4)               |
| • < 18.5                                     | 10 (10.4)             |
| Percentage of weight loss<br>(n = 87), n (%) |                       |
| • No weight loss                             | 47 (54)               |
| • < 5 %                                      | 7 (8.1)               |
| • 5-10 %                                     | 15 (17.2)             |
| • > 10 %                                     | 18 (20.7)             |

BMI: Body Mass Index.

## Results

### Subject

101 patients were studied, most of them hospitalized in medical wards (79.21%). Sample description is shown in table II. Of these patients 5 (4.9%) had no information about BMI, and 14 (13.9%) had none about weight loss. From those with data available, only 18.8% had a BMI lower than 20, and 53.4% had lost weight, and almost 18% had a weight loss greater than 10%.

Nutritional status evaluated by SGA and FNA is shown in table III. Note that the prevalence of undernutrition (moderate and severe) is close to 45% of the patients for both methods. SGA and FNA present a high concordance degree when evaluating undernutrition, as shown by kappa index = 0.787.

Mean levels of the three parameters for the nutritional status evaluated by SGA is shown in table IV. Notice that a decreased trend can be observed for the three of them as the undernutrition degree gets higher, and that this trend is statistically significant in all cases.

The probability of a patient being malnourished gets higher the lower the range for each parameter (table V), and this trend is statistically significant for the three parameters.

When analyzing the relationship of the parameters with BMI and weight loss (table VI), we can observe that some kind of relation exist for the three of them, so that the mean levels of albumin, cholesterol, and TLC are higher for individuals with a BMI > 18.5 or with no weight loss than for those with BMI < 18.5 and some weight loss, but these differences get significant levels only in the case of serum cholesterol.

Sensitivity and specificity obtained for the three variables are shown in table VII.

The ROC curve of the albumin shows an area under the curve (AUC) of 0.823 (95% CI 0.740-0.907), the AUC for total cholesterol is 0.790 (95% CI 0.703-0.876) and for TLC is 0.758 (95% CI 0.661-0.855) (fig. 1).

## Discussion

From the first studies published about the so called hospital undernutrition<sup>1-3</sup> to the more recent ones,<sup>6-8</sup> undernutrition prevalence rates have maintained a considerably high rate. There are multiple causes for that malnutrition, as the illness process itself, the hospitalization, the diagnostic and therapeutical procedures, which very often include fasting and the lack of interest about a patient's nutritional status from the sanitary staff. Prevalence of malnutrition in our hospital is very high according to the SGA and FNA (43.6% and 44.6% respectively), and these results are consistent with other literature reports.<sup>35,36</sup>

Another reason for the continuation of these high undernutrition rates might be the lack of quick and cheap nutritional screening tools, applicable periodically to all inpatient populations, to alert about this serious sanitary issue. The aim of a nutritional screen-

| Table III<br>Undernutrition degrees as evaluated by SGA and FNA |             |             |             |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
|                                                                 |             | FNA         |             |           |
|                                                                 |             | Normal      | Moderate UN | Severe UN |
| SGA                                                             | Normal      | 53          | 4           | 0         |
|                                                                 | Moderate UN | 3           | 29          | 3         |
|                                                                 | Severe UN   | 0           | 2           | 7         |
|                                                                 | Total n (%) | 56 (55.4)   | 35 (34.7)   | 10 (9.9)  |
|                                                                 |             | Total n (%) |             |           |
|                                                                 |             | 57 (56.4)   |             |           |
|                                                                 |             | 35 (34.7)   |             |           |
|                                                                 |             | 9 (8.9)     |             |           |
|                                                                 |             | 101         |             |           |

UN: undernutrition.

Kappa index = 0.787 (IC: 0.670-0.897).

X<sup>2</sup> = 9.82, p = 0.0001.

**Table IV**  
Mean levels of serum albumin, total cholesterol and TLC, for the nutritional status evaluated by SGA and FNA

|             | Subjective Global Assessment |                         |                      |       | Full Nutritional Assessment |                         |                       |       |
|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------|
|             | Normal**<br>n = 57           | Moderate UN**<br>n = 35 | Severe UN**<br>n = 9 | P*    | Normal**<br>n = 56          | Moderate UN**<br>n = 35 | Severe UN**<br>n = 10 | P*    |
| Albumin     | 3.60 (0.44)                  | 3.02 (0.44)             | 2.88 (0.62)          | 0.000 | 3.66 (0.39)                 | 3.00 (0.37)             | 2.73 (0.63)           | 0.000 |
| Cholesterol | 183.4 (61.7)                 | 134.8 (33.7)            | 131.1 (35.2)         | 0.000 | 182.0 (62.4)                | 142.2 (35.5)            | 117.8 (32.7)          | 0.001 |
| TLC         | 1,612.5(738.6)               | 1,036.0(518.3)          | 1,013.3(557.5)       | 0.000 | 1,586.2 (744.6)             | 1,073.1(582.2)          | 1,091.0(480.2)        | 0.001 |

\*p value for a linear trend test between the three nutritional degrees.

\*\* Mean  $\pm$  standard deviation.

UN: Undernutrition.

TLC: Total lymphocyte count.

**Table V**  
Probability of a patient being malnourished in the four ranges established for each parameter

| Variable            | Range       | SGA            |             |              | FNA            |             |              |
|---------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|
|                     |             | No UN<br>n (%) | UN<br>n (%) | P<br>value   | No UN<br>n (%) | UN<br>n (%) | P<br>value   |
| Albumin (g/dL)      | > 3.5       | 37 (88.1)      | 5 (11.9)    | <b>0.000</b> | 38 (90.5)      | 4 (9.5)     | <b>0.000</b> |
|                     | 3-3.49      | 15 (44.1)      | 19 (55.9)   |              | 16 (47.1)      | 18 (52.9)   |              |
|                     | 2.5-2.99    | 5 (26.3)       | 14 (73.7)   |              | 2 (10.5)       | 17 (89.5)   |              |
|                     | < 2.5       | 0 (0)          | 6 (100)     |              | 0 (0)          | 6 (100)     |              |
| Cholesterol (mg/dL) | > 180       | 37 (88.1)      | 5 (11.9)    | <b>0.000</b> | 24 (82.8)      | 5 (17.2)    | <b>0.000</b> |
|                     | 140-179     | 15 (44.1)      | 19 (55.9)   |              | 22 (53.7)      | 19 (46.3)   |              |
|                     | 100-139     | 5 (26.3)       | 14 (73.7)   |              | 9 (40.9)       | 13 (59.1)   |              |
|                     | < 100       | 0 (0)          | 6 (100)     |              | 1 (11.1)       | 8 (88.9)    |              |
| TLC (Cell/mL)       | > 1,600     | 26 (81.3)      | 6 (18.8)    | <b>0.000</b> | 25 (78.1)      | 7 (21.9)    | <b>0.000</b> |
|                     | 1,200-1,599 | 14 (73.7)      | 5 (26.3)    |              | 12 (63.2)      | 7 (36.8)    |              |
|                     | 800-1,199   | 12 (36.4)      | 21 (63.6)   |              | 14 (42.4)      | 19 (57.6)   |              |
|                     | < 800       | 5 (29.4)       | 12 (70.6)   |              | 5 (29.4)       | 12 (70.6)   |              |

SGA: Subjective Global Assessment.

FNA: Full Nutritional Assessment.

UN: Undernutrition.

ing is to identify malnourished patients, or those at risk of malnutrition, who will need a further and more complete nutritional assessment, in order to start a nutritional support as soon as possible, if needed. This screening should be simple and applicable to all inpatients until the clinic process has finished/ is over (illness, hospitalization, therapy and complications).

The usefulness of the analytical parameters for nutritional screening has been widely discussed. In the past, they were commonly used for this purpose, combined with other analytical information (IRN, IPN, etc.). In the last years they have been replaced by nutritional screening tools based only on clinical information such as the SGA (recommended by the ASPEN), the NRS-2002 (recommended by ESPEN) and the MUST (BAPEN). Nevertheless, all of these tools must be done through a direct interview and examination of the patient; therefore, they can hardly be applied to all inpatients and repeated during the hospital stay, so that

this aspiration of the Council of Europe<sup>37</sup> and the ESPEN<sup>21</sup> considerably elevates staff numbers and time requirements.

The main reason for not using the analytical parameters in nutritional screening is that some authors made objections to these parameters as indicators of nutritional status when present in illness or aggressive treatment. For this reason, we wanted to study the behavior of the analytical parameters, specifically in these situations.

The three analytical parameters analyzed in this study have been selected among those more frequently used in clinical practice, to indicative the patient's nutritional balance. The three of them show a good association with the nutritional status assessed by the SGA and FNA, so that as the levels of each one of the parameters get lower the patient's undernutrition degree gets higher, as can be observed in tables IV and V.

The dynamics of the cut points adjust to what would be expected (table VII). The three parameters show a

**Table VI**  
Differences in the mean levels of albumin, cholesterol and TLC in groups of BMI (>< 18.5) and weigh loss (presence/absence of weight loss)

| Parameter      | Groups of BMI        |                      |              | Groups of weight loss |                 |              |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                | BMI > 18.5<br>X ± SD | BMI < 18.5<br>X ± SD | P<br>value   | Presence              | Absence         | P<br>value   |
| Albumin (g/dL) | 3.35 ± 0.55          | 3.17 ± 0.64          | 0.352        | 3.44 ± 0.52           | 3.26 ± 0.60     | 0.155        |
| Cholesterol    | 165.5 ± 58.9         | 129.4 ± 29.1         | <b>0.074</b> | 179.7 ± 65.6          | 141.5 ± 41.3    | <b>0.002</b> |
| TLC            | 1,369 ± 713.4        | 1,265.5 ± 698.9      | 0.678        | 1,476.3 ± 755         | 1,271.2 ± 629.4 | 0.184        |

**Table VII**  
Efficacy Rates of the three variables\*

|                           | Cut points | Sens. | CI          | Specf. | CI          |
|---------------------------|------------|-------|-------------|--------|-------------|
| Serum Albumin (g/dL)      | > 3.5      | 0.89  | (0.79-0.98) | 0.65   | (0.53-0.77) |
|                           | > 3        | 0.45  | (0.31-0.60) | 0.91   | (0.84-0.99) |
|                           | > 2.5      | 0.14  | (0.03-0.24) | 1      | (1-1)       |
| Total Cholesterol (mg/dL) | >180       | 0.93  | (0.86-1.01) | 0.46   | (0.33-0.59) |
|                           | > 140      | 0.48  | (0.33-0.62) | 0.82   | (0.73-0.92) |
|                           | > 100      | 0.18  | (0.07-0.30) | 0.98   | (0.95-1.02) |
| TLC (Cell/mL)             | > 1,600    | 0.86  | (0.76-0.97) | 0.46   | (0.33-0.59) |
|                           | > 1,200    | 0.75  | (0.62-0.88) | 0.70   | (0.58-0.82) |
|                           | > 800      | 0.27  | (0.14-0.40) | 0.91   | (0.84-0.99) |

\*Prevalence of malnutrition 44%, as evaluated by SGA.

CI: Confidence Interval

Sens: sensibility.

Specf: specificity.

considerably high sensitivity in the first cut point, and it is the albumin that, at this point, shows the maximum specificity (Alb ≥ 3.5, sens = 0.89, spcf = 0.65). Total cholesterol and total lymphocyte count present, at that point, a much lower specificity value (0.46 in both cases). As it would be expected sensibility lowers for the three variables as the cut points go to lower values, and specificity increases to 1 in the case of albumin ≥ 2.5 mg/dL. The choice of any of the cut points will depend upon how these parameters will be used.

As it can be observed in figure 2, the three parameters show a wide area under the curve (AUC), which indicates that their precision in detection of undernutrition is good.

Many authors reject albumin as an indicator of nutritional status, due to its long midlife (20 days). In clinical practice that midlife shortens immediately depending upon the seriousness of the clinical process. A hemorrhage or lymphorrhage can cause a dramatical decrease in minutes of the albumin level, as it falls in hours in a surgery or a chemotherapy or steroid treatment. Another reason to reject the use of albumin, is that serum albumin levels can be affected by many factors other than malnutrition such as inflammation, some drugs (corticosteroids, insulin, thyroid hormone, etc.) renal and liver disease, all of which result in a low sensitivity and specificity to changes on nutritional

intake.<sup>38</sup> Many studies have demonstrated the predictive value of hypoalbuminemia for morbidity, mortality, increase of LOS (length of stay) and costs.<sup>26-28</sup> Therefore, hypoalbuminemia is often considered as an indicator of the illness severity rather than the nutritional status. However, there is an indirect relationship between inflammation (and the consequent hypoalbuminemia) with nutritional status. Inflammation contributes to an increase in net protein loss caused by catabolism, and also induces anorexia, reducing the probability that a patient will get an adequate intake to his requirements, thus accelerating the undernutrition process.<sup>39</sup> In the present study, we have found a direct and significant relationship between serum albumin and nutritional status, which agrees with other literature reports.<sup>40-42</sup> For this reason, even though serum albumin can be affected by many others non nutritional factors (illness, hospitalization or therapeutical treatments) it presents a strong relationship with nutritional status, and therefore it can not be ruled out for use in nutritional screening.

In this study, we suggest total cholesterol as an indicator of the patient's energetic reserves,<sup>29,30</sup> as the illness and therapeutical procedures frequently compromise the patient's caloric balance. When the patient presents a caloric malnutrition, a weight loss and a drop in the BMI are observed. In our clinic experience we have observed

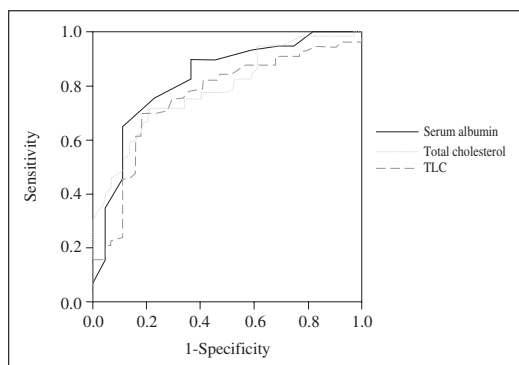


Fig. 1.—Body fat percentage estimated by bioelectrical impedance analysis and Segal equation *et al* (1988) by body mass index (overweight vs obesity).

how serum cholesterol lowers at caloric depletion, even before a weight loss or other anthropometrical changes can be observed. We have found a relationship between total cholesterol and BMI and the percentage of weight loss (table VI), which would confirm its usefulness as an indicator of the patient's caloric reserves.

Undernutrition induces immunological changes, such as a drop in total lymphocyte count, which increases frequency and severity of infection. This accounts for much of the morbidity and mortality associated with malnutrition. Total lymphocyte count has been suggested as a useful indicator of the nutritional status and outcomes, and it is quickly done and appropriate for all age groups.<sup>31-33</sup>

BMI is frequently used as an indicator of a patient's nutritional status, considering lack of undernutrition if BMI > 20. We think that BMI itself is not a good indicator of nutritional status. When analyzing the results obtained in the present study, it can be observed that 80.2% of patients have a BMI > 20, and only 10.4% have a BMI < 18, while the prevalence of undernutrition found by SGA is 44%. Results concerning percentage of weight loss are closer to the prevalence of undernutrition in our study, since 46% of the patients referred lost weight. Therefore, SGA is more useful than BMI to detect undernutrition. These results are in agreement with other studies.<sup>43</sup>

Apart from their sensibility and specificity rates, a remarkable advantage of the analytical parameters for nutritional screening is that they are already available in every patient's clinical file, this information is obtained at admission, during the hospital stay and during treatment. When planning the use of nutritional screening parameters, one must go to the clinical data bases to retrieve the information. Specific software could be utilized by clinicians to obtain nutritional risk measurements. The need for further nutritional assessment and/or needed intervention would be immediately determine. Depending on the result of the screening's result, further nutritional assessment and early and adequate nutritional intervention can be done.

## Conclusions

Analytical parameters analyzed in this study show a statistically significant relationship with the nutritional status evaluated by SGA and FNA. Total cholesterol correlates with BMI and percentage of weight loss, and therefore it can be consider as an indicator of caloric undernutrition. The results obtained in the present study support the use of the analytical parameters in computer screening tools for the early detection of undernutrition.

For these reasons, we propose bringing back the use of analytical parameters along with computer tools for automatic screening of patient undernutrition. With the computer tools it is possible to reach a larger number of patients during their entire clinical process. The tools permit quick and easy detection of variations during treatment as well as patient complications. What we propose would result in saving of money, personnel, and time for the hospital. In addition to its efficiency, this approach would be more patient friendly.

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Original

## Adherencia a la dieta mediterránea en la población universitaria

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### Resumen

**Objetivo:** Determinar la adherencia a la dieta mediterránea de una población universitaria y analizar diversos factores que pudieran condicionar su calidad nutricional.

**Material y métodos:** Distribución del test kidmed a una muestra aleatoria de 570 universitarios. El índice kidmed (de 0 a 12) indicaba si la adherencia a la dieta mediterránea era baja (de 0 a 3), media (de 4 a 7) o alta (de 8 a 12). De cada encuestado se registraba sexo, edad, peso, talla e índice de masa corporal, tipo de residencia y provincia de procedencia.

**Resultados:** La muestra era de 217 varones y 353 mujeres con edades entre 18 y 25 años. El 9,5% de los universitarios tenían un índice kidmed bajo, el 62,1% intermedio y el 28,4% alto. Aquellos universitarios que vivían en residencia familiar tenían un porcentaje de alta adherencia (35,6%) significativamente superior ( $p < 0,05$ ) a los que vivían en colegio mayor (11,1%) o piso de estudiantes (11,2%). Los universitarios con sobrepeso tenían un porcentaje de baja adherencia (15,5%) significativamente superior ( $p < 0,05$ ) a los que tenían una situación nutricional normal (8,5%).

**Conclusiones:** El 71,6% de los universitarios necesitaban mejorar su patrón alimentario (adherencia media-baja a la dieta mediterránea), apreciándose un cierto factor familiar conservador de las costumbres dietéticas tradicionales. Los universitarios con baja adherencia tenían mayor riesgo de sobrepeso. Sería conveniente desarrollar programas de educación nutricional en los currículos universitarios.

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Palabras clave: *Dieta mediterránea. Hábitos dietéticos. Índice Kidmed. Población universitaria.*

### ADHERENCE TO A MEDITERRANEAN DIET IN A COLLEGE POPULATION

#### Abstract

**Objective:** To determine the adherence to the Mediterranean diet of a university population and to analyze several factors that may condition its nutritional quality.

**Material and methods:** Distribution of the Kidmed test to a random sample of 570 university students. The Kidmed index (0-12) indicated whether the adherence to the Mediterranean diet was low (0-3), intermediate (4-7) or high (8-12). The gender, age, weight, height, and body mass index were gathered from each participant, as well as the type of residence and the province of origin.

**Results:** The sample comprised 217 men and 353 women aged 18-25 years. 9.5% of the university students had a low Kidmed index, 62.1% intermediate, and 28.4% high. Those students living at their parental home had a high percentage of adherence (35.6%), significantly higher ( $p < 0.05$ ) to that of those living at a student's residence (11.1%) or at a student's apartment (11.2%). Overweighed students had a low percentage of adherence (15.5%), significantly higher ( $p < 0.05$ ) to those with a normal nutritional situation (8.5%).

**Conclusions:** 71.6% of university students need to improve their dietary pattern (low to intermediate adherence to the Mediterranean diet), and we could observe a certain family factor of preservation of the traditional dietary habits. Those university students with low adherence had a higher risk for being overweighed. It would be convenient to develop nutritional education programs in the university curricula.

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Key words: *Mediterranean diet. Dietary habits. Kidmed index. University population.*

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## Introducción

La dieta tradicional de los países mediterráneos se ha caracterizado por un alto consumo de verduras y hortalizas, legumbres, frutas, frutos secos y cereales y, especialmente, aceite de oliva; junto con un consumo moderado de pescados, huevos y productos lácteos, preferentemente yogur o queso, y un menor consumo de carnes y grasas animales<sup>1-4</sup>. La dieta mediterránea no solo garantiza un aporte calórico y de nutrientes en cantidades suficientes y proporciones adecuadas sino que, además, contribuye a la prevención de enfermedades cardiovasculares, diabetes, cáncer, enfermedades degenerativas, etc. y, en general, a una mayor esperanza de vida<sup>5-11</sup>.

La modernización de la sociedad ha supuesto una serie de cambios sociológicos y/o culturales que afectan inevitablemente a los hábitos y preferencias alimentarias. Se dedica menos tiempo a la compra de alimentos y elaboración de las comidas y, a cambio, se prefieren los alimentos procesados que, generalmente, conllevan un consumo excesivo de alimentos de origen animal, especialmente de carnes y derivados, y de azúcares refinados, con el consecuente incremento de grasas saturadas y colesterol en la dieta<sup>12-17</sup>.

Ese virtual deterioro de los patrones alimentarios ha hecho temer sobre una gradual desaparición de la dieta mediterránea<sup>13,18,19</sup> y justificaría, en gran medida, el estudio de la calidad de los hábitos alimentarios en la población general y, especialmente, en aquellos sectores más susceptibles de ser influidos como, por ejemplo, la población juvenil. Para evaluar el grado de adherencia a la dieta mediterránea se han ido elaborando diversas *índices de valoración* basados en aspectos cualitativos y/o cuantitativos del consumo de los diferentes componentes "típicos" de la dieta mediterránea, pero que generalmente requieren de un laborioso proceso de la información recogida sobre el consumo de alimentos<sup>6,8,13,20-24</sup>. En la actualidad se dispone del test de calidad de la dieta mediterránea o índice Kidmed<sup>25</sup> que permite determinar de manera rápida el grado de adherencia a la dieta mediterránea, y cuya utilidad ha sido satisfactoriamente contrastada<sup>26-30</sup>.

El objetivo del presente trabajo consiste en determinar la adherencia a la dieta mediterránea de una población universitaria, y analizar diversos factores que pudieran condicionar su calidad nutricional.

## Material y métodos

Se ha valorado la adherencia al patrón dietético mediterráneo aplicando el *Test de Adhesión a la Dieta Mediterránea Kidmed*<sup>25</sup> a una muestra aleatoria de 570 universitarios de distintas Facultades y Escuelas del *campus* de Pamplona de la Universidad de Navarra (Ciencias, Enfermería, Farmacia y Medicina), en el segundo semestre del curso académico 2008/2009. La distribución de los cuestionarios o test kidmed se rea-

lizó personalmente por alumnos del último curso de la Diplomatura de Nutrición Humana y Dietética de la propia Universidad. De cada encuestado también se registraba el sexo, la edad, las variables antropométricas (peso, talla e índice de masa corporal), el tipo de residencia (piso de estudiantes, casa familiar o Colegio Mayor) y la provincia de procedencia. Según su procedencia los encuestados se distribuyeron en las siguientes áreas geográficas: Navarra, Norte (Galicia, Asturias, Cantabria y País vasco), Noreste (Aragón, Cataluña e Islas baleares), Centro (Castilla-León, Madrid, Castilla-La Mancha, La Rioja y Extremadura) y Sureste (Comunidad valenciana, Murcia, Andalucía e Islas Canarias). Se excluyeron todos aquellos universitarios oriundos de otros países (no se les distribuyó el cuestionario).

El índice de masa corporal (IMC) se calculó mediante la fórmula:  $\text{Peso (kg)}/\text{Talla (m)}^2$ . Según el valor del IMC se definieron cuatro grupos: (1) Subnutrición, si era inferior a 18,5. (2) Normalidad, si oscilaba entre 18,5 y 24,99. (3) Sobrepeso, si oscilaba entre 25 y 29,99. (4) Obesidad, si era superior a 30.

El test Kidmed<sup>25</sup> consta de 16 preguntas que deben responderse de manera afirmativa/negativa (sí/no). Las respuestas afirmativas en las preguntas que representan un aspecto positivo en relación con la dieta mediterránea (son 12) suman 1 punto, y las respuestas afirmativas en las preguntas que representan una connotación negativa en relación con la dieta mediterránea (son 4) restan 1 punto. La puntuación total obtenida da lugar al índice Kidmed, que se clasifica en tres categorías:

- a) De 8 a 12: Dieta Mediterránea óptima (adherencia alta).
- b) De 4 a 7: necesidad de mejora en el patrón alimentario para adecuarlo al modelo mediterráneo (adherencia media).
- c) De 0 a 3: dieta de muy baja calidad (adherencia baja).

Los resultados se expresan como medias y porcentajes con sus intervalos de confianza (IC 95%). El análisis estadístico (comparación de proporciones, *t* de Student y Chi-cuadrado) fue realizado mediante el programa informático SPSS 17.0 para Windows (Chicago, USA).

## Resultados

La muestra obtenida estaba formada por 353 mujeres (61,9%) y 217 varones (38,1%). Las edades de los universitarios encuestados estaban comprendidas entre 18 y 25 años, con una edad media de 20,6 años (IC-95%: 20,4-20,8). La distribución por edades era la siguiente: 18-19 años (n = 200), 20-21 años (n = 185), 22-23 años (n = 152) y 24-25 años (n = 33). En la tabla I se muestra la distribución de los universitarios por sexos según el tipo de residencia, área geográfica de procedencia y

| <b>Tabla I</b><br><i>Distribución de los universitarios por sexos, según el tipo de residencia, área geográfica de procedencia y estado nutricional</i> |               |               |             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
|                                                                                                                                                         | Varones n (%) | Mujeres n (%) | Total n (%) |
| <i>Tipo de residencia</i>                                                                                                                               |               |               |             |
| Piso de estudiantes                                                                                                                                     | 107 (49,3)    | 171 (48,4)    | 278 (48,8)  |
| Residencia familiar                                                                                                                                     | 59 (27,2)     | 116 (32,9)    | 175 (30,7)  |
| Colegio Mayor                                                                                                                                           | 51 (23,5)     | 66 (18,7)     | 117 (20,5)  |
| <i>Área geográfica</i>                                                                                                                                  |               |               |             |
| Navarra                                                                                                                                                 | 75 (35,9)     | 141 (40,9)    | 216 (39,0)  |
| Norte                                                                                                                                                   | 49 (23,4)     | 96 (27,8)     | 145 (26,2)  |
| Noroeste                                                                                                                                                | 32 (15,3)     | 35 (10,1)     | 67 (12,1)   |
| Centro                                                                                                                                                  | 33 (15,8)     | 43 (12,5)     | 76 (13,7)   |
| Sureste                                                                                                                                                 | 20 (9,6)      | 30 (8,5)      | 50 (9,0)    |
| <i>Estado nutricional*</i>                                                                                                                              |               |               |             |
| Subnutrición                                                                                                                                            | 6 (2,8)       | 25 (7,4)      | 42 (7,6)    |
| Normalidad                                                                                                                                              | 167 (78,8)    | 281 (83,1)    | 437 (79,5)  |
| Sobrepeso                                                                                                                                               | 37 (17,5)     | 31 (9,2)      | 68 (12,9)   |
| Obesidad                                                                                                                                                | 2 (0,9)       | 1 (0,3)       | 3 (0,5)     |

\*p < 0,05.

situación nutricional. No existían diferencias porcentuales significativas entre el tipo de residencia y el área geográfica de procedencia entre ambos sexos. Sin embargo, los varones presentaban unos valores porcentuales de sobrepeso/obesidad (18,4%) significativamente superiores (p < 0,05) a los de las mujeres (9,5%). El IMC de los varones era de 23,3 (IC-95%: 23,0-23,6) siendo sig-

nificativamente superior (p < 0,05) al de las mujeres que era de 21,0 (IC-95%: 20,8-21,2).

En la tabla II se exponen y comparan los resultados del test kidmed entre ambos sexos. El 9,5% de la totalidad de la muestra tenían un índice kidmed bajo, un 62,1% intermedio y un 28,4% alto; siendo el valor medio del índice Kidmed de 6,17 (IC-95%: 6,02-6,32).

| <b>Tabla II</b><br><i>Test de calidad de la dieta mediterránea en los universitarios por sexos</i> |             |             |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Test Kidmed                                                                                        | Varones (%) | Mujeres (%) | Total (%) |
| Toma una fruta o zumo de fruta todos los días                                                      | 72,4        | 75,9        | 74,6      |
| Toma una segunda fruta todos los días                                                              | 31,3        | 32,6        | 32,1      |
| Toma verduras frescas o cocinadas una vez al día*                                                  | 52,1        | 68,3        | 62,1      |
| Toma verduras frescas o cocinadas más de una vez al día*                                           | 12,0        | 21,8        | 18,1      |
| Toma pescado por lo menos 2 ó 3 veces a la semana                                                  | 49,8        | 56,9        | 54,2      |
| Acude una vez o más a la semana a una hamburguesería*                                              | 33,2        | 13,9        | 21,2      |
| Toma legumbres más de 1 vez a la semana*                                                           | 78,3        | 64,0        | 69,5      |
| Toma pasta o arroz casi a diario (5 o más veces por semana)*                                       | 47,0        | 22,7        | 31,9      |
| Desayuna un cereal o derivado (pan, etc.)*                                                         | 78,8        | 86,7        | 83,1      |
| Toma frutos secos por lo menos 2 ó 3 veces a la semana*                                            | 33,2        | 24,1        | 27,5      |
| Utilizan aceite de oliva en casa para cocinar                                                      | 72,5        | 73,8        | 73,2      |
| No desayuna todos los días                                                                         | 19,8        | 15,0        | 16,8      |
| Desayuna un lácteo (leche, yogur, etc.)                                                            | 92,2        | 91,8        | 91,9      |
| Desayuna bollería industrial*                                                                      | 23,6        | 12,2        | 16,5      |
| Toma 2 yogures y/o queso (40 g) cada día*                                                          | 53,9        | 43,9        | 47,7      |
| Toma dulces o golosinas varias veces al día                                                        | 16,1        | 15,0        | 15,4      |
| <b>Índice KIDMED*</b>                                                                              |             |             |           |
| ≤ 3 (adherencia baja)                                                                              | 12,9        | 7,4         | 9,5       |
| 4-7 (adherencia intermedia)                                                                        | 60,8        | 62,9        | 62,1      |
| ≥ 8 (adherencia alta)                                                                              | 26,3        | 29,7        | 28,4      |

\*p < 0,05

| <b>Tabla III</b><br><i>Grado de adherencia a la dieta mediterránea<br/>(índice de Kidmed) en relación con el tipo de residencia<br/>y situación nutricional</i> |               |                |               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| <i>Índice de Kidmed</i>                                                                                                                                         | <i>Bajo %</i> | <i>Medio %</i> | <i>Alto %</i> |
| <i>Tipo de residencia*</i>                                                                                                                                      |               |                |               |
| Familia                                                                                                                                                         | 5,7           | 58,7           | 35,6          |
| Colegio Mayor                                                                                                                                                   | 11,1          | 63,9           | 25,0          |
| Piso de estudiantes                                                                                                                                             | 11,2          | 65,8           | 23,0          |
| <i>Estado nutricional*</i>                                                                                                                                      |               |                |               |
| Subnutrición                                                                                                                                                    | 9,5           | 64,3           | 26,2          |
| Normalidad                                                                                                                                                      | 8,5           | 62,4           | 29,1          |
| Sobrepeso                                                                                                                                                       | 15,5          | 57,7           | 26,8          |

\*p < 0,05.

Aunque no existían diferencias significativas entre los valores medios del índice Kidmed entre ambos sexos (mujeres: 6,3 y varones: 6,0), el porcentaje de varones con una adherencia baja a la dieta mediterránea era significativamente superior (12,9%) al de las mujeres (7,4%). También existían diferencias estadísticamente significativas ( $p < 0,05$ ) de distintos *ítems* entre ambos sexos. Los varones acudían una vez ó más a la semana a una hamburguesería, tomaban legumbres más de una vez a la semana, tomaban pasta o arroz casi a diario, tomaban frutos secos por lo menos 2 ó 3 veces a la semana, desayunaban bollería industrial y tomaban 2 yogures y/o queso todos los días con mayor frecuencia que las mujeres; mientras que las mujeres tomaban verduras frescas o cocinadas una vez y/o más de una vez al día y desayunaban cereales o derivados (pan, tostadas, etc.) con mayor frecuencia que los varones.

En la tabla III se exponen y comparan el grado de adherencia a la dieta mediterránea (índice de Kidmed) en relación con el tipo de residencia y el estado nutricional de los universitarios encuestados. Aquellos que vivían en residencia familiar presentaban unos valores porcentuales de adherencia alta a la dieta mediterránea (35,6%) significativamente superiores ( $p < 0,05$ ) a los que vivían en colegio mayor (25%) o piso de estudiantes (23%); e inversamente los que vivían en colegio mayor (11,1%) o piso de estudiantes (11,2%) presentaban unos valores porcentuales de adherencia baja a la dieta mediterránea significativamente superiores ( $p < 0,05$ ) a los de aquellos que vivían en residencia familiar (5,7%). Los universitarios que vivían en residencia familiar tenían un valor medio del índice de kidmed de 6,6 (IC-95%: 6,3-6,9) que era significativamente superior ( $p < 0,05$ ) a los de aquellos que vivían en colegio mayor: 6,1 (IC-95%: 5,7-6,5) o piso de estudiantes: 5,9 (IC-95%: 5,6-6,2). El IMC de los universitarios que vivían en su residencia familiar era de 21,4 (IC 95%: 21,0-21,8), siendo significativamente inferior al de aquellos que vivían en colegio mayor: 22,3 (IC-95%: 22,0-22,6) o piso de estudiantes: 22,5 (IC-95%: 22,2-22,8). Los universitarios con sobrepeso tenían unos

valores porcentuales de baja adherencia a la dieta mediterránea (15,5%) significativamente superiores ( $p < 0,05$ ) a los de aquellos cuya situación nutricional era normal (8,5%).

No se objetivaron diferencias estadísticamente significativas entre el índice kidmed en relación la edad, estudios universitarios y área geográfica de procedencia (excluyéndose de la comparación a Navarra por su mayor proporción de universitarios con residencia familiar).

## Discusión

Los *índices de valoración* de la calidad de la dieta mediterránea surgieron ante la necesidad de disponer de herramientas que permitieran evaluar y, más en concreto, determinar el grado de adherencia de los patrones alimentarios de la población a la dieta mediterránea<sup>6,8,13,20-23,31</sup>; y, de hecho, se han ido elaborando y utilizando diferentes índices basados en aspectos cualitativos y/o cuantitativos del consumo de los diferentes componentes “típicos” de la dieta mediterránea<sup>24</sup>. Aunque su especificidad ha sido cuestionada ya que el término “dieta mediterránea” es relativamente impreciso y, además, su laxitud conceptual se incrementa en relación con sus variantes conocidas<sup>1,2,24,31,32</sup>; los estudios epidemiológicos, que no experimentales, han corroborado la trascendencia de la adherencia a la dieta mediterránea en la salud humana<sup>6,8,15,28,33</sup> y su interrelación con determinados estilos de vida<sup>13,20,29,34</sup>. El test kidmed, muy fácil de cumplimentar por parte del encuestado e interpretar por parte del encuestador, elaborado a partir de los índices anteriores y/o principios que sustentan el patrón alimentario mediterráneo permite determinar de manera rápida el grado de adherencia de una población a la dieta mediterránea<sup>25</sup>. El índice Kidmed resultante constituye un instrumento que, por una parte, permite identificar de manera inmediata la población con hábitos alimentarios poco saludables; y, por otra parte, se ha constatado que una mayor puntuación garantiza un aporte de nutrientes en cantidades suficientes y proporciones adecuadas, lo que justificaría su empleo<sup>27,29,30,35</sup>.

La muestra seleccionada aleatoriamente reflejaba las características epidemiológicas del universitario medio del *campus* de Pamplona de la Universidad de Navarra<sup>36</sup>. Se trataba de jóvenes, entre 18 y 25 años de edad, procedentes de las distintas áreas geográficas del territorio nacional, lo que explicaría que una amplia mayoría de ellos residieran fuera del domicilio familiar, generalmente compartiendo piso con otros compañeros y, en menor proporción, en colegios mayores. Esta eventualidad permite considerar que los datos aportados no quedan circunscritos exclusivamente al entorno navarro sino que adquieren una dimensión más general.

Al analizar las respuestas de los distintos *ítems* se advierte que apenas el 28,4% de los jóvenes encuestados referían tener unos hábitos alimentarios compatibles con el patrón mediterráneo (alta adherencia). Al

ser la primera vez que se utiliza el índice kidmed en una población de estas características —de hecho, se ha utilizado casi exclusivamente en población infantil y adolescente— no existen datos anteriores comparables. Los estudios españoles publicados al respecto muestran unos valores de óptima adherencia a la dieta mediterránea del 48,5%<sup>25,35</sup> y 42,9%<sup>25,37</sup> en la edad pediátrica y adolescencia, respectivamente; aunque estas cifras son sensiblemente inferiores en otros países mediterráneos<sup>29,30</sup>. Teniendo en cuenta que los universitarios hace unos pocos años fueron adolescentes, y salvando las diferencias metodológicas, cabría considerar la existencia de un progresivo deterioro de la adherencia a la dieta mediterránea que ya se comienza a inferir entre los adolescentes<sup>37</sup>. En líneas generales, cabe destacar que los universitarios encuestados no alcanzaban las recomendaciones de consumo de la mayoría de los alimentos que constituyen la base de la pirámide de la alimentación mediterránea; es decir, de frutas (apenas el 32,1% tomaba diariamente una segunda pieza), de verduras y hortalizas (apenas el 18,1% tomaban diariamente una segunda ración), de frutos secos (apenas el 27,5% los tomaban durante la semana) y de pasta o arroz (apenas el 31,9% los tomaban casi a diario); y, además, el consumo de yogures y/o queso también era proporcionalmente bajo. Por otro lado, también cabe subrayar como un porcentaje relativamente importante de estos jóvenes desayunaban bollería industrial (el 16,5% de los encuestados) o tomaban dulces diariamente (el 15,4% de los encuestados); y conviene señalar que estos alimentos ocupan la cúspide de la pirámide nutricional y, por tanto, su frecuencia de consumo debería ser esporádica. La dieta mediterránea, al mismo tiempo que un prototipo de dieta saludable, representa un estilo de vida circunscrito a un marco climático y/o geográfico determinado<sup>1-4,10,32</sup>; y, en este sentido, la tendencia de los universitarios a frecuentar hamburgueserías (el 21,2% de los encuestados lo hacía una o más veces a la semana) y/o la falta de regularidad en el desayuno (el 16,8% de los encuestados no desayunaban diariamente) denotan, en gran medida, una pérdida del legado cultural que representa la dieta mediterránea. El aceite de oliva constituye un elemento esencial de la cultura mediterránea que indefectiblemente prevalece en las diferentes etnias y/o países mediterráneos actuales y que, en gran medida, es responsable de los efectos beneficiosos atribuidos a este patrón dietético<sup>4,38</sup>; lo que explicaría, en gran medida, el consumo culinario del aceite de oliva en los respectivos tipos de residencia mayoritariamente manifestado por los encuestados.

Se han observado sensibles diferencias en el grado de adherencia a la dieta mediterránea en relación con el tipo de residencia. Mientras el 35,6% de los universitarios que residían en su domicilio familiar tenían una valoración óptima del índice Kidmed (adherencia alta), entre aquellos que vivían en pisos con otros compañeros —por cierto, la mayoría de los universitarios encuestados— apenas un 23% alcanzaban dicha valo-

ración. Y mientras el 11,2% de los que vivían en pisos de estudiantes tenían una dieta de muy baja calidad (baja adherencia), estas cifras apenas alcanzaban el 5,7% entre aquellos que vivían con sus familias. Esta eventualidad pone de manifiesto, por una parte, la existencia de un cierto factor familiar conservador de las costumbres dietéticas tradicionales y, a la vez, una tendencia entre los universitarios con unas condiciones de vida más autónomas —aquellos que al proceder de otra área geográfica tenían que compartir vivienda con otros compañeros fuera del contexto familiar— a adoptar los nuevos patrones occidentales de hábitos alimentarios, caracterizados por un consumo cada vez mayor de alimentos procesados, en detrimento de la cocina mediterránea basada en una amplia diversidad de alimentos naturales y frescos. No obstante, si bien los universitarios que vivían con sus familias gozaban de una mayor adherencia a la dieta mediterránea; el 71,6% de los universitarios, sin diferencias entre sexos, mostraban la necesidad de mejorar su patrón alimentario como consecuencia de la pérdida de unos hábitos dietéticos tradicionales de nuestro entorno geográfico lo que, por un lado, permitiría considerar que en una proporción importante de universitarios existiría cierto riesgo de padecer alguna carencia y/o desequilibrio nutricional<sup>27</sup> y, por otra parte, hace temer sobre una virtual desaparición de la dieta mediterránea a corto y/o medio plazo<sup>13,17-19</sup>.

También se han observado diferencias significativas entre el estado nutricional de estos jóvenes en relación con el grado de adherencia a la dieta mediterránea. Es decir, aquellos universitarios que mostraban una peor calidad nutricional y/o baja adherencia a la dieta mediterránea tenían un mayor riesgo de tener sobrepeso, lo que corrobora el efecto protector que posee una dieta equilibrada y, en este caso concreto, la dieta mediterránea sobre el sobrepeso, tal y como ha sido señalado por diversos autores<sup>8,28</sup>. Y una vez más, en el caso de los universitarios, la residencia familiar tendría un efecto positivo sobre su situación nutricional en contraste con aquellos que procedentes de otras áreas geográficas vivían en colegios mayores y, especialmente, en pisos con otros estudiantes.

De los resultados obtenidos se desprende la necesidad que tiene la población en general, y más en concreto los universitarios, de una educación nutricional. Este grupo poblacional debería conocer que la dieta mediterránea, como prototipo de alimentación saludable, contribuye al mantenimiento de un óptimo estado de salud y que, aunque incluye todos los alimentos, su frecuencia de consumo debe seguir las pautas indicadas en la pirámide nutricional<sup>2</sup>. Por tanto, las normas dietéticas aplicables a estos universitarios consistirían básicamente en incrementar el consumo diario de fruta fresca, verduras y hortalizas frescas y/o crudas, pastas y/o arroz, frutos secos, leche y derivados, principalmente yogur y/o queso, así como legumbres y pescados por lo menos 2 ó 3 veces por semana; además de fomentar el consumo de aceite de oliva como única

grasa culinaria. Por otro lado, habría que recomendar el consumo ocasional de bollería industrial y dulces; además de insistir en la importancia de un desayuno diario que incluya cereales, lácteos y frutas<sup>39</sup>. Conviene advertir que este estudio adolece de una serie de limitaciones metodológicas, ya que no se registraron variables tales como características sociodemográficas, status socioeconómico familiar, nivel de estudios paternos y/o maternos, actividad física, hábitos sedentarios (siesta, televisión, ordenadores, horas de estudio, etc.) que definen el estilo de vida de los encuestados y que podrían condicionar, en cierta medida, el grado de adherencia a la dieta mediterránea<sup>13,20,28-30,40</sup>.

Sería conveniente diseñar programas de educación nutricional con el propósito de conseguir que la población en general, y los jóvenes en particular, estuvieran en condiciones de consumir una alimentación saludable. Para ello, los poderes públicos deberían promover el consejo dietético en programas de atención primaria y desarrollar programas de educación nutricional en la enseñanza reglada. Es más, dada la trascendente relación entre la dieta y el estado de salud, cabría plantearse la posibilidad de que pudieran incluirse materias de dietética y nutrición humana en los *curriculum* universitarios.

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Original

## Análisis comparativo del estado nutricional de vitamina D y de los hábitos de exposición solar de las participantes españolas (adolescentes y de edad avanzada) del Estudio de los Cinco Países (Proyecto OPTIFORD)

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### Resumen

**Introducción:** Mujeres adolescentes y de edad avanzada son importantes grupos de riesgo de sufrir déficit de vitamina D.

**Objetivo:** Analizar las diferencias en la ingesta y estatus bioquímico de vitamina D, y en los hábitos de exposición solar de las participantes españolas —adolescentes y mujeres de edad avanzada— del Estudio de los Cinco Países (Proyecto Optiford).

**Métodos:** Se aplicaron cuestionarios homologados y validados (estilo de vida, frecuencia de consumo de alimentos, etc), análisis bioquímico de 25-hidroxivitamina D y PTH, y evaluación de la exposición solar (dosímetro UV VioSpor).

**Resultados:** La exposición solar media de las adolescentes (1.519 J/m<sup>2</sup>) duplicó la de las mayores (740 J/m<sup>2</sup>). Las adolescentes presentaron un mejor estatus de vitamina D (61,55 nmol/l en verano y 45,81 nmol/l en invierno) que las ancianas (40,32 nmol/l en verano y 30,08 nmol/l en invierno) ( $p < 0,0001$ ).

**Conclusiones:** Los hábitos de exposición solar difieren significativamente entre adolescentes y mujeres de edad. Este hecho, junto con la menor aptitud para la síntesis cutánea de vitamina D en las segundas, puede justificar el peor estatus en esta vitamina.

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Palabras clave: Vitamina D. Exposición solar. Mujeres. Dieta. España.

### COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF VITAMIN D STATUS AND SOLAR EXPOSITION HABITS IN ADOLESCENT AND ELDERLY SPANISH WOMEN. THE FIVE COUNTRIES STUDY (OPTIFORD PROJECT)

### Abstract

**Introduction:** Vitamin D deficiency is known to be very common in adolescent girls and elderly women.

**Aim:** To analyze vitamin D status, vitamin D intake and solar exposure of Spanish participants in The Five Countries Study of Optiford Project.

**Methods:** Questionnaires approved and validated of lifestyle and food consumption frequency applied. The biochemical analysis of 25-hidroxivitamin D and PTH and the evaluation of the solar exposure (dosimeter UV VioSpor) were carried out.

**Results:** The average solar exposure of adolescent girls (1,519 J/m<sup>2</sup>) was double than elderly women (740 J/m<sup>2</sup>). The vitamin D status of adolescent girls in summer and winter was better than elderly women.

**Conclusions:** Solar exposure habits are different between the two age groups. This fact, jointly to the lower body's capacity to synthesize Vitamin D through exposure to the sun in the elderly, may justify the worse vitamin D status in this age group.

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Key words: Vitamin D. Solar exposure. Women. Diet. Spain.

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## Abreviaturas

IR: Ingestas recomendadas.  
PTH: Hormona paratiroidea o parathormona.  
S-25-OHD: 25-hidroxivitamina D sérica.  
UV: Ultravioleta.

## Introducción

Las mujeres adolescentes y de edad avanzada son dos importantes grupos de riesgo de sufrir déficit de vitamina D. Cada vez hay mayor evidencia de que, además del papel bien conocido sobre la salud músculo-esquelética, el estado nutricional en vitamina D puede estar relacionado con otras enfermedades no esqueléticas<sup>1</sup>.

El cuerpo humano obtiene la vitamina D de la dieta —principalmente de alimentos de origen animal en forma de colecalfiferol (vitamina D<sub>3</sub>)<sup>2</sup>— y de la síntesis cutánea —tras exponerse a las radiaciones UVB—, siendo esta última la principal fuente. Los suplementos farmacológicos (normalmente a base de ergocalciferol —vitamina D<sub>2</sub>—) pueden ser también una fuente adicional aconsejable en algunas situaciones de riesgo<sup>3</sup>.

El Estudio de los Cinco Países, estudio transversal y observacional, perteneciente al proyecto OPTIFORD (Towards a strategy for optimal vitamin D fortification) —financiado por la Unión Europea (QLRT-2000-00623)— tiene como objeto conocer el estatus de vitamina D en mujeres adolescentes y de edad avanzada, de cinco países europeos (Dinamarca, España, Finlandia, Irlanda y Polonia), en función de los distintos hábitos alimentarios y conductuales (exposición al sol y consumo de suplementos). Nuestro equipo de trabajo del Departamento de Nutrición de la Facultad de Farmacia de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM) fue el encargado de realizar este estudio en España.

## Objetivos

Hasta el momento ya se han publicado los resultados correspondientes al grupo de mujeres de edad avanzada<sup>4</sup> y al grupo de mujeres adolescentes<sup>5</sup>, por lo que en este trabajo se analizan las diferencias existentes entre ambos grupos, en relación al estatus de vitamina D, ingesta de vitamina D y calcio, y conducta ante la exposición al sol.

## Métodos

La muestra real estuvo constituida por 47 mujeres caucásicas adolescentes de la Comunidad de Madrid con edades comprendidas entre los 11 y los 13 años, siendo la edad media  $12,7 \pm 0,5$  años y por 53 mujeres caucásicas de vida independiente de 70 a 74 años, siendo la edad media  $72 \pm 1,6$  años. La muestra seleccionada no fue sometida a ningún criterio preliminar de

exclusión. Todas las personas que mostraron interés por participar y dieron su consentimiento previo de participación —en el caso de las menores también sus tutores— fueron incluidas en el estudio.

Los datos se recogieron mediante dos entrevistas personales realizadas a cada una de las participantes, una en verano y otra en invierno. La visita de verano se llevó a cabo en el período de julio a septiembre del 2002, y la de invierno en marzo del 2003. En ambas, la información fue recogida por personal cualificado y entrenado, utilizando distintos cuestionarios, previamente homologados y validados para todos los países participantes.

### *Cuestionario general*

El cuestionario general estandarizado fue distinto según la visita y el grupo de edad al que se le realizó<sup>4,5</sup>. En él se recogía, principalmente, información sobre el estado de salud (enfermedades, consumo de medicamentos y suplementos de vitamina D y/o calcio, etc) y los hábitos de exposición al sol (frecuencia con la que están al aire libre, actitud ante la exposición solar, ropa utilizada, uso de cremas fotoprotectoras, etc.).

### *Medida de la exposición solar*

Esta prueba se llevó a cabo en la visita de verano, época en la que la radiación solar UV es mayor. Para la medida de la exposición solar cada participante llevó durante una semana un dosímetro UV VioSpor y cumplieron un cuestionario diario sobre la actitud ante la exposición solar (tiempo que pasan al aire libre, ropa utilizada, etc.).

La descripción del uso y colocación del dosímetro así como el mecanismo del mismo y del cuestionario aparecen recogidos en las dos publicaciones previas que sobre este estudio se han hecho<sup>4,5</sup>.

### *Análisis bioquímico*

Las extracciones sanguíneas, tomadas en las dos visitas, se realizaron en la vena antecubital con el sujeto sentado y después de una noche de ayuno. La 25-hidroxivitamina D sérica (S-25-OHD) se analizó en el *Danish Institute for Food and Veterinary Research*, Søborg (Dinamarca) mediante HPLC, mientras que el análisis de la hormona paratiroidea sérica (PTH) se realizó en el *Department of Applied Chemistry and Microbiology, Division of Nutrition* (Universidad de Helsinki, Finlandia) mediante el método IRMA.

Para el juicio del estatus de vitamina D, el proyecto OPTIFORD propuso una escala gradual con los valores de la concentración sérica de la 25-OHD: estatus adecuado ( $> 50$  nmol/l), insuficiencia ( $\leq 50$  nmol/l) y deficiencia ( $\leq 25$  nmol/l)<sup>6</sup>.

| <b>Tabla I</b><br><b>Asociación entre adolescentes y mujeres de edad</b> |              |                 |                |                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Variables                                                                | Adolescentes | Mujeres de edad | $\Delta$ Media | P <sup>i</sup> |
|                                                                          | Media        | Media           |                |                |
| Dosímetro (J/m <sup>2</sup> )                                            |              |                 |                |                |
| Verano                                                                   | 1.519        | 740             | 779            | <0,0001        |
| Tiempo (horas/día) al aire libre                                         |              |                 |                |                |
| Verano                                                                   | 4,7          | 3,4             | 1,3            | 0,0004         |
| 25-OHD (nmol/l)                                                          |              |                 |                |                |
| Verano                                                                   | 61,55        | 40,32           | 21,23          | <0,0001        |
| Invierno                                                                 | 45,81        | 30,08           | 15,73          | <0,0001        |
| Diferencia                                                               | -15,01       | -10,92          | -4,09          | 0,12           |
| PTH (pmol/l)                                                             |              |                 |                |                |
| Verano                                                                   | 2,54         | 4,09            | -1,56          | <0,0001        |
| Invierno                                                                 | 2,33         | 4,10            | -1,77          | <0,0001        |
| Diferencia                                                               | -0,24        | 0,11            | -0,35          | 0,17           |
| Ingesta vitamina D (µg/día)                                              |              |                 |                |                |
| Verano                                                                   | 4,68         | 5,17            | -0,49          | 0,60           |
| Invierno                                                                 | 4,65         | 4,70            | -0,05          | 0,96           |
| Ingesta Ca (mg/día)                                                      |              |                 |                |                |
| Verano                                                                   | 1.398        | 1.377           | 21             | 0,87           |
| Invierno                                                                 | 1.219        | 1.073           | 146            | 0,21           |

<sup>i</sup>Test “t” de Student para dos muestras.

#### Estudio dietético

Se diseñó un cuestionario de frecuencia de consumo de alimentos estandarizado y selectivo que recogía información sobre la frecuencia de consumo durante el mes anterior a la visita (verano e invierno), de aquellos alimentos que, en la dieta media española, contribuyen al 95% de la ingesta de vitamina D y al 75% en el caso del calcio.

Para la codificación y el estudio de la composición de todos los alimentos se utilizó la tabla de composición de alimentos de Moreiras y cols.<sup>4,5,7</sup>.

#### Análisis estadístico

Cuando las variables cumplían las exigencias de normalidad y homogeneidad de las varianzas se aplicó la estadística paramétrica, empleándose la “t” de Student para dos muestras y para estudiar la posible asociación entre dos variables categóricas se realizó el test de la  $\chi^2$ .

#### Resultados

De forma muy significativa ( $p < 0,0001$ ), la exposición solar media de las adolescentes, tras llevar el dosímetro UV BioSpor durante una semana en el verano de 2002, fue de 1.519 J/m<sup>2</sup>, aproximadamente el doble que la de las mujeres de edad avanzada (740 J/m<sup>2</sup>). Además, durante esa semana, las adolescentes pasaron significativamente ( $p = 0,0004$ ) más tiempo al aire libre (4,7 horas) que las mujeres de edad avanzada (3,4 horas) (tabla I).

Al analizar la actitud ante la exposición solar durante el verano entre los dos grupos también se encuentran diferencias muy significativas ( $p < 0,0001$ ). Mientras que el 57% de las mujeres de edad “evitaba ponerse al sol” al 40% de las adolescentes “le gustaba estar frecuentemente al sol”. Además, hay más adolescentes (49%) que “a veces se ponían al sol” que mujeres de edad avanzada (32%), repercutiendo todo ello en el estatus de vitamina D (tabla II).

Tanto en verano como en invierno, las adolescentes (61,55 nmol/l en verano y 45,81 nmol/l en invierno)

| <b>Tabla II</b><br><b>Actitud ante la exposición solar en verano [n (%)]</b> |               |                         |                                |                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
|                                                                              | Evitan el sol | A veces se ponen al sol | Se ponen frecuentemente al sol | P <sup>i</sup> |
| Adolescentes                                                                 | 5 (11)        | 23 (49)                 | 19 (40)                        | <0,0001        |
| Mujeres de edad                                                              | 30 (57)       | 17 (32)                 | 6 (11)                         |                |

<sup>i</sup>Test de la  $\chi^2$ .

tuvieron, de forma muy significativa ( $p < 0,0001$ ), mayores niveles de S-25OHD que las mujeres de edad avanzada (40,32 nmol/l en verano y 30,08 nmol/l en invierno). Por el contrario, las mujeres de edad avanzada tuvieron mayores concentraciones séricas de PTH (4,09 pmol/l en verano y 4,10 pmol/l en invierno) que las adolescentes (2,54 pmol/l en verano y 2,33 pmol/l en invierno) ( $p < 0,0001$ ).

En lo referente a las ingestas dietéticas de calcio y vitamina D no hubo diferencias significativas, en ninguna de las dos visitas (tabla I). En el caso de las adolescentes, en ambas visitas, se alcanzó el 93% de las recomendaciones de vitamina D (5 µg/día)<sup>7</sup> y se superaron las recomendaciones de calcio (1.000 mg/día)<sup>7</sup>. Por el contrario, en el caso de las mujeres de edad avanzada únicamente se cubrieron el 34,5% y el 31,3% (verano e invierno, respectivamente) de las IR de vitamina D (15 µg/día)<sup>7</sup>, mientras que se superaron con creces (172% en verano y 134% en invierno) las IR de calcio (800 mg/día)<sup>7</sup>.

## **Discusión**

Las diferencias biológicas entre las adolescentes y las mujeres de edad hacen compleja la comparación en el estado en vitamina D de estos dos grupos. Este hecho justifica que, a parte del Estudio de los Cinco Países, existan pocos estudios en los que se comparen el estatus de vitamina D y los hábitos conductuales en relación a la exposición solar de mujeres adolescentes y de edad avanzada<sup>8</sup>.

Si comparamos nuestros datos con los obtenidos por los otros países participantes en el Estudio de los Cinco Países encontramos diferencias en el estatus de vitamina D durante el invierno. Las adolescentes del resto de los países participantes (norte de Europa) presentan un estatus medio de vitamina D inferior (alrededor de 10 nmol/l) al de las mujeres de edad<sup>6</sup>, comportamiento contrario al encontrado en España, donde las adolescentes presentan mejor estatus que las mujeres de edad, siendo la diferencia entre los estatus medios de 15,73 nmol/l. Acorde con estos resultados están los encontrados en el estudio irlandés de McCarthy y cols., que también compara mujeres de edad con adolescentes<sup>8</sup>.

Numerosos son los estudios en donde queda reflejada la variación estacional de los niveles de S-25-OHD, siendo más bajos los valores al final del invierno y más altos al final del verano<sup>9,10,11</sup>. Comparando entre grupos de edad, en un estudio realizado en Massachusetts a individuos mayores de 18 años, se encontró que los sujetos con mayor variación estacional en los niveles de S-25-OHD eran los del grupo de 18 a 29 años<sup>12</sup>. En nuestro caso, son también las más jóvenes, adolescentes, las que tienen mayor variación en los niveles de S-25-OHD (-15,01 nmol/l) al pasar del verano al invierno, siendo en esta estación, para los dos grupos, donde se encuentran menores niveles.

Al igual que en otros estudios realizados con distintos grupos de edad, se observa que con la edad se incrementa la concentración sérica de PTH<sup>13</sup> y disminuyen los niveles de S-25-OHD<sup>14,15</sup>. Esto puede ser debido a la menor capacidad de síntesis cutánea de vitamina D, al menor tiempo de exposición solar, a la utilización de vestimentas que cubren una mayor área corporal y/o a la actitud hacia la exposición solar (evitar o no ponerse al sol) que tienen las personas de edad.

El peor estado nutricional en vitamina D de la población femenina de mayor edad ha de tratarse, en primer lugar, con una adecuada exposición solar y con un aumento de la ingesta de este nutriente a través de la dieta, valorando en cada caso concreto las ventajas de una posible suplementación farmacológica.

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Original

## Mineral and/or milk supplementation of fruit beverages helps in the prevention of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced oxidative stress in Caco-2 cells

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### Abstract

**Introduction:** Fruit beverages are commonly supplemented with milk, vitamins and/or minerals in order to improve their healthy effects by providing some bioactive components that can act additively or synergistically against oxidative stress.

**Aims:** To test whether iron, zinc, and milk added to fruit beverages do not affect the cytoprotective effect against oxidative damage to Caco-2 cells through GSH-related enzymes induction and cell cycle progression preservation, in comparison with non-supplemented fruit beverage.

**Methods:** Caco-2 cells were incubated 24 h with the bioaccessible fraction (BF) of eight fruit beverages with/without iron and/or zinc, and/or milk, and then challenged with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (5 mmol L<sup>-1</sup> -2 h). Mitochondrial enzyme activities (MTT test), GSH-Rd and GSH-Px enzyme activities, cell cycle progression and caspase-3 activity were measured.

**Results and discussion:** Fruit beverages prevented the deleterious effect of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> on cell viability, with almost all samples reaching control basal levels. Only independent iron or zinc supplementation with/without milk exerted positive effects upon GSH-Rd activity. Both minerals with milk, afforded improved preservation of GSH-Px activity. All samples prevented the decrease in the G1 phase of cell cycle induced by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, except iron supplemented samples with/without milk, but none of them avoided the increase in sub-G1 phase. However, this fact was not associated to caspase-3 activity, with a probable positive effect of zinc upon this parameter.

**Conclusion:** Mineral and/or milk supplementation of fruit beverages helps in the prevention of oxidative stress in Caco-2 cells based on cell viability maintenance, GSH-related enzymes activation, cell cycle distribution preservation and inhibition of caspase-3 activation.

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Key words: Caco-2 cells. Fruit beverages. Minerals. Milk. Oxidative stress.

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### LA ADICIÓN DE MINERALES Y/O LECHE A BEBIDAS A BASE DE ZUMO DE FRUTAS AYUDA EN LA PREVENCIÓN DEL ESTRÉS OXIDATIVO INDUCIDO POR H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> EN CELULAS CACO-2

### Resumen

**Introducción:** En la actualidad las bebidas a base de zumo de frutas llevan adicionadas leche, vitaminas y/o minerales con objeto de mejorar sus efectos beneficiosos para la salud mediante el aporte de numerosos compuestos bioactivos que pueden actuar de forma aditiva o sinérgica frente al estrés oxidativo.

**Objetivos:** Evaluar si la adición de hierro, cinc y leche a las bebidas a base de zumo de frutas no afecta al efecto citoprotector frente al daño oxidativo en células Caco-2 a través de la inducción de enzimas del ciclo del GSH y la preservación de la progresión del ciclo celular, en comparación con la bebida a base de zumo de frutas no suplementada.

**Métodos:** Las células Caco-2 se incubaron 24 h con las fracciones bioaccesibles (FB) de ocho bebidas a base de zumo de frutas con/sin hierro y/o cinc y/o leche, y se sometieron a estrés oxidativo con H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (5 mmol L<sup>-1</sup> -2 h). Se determinó la actividad enzimática mitocondrial (test MTT), la actividad de las enzimas GSH-Rd y GSH-Px, la progresión del ciclo celular y la actividad de la enzima caspasa-3.

**Resultados y discusión:** Las bebidas a base de zumo de frutas previnieron del efecto perjudicial del H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> sobre la viabilidad celular, con casi todas las muestras alcanzando los niveles basales del control. Sólo la adición independiente de hierro o cinc con/sin leche ejerció efectos positivos sobre la actividad de la enzima GSH-Rd. Por otra parte, ambos minerales con leche proporcionaron una mejor preservación en la actividad de la enzima GSH-Px. Todas las muestras previnieron el descenso en la fase G1 del ciclo celular inducido por el H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, excepto la muestra adicionada de hierro, pero ninguna de ellas evitó el incremento en la fase subG1 del ciclo celular. Sin embargo, este hecho no estuvo asociado con la actividad de la enzima caspasa-3, con un probable efecto positivo del cinc sobre este parámetro.

**Conclusión:** La adición de minerales y/o leche a las bebidas a base de zumo de frutas ayuda en la prevención de estrés oxidativo en células Caco-2 mediante el mantenimiento de la viabilidad celular, activación de enzimas del ciclo del GSH, preservación de la progresión del ciclo celular e inhibición en la activación de la enzima caspasa-3.

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Palabras clave: Células Caco-2. Bebidas a base de frutas. Minerales. Leche. Estrés oxidativo.

## Abbreviations

BF: Bioaccessible fraction.  
GSH: Glutathione.  
GSH-Rd: Glutathione reductase.  
ROS: Reactive oxygen species.  
 $\Delta\psi_m$ : Mitochondrial membrane potential.  
SOD: Superoxide dismutase.  
MTT: 3-[4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl]-2,3-diphenyl tetrazolium bromide.  
CPPs: Caseinophosphopeptides.  
GSH-Px: Glutathione peroxidase.

## Introduction

The growing interest in functional foods has stimulated intensive research aimed at understanding their health benefits. At present, fruit beverages are commonly supplemented with milk, vitamins and/or minerals such as iron and zinc in order to improve their healthy effects by providing some of the so-called bioactive components.<sup>1,2</sup> Fruits<sup>3</sup> and citrus juices<sup>4</sup> contain many antioxidant compounds that can act additively or synergistically<sup>5</sup> against oxidative stress. In addition to their positive effect upon micronutrient bioavailability, a potential antioxidant role for isolated caseinophosphopeptides (CPPs) provided by milk, and formed during gastrointestinal digestion, has been suggested.<sup>6,7</sup>

Oxidative stress impairs the intracellular redox status, which is known to play a critical role in cell function and regulate cell proliferation.<sup>8</sup> It has been reported that human intestinal (Caco-2) cells metabolize reactive oxygen species (ROS) through the glutathione (GSH) cycle, and that intracellular GSH depletion reflects oxidative damage.<sup>9</sup> Physiologically, the functionality of the GSH cycle is conditioned by the mitochondrial production of reducing equivalents, and GSH precursors or intracellular GSH concentration has been found to affect cell proliferation.<sup>10</sup> Oxidative stress results in an imbalance between ROS accumulation and antioxidant defense systems in cells, thereby affecting mitochondrial integrity.<sup>11,12</sup> ROS accumulation affects the cell cycle checkpoints and control systems that regulate cell proliferation.<sup>13,14</sup>

Caco-2 cells have been successfully used to examine the effects of different foods, or food extracts, against oxidative stress, including phenolic apple juice extract,<sup>15</sup> plants (sage, rosemary and oregano)<sup>16</sup> and anthocyanin blackberry extracts,<sup>17</sup> or carotenoids<sup>18</sup> and flavonoids.<sup>19</sup> These studies have not considered aspects such as the potential instability and structural changes of antioxidants during digestion and/or interaction with other food components in the gut. Accordingly, the antioxidant capacity inherent to foods or their individual components may be overestimated.

Several *in vitro* procedures simulating the human gastrointestinal digestion process have been developed to evaluate the stability and bioaccessibility of

carotenoids in commonly consumed herbs,<sup>20</sup> and antioxidant compounds (such as polyphenols) in raspberry<sup>21</sup> and in fruit beverages.<sup>11,22-24</sup> The antioxidant effect of bioaccessible fractions of fruit beverages, with/without skimmed milk and/or mineral supplements, against H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced oxidative damage to fully differentiated Caco-2 cells<sup>11</sup> has been described. Although the bioaccessible fraction of fruit beverages did not prevent intracellular ROS accumulation, a more preserved mitochondrial membrane potential ( $\Delta\psi_m$ ) and thus mitochondrial enzyme activity, was observed.<sup>11</sup> To the best of our knowledge, little information is available on the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-mediated effects and potential cytoprotective action of fruit beverages supplemented with minerals and/or milk upon the cell cycle progression of fully differentiated Caco-2 cells. In this respect, as far as we are aware, only Laparra et al.<sup>7</sup> have reported the positive effect of isolated CPPs and bioaccessible fraction of fruit beverages with/without milk upon the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-mediated decrease in the G1 phase cell population; in addition, these samples preserved GSH-reductase activity - a sensitive biomarker of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced oxidative stress.

## Objectives

Taking these facts into account, and based on previous findings in which the total antioxidant capacity of these beverages was not reduced by either gastrointestinal digestion or mineral and/or milk supplementation,<sup>23</sup> the present study continues previous work<sup>11</sup> and reflects novel data with the aim of determining if dietary factors such as iron, zinc, and milk added to fruit beverages do not adversely affect the cytoprotective effect of these beverages against H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced oxidative damage to Caco-2 cells through GSH-related enzymes induction (reductase and peroxidase), cell cycle progression preservation, and avoiding cell death apoptosis related processes (rise in subG1 cell cycle phase and activation of caspase-3) in comparison to non supplemented fruit beverage.

## Materials and methods

### Samples

A fruit beverage (Fb) (grape + orange + apricot) with/without iron (Fe) and/or zinc (Zn), and with/without skimmed milk (M), was used in this work, with the following references: Fb, FbFe, FbZn, FbFeZn, FbM, FbFeM, FbZnM and FbFeZnM. The compositions of the aforementioned samples are shown in table I.

### *In vitro* digestion

To simulate the human gastrointestinal digestive process, samples of fruit juices (80 g) were subjected to

| <b>Table 1</b><br><i>Composition of the fruit beverages assayed</i> |        |        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Component (g kg <sup>-1</sup> )                                     | Sample |        |
|                                                                     | Fb     | FbM    |
| Osmosis water                                                       | 5.87   | 5.77   |
| Apricot puree                                                       | 2.45   | 2.45   |
| Grape concentrate                                                   | 0.72   | 0.72   |
| Orange concentrate                                                  | 0.42   | 0.42   |
| Sugar                                                               | 0.51   | 0.51   |
| Skimmed milk powder                                                 | –      | 0.104  |
| Classic pectin                                                      | 0.04   | 0.04   |
| Vitamin C (L-ascorbic acid)                                         | 0.0054 | 0.0054 |

Fb = Fruit beverages with/without mineral supplementation. Fe (sulphate, 0.0003 g Fe kg<sup>-1</sup> fruit beverage) and/or Zn (sulphate, 0.00016 g Zn kg<sup>-1</sup> fruit beverage).  
 FbM = Fruit beverages with skimmed milk (0.104 g kg<sup>-1</sup> fruit beverage) with/without mineral supplementation.

an *in vitro* procedure as previously described.<sup>11</sup> After gastric (pepsin-pH 2) and intestinal (pancreatin and bile extract-pH 6.5) steps, and prior to the assays with Caco-2 cells, the digests were heated for 4 min. at 100°C to inhibit sample proteases, and were then quickly immersed in an ice bath. Twenty-gram aliquots of the inactivated digests were transferred to polypropylene centrifuge tubes and centrifuged at 3,890 g for 60 min. at 4°C to separate the soluble fractions, which were pooled. Glucose (5 mmol L<sup>-1</sup> final concentration) and HEPES (N-2-hydroxyethylpiperazine-N-2-ethanesulfonic acid) (50 mmol L<sup>-1</sup> final concentration) were added to the soluble fraction, and finally water was added to adjust the osmolarity to 310 ± 10 mOsm kg<sup>-1</sup> (freezing point osmometer, Osmomat 030). The soluble fraction obtained is here referred to as the bioaccessible (BF) fraction, and represents the maximum soluble fraction of food-derived compounds in the simulated gastrointestinal media that would be available for absorption.

#### Caco-2 cell culture

The Caco-2 cell line was obtained from the European Collection of Cell Cultures (ECACC 86010202, Salisbury, UK). Cultures were maintained and grown as previously described.<sup>25</sup> For the assays, Caco-2 cells were seeded onto 24-well plates (Costar Corp., USA) at a density of 5 × 10<sup>4</sup> cells cm<sup>-2</sup> with 1 mL of minimum essential medium (MEM), and the culture medium was replaced every two days. Fifteen to 18 days after initial seeding, the culture medium was aspirated, and the cell monolayers were washed twice with PBS warmed to 37°C. The cells were then incubated for 24 h with the BF of fruit beverages diluted in MEM (1:1 v/v). Posteriorly, culture medium was removed and the cells were washed twice with PBS at 37°C. For the induction of oxidative stress, cell cultures were exposed to a 5 mmol

L<sup>-1</sup> H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> solution in MEM for 2 h. Afterwards, the cultures were washed twice with PBS (37°C) and used to monitor the biological parameters as described below.

#### Evaluation of mitochondrial enzyme function

The mitochondrial functionality of the Caco-2 cells was evaluated by using the MTT (3-[4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl]-2,3-diphenyl tetrazolium bromide) assay, as previously reported.<sup>11</sup> This colorimetric method is based on reduction of the tetrazolium ring of MTT by mitochondrial dehydrogenases,<sup>26</sup> yielding a blue formazan product which can be measured spectrophotometrically; the amount of formazan produced is proportional to the number of viable cells. The conversion to insoluble formazan was measured at 570 nm with background subtraction at 690 nm. Control cells were used in each assay.

#### Measurement of GSH-reductase (GSH-Rd) and GSH-peroxidase (GSH-Px) activities

GSH cycle enzyme activities were measured as previously described for GSH-Rd<sup>27</sup> and GSH-Px.<sup>28</sup> These methods monitor the decomposition of NADPH at 340 nm. Briefly, to determine GSH-Rd, an aliquot (50 µL) of the cell homogenate was mixed with 140 µL of 100 mmol L<sup>-1</sup> phosphate buffer containing 5 mmol L<sup>-1</sup> EDTA. Then, 15 µL of a 10 mmol L<sup>-1</sup> NADPH solution and 100 µL of a 20 mmol L<sup>-1</sup> GSSG solution were added to the cell homogenate. The decrease in absorbance (λ, 340 nm) was recorded every minute for 10 minutes using a Multilabel Plate Counter VICTOR<sup>3</sup> 1420 (Perkin Elmer, Turku, Finland). GSH-Px activity was measured in an aliquot (50 µL) of the cell homogenate mixed with 150 µL of 100 mmol L<sup>-1</sup> phosphate buffer containing 1 mmol L<sup>-1</sup> EDTA. Then, 25 µL of 2.4 U GSH-Rd activity mL<sup>-1</sup> and 25 µL of 10 mmol L<sup>-1</sup> GSH solution in 100 mmol L<sup>-1</sup> phosphate buffer were added, and the mixture was incubated (37°C - 5 min). Afterwards, 15 µL of a 10 mmol L<sup>-1</sup> NADPH solution was added, and the decrease in absorbance (λ, 340 nm) was recorded. Changes in the rate of absorbance were converted into units of GSH-Rd and GSH-Px using a molar extinction coefficient of 6.22 × 10<sup>3</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>, and the results were expressed as a percentage of the control. One unit of activity was defined as the oxidation of 1 µmol of NADPH per minute.

#### Cell cycle analysis

Cell cycle analysis was performed by propidium iodide (PI) staining of DNA content in exposed cultures.<sup>29</sup> Briefly, cells were washed with PBS and resuspended in 1 mL of lysis buffer [1 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> of trisodium citrate, 1 µL mL<sup>-1</sup> of sodium dodecyl sulfate (0.5% w/v), 0.05 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> PI, and 1 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> of RNase A (Sigma, P4875)]. After

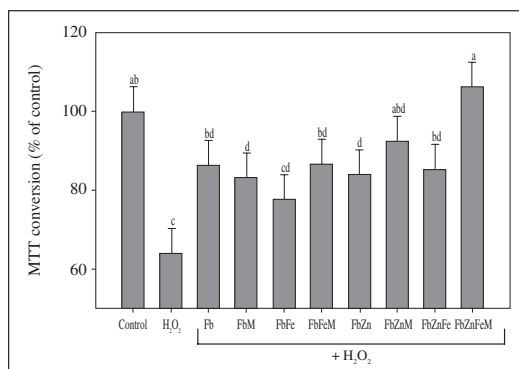


Fig. 1.—Mitochondria enzyme activities in cell cultures, preincubated (24 h) or not with fruit beverages, exposed to 5 mmol L<sup>-1</sup> H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (2 h). Fruit beverage (Fb) (grape + orange + apricot) with/without iron (Fe) and/or zinc (Zn) and with/without skimmed milk (M). Results are expressed as mean ± standard deviation (SD) (n = 4). Different letter on the bars indicate significant statistically (p < 0.05) differences analysed by one-way ANOVA followed by Fischer's LSD post hoc test.

incubation overnight at 4°C, the released nuclei were resuspended by agitation with a Pasteur pipette, and the fluorescence was analyzed by flow cytometry (Coulter, EPICS XL-MCL, USA) at  $\lambda_{exc}$  = 536 nm and  $\lambda_{em}$  = 617 nm. Control cells were used in each assay.

#### Caspase-3 activity

Caspase-3 colorimetric determination (CASP-3C kit, Sigma) was based on hydrolysis of the peptide substrate acetyl-Asp-Glu-Val-Asp p-nitroanilide (Ac-DEVD-pNA, Sigma) by caspase-3, resulting in release of the p-nitroaniline (pNA) moiety. The concentration of the pNA released from the substrate was calculated from the absorbance values at 405 nm and from a calibration curve prepared with defined pNA solutions. Results were expressed as a percentage of active caspase-3-positive cells in control cultures.

#### Statistical analyses

Results are presented as means ± SD (n = 4). One-way analysis of variance and Fischer's LSD post hoc test were applied. A significance level of p < 0.05 was adopted for all comparisons. Statgraphics Plus version 5.1 (Rockville, Maryland, USA) was used for the statistical analysis.

### Results

#### Mitochondrial enzyme activities

The incubation period with BF (1:1, v/v in MEM) of fruit beverages was not overtly toxic to the cell cul-

tures, as concluded from the MTT conversion values (74.9-132.5%) determined in the cell cultures prior to the induction of oxidative stress. The effects of mineral and/or milk supplementation of fruit beverages against H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-mediated oxidative stress in Caco-2 cultures are shown in figure 1. Direct H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> exposure of cell cultures caused a sharp (p < 0.05) decrease in MTT conversion values, demonstrating the deleterious effect of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced oxidative stress upon cell cultures. On the other hand, cell cultures incubated with the BF of fruit beverages exhibited more preserved mitochondrial enzyme function after exposure to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> with almost all samples reaching control basal levels. As regards mineral supplementation, neither Fe nor Zn exerted a negative effect upon MTT conversion. Milk supplementation had a clear positive effect compared with its counterpart, when both minerals were present together.

#### GSH cycle enzyme activities: GSH-Rd and GSH-Px

The incubation of cell cultures with the bioaccessible fraction of fruit beverages not subjected to oxidative stress did not impair either GSH-Rd or -Px activity, as concluded from the values ranging between 94.4-265.4% of the control values. The effect of mineral and milk supplementation upon GSH cycle enzyme activities after H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-exposure is shown in figure 2. Direct H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> exposure of cell cultures primarily affected GSH-Px activity (p < 0.05), but surprisingly not GSH-Rd activity. In general, pre-treatment of cells with BF prior to oxidative stress provoked an induction of both enzymes (with the exception of Fb and FbZnFe for GSH-Px) what could be expected as a preparation of the cell against a potential oxidative injury. Mineral supplementation exerted a positive effect upon both GSH-Rd

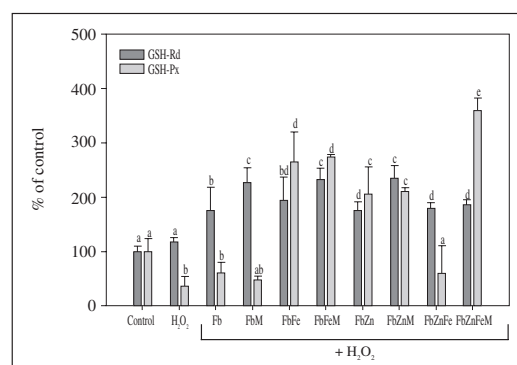


Fig. 2.—GSH reductase (GSH-Rd) and GSH-peroxidase (GSH-Px) enzyme activities in Caco-2 cultures, preincubated (24 h) or not with fruit beverages, exposed to 5 mmol L<sup>-1</sup> H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (2 h). Fruit beverage (Fb) (grape + orange + apricot) with/without iron (Fe) and/or zinc (Zn) and with/without skimmed milk (M). Results are expressed as mean ± standard deviation (SD) (n = 4). Different letter on the bars indicate significant statistically (p < 0.05) differences analysed by one-way ANOVA followed by Fischer's LSD post hoc test.

**Table II**  
Effect of 5 mmol L<sup>-1</sup> H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (2 h) on cell cycle progression in Caco-2 cell cultures preincubated (24 h) or not with the bioaccessible fraction of a fruit beverage (Fb) (grape + orange + apricot) with/without iron (Fe) and/or zinc (Zn) and with/without skimmed milk (M)

|                               | Sample                        | sub-G <sub>1</sub>        | G <sub>1</sub>             | S                           | G <sub>2</sub> /M           |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> | Control                       | 0.60 ± 0.10 <sup>a</sup>  | 71.46 ± 2.18 <sup>ab</sup> | 9.32 ± 2.16 <sup>a</sup>    | 14.85 ± 3.23 <sup>abc</sup> |
|                               | H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> | 5.36 ± 0.56 <sup>b</sup>  | 58.82 ± 0.66 <sup>c</sup>  | 11.35 ± 1.02 <sup>abc</sup> | 15.71 ± 1.84 <sup>bc</sup>  |
|                               | Fb                            | 3.40 ± 0.87 <sup>c</sup>  | 65.16 ± 3.97 <sup>de</sup> | 13.18 ± 2.61 <sup>cd</sup>  | 15.08 ± 2.39 <sup>abc</sup> |
|                               | FbM                           | 5.74 ± 1.99 <sup>b</sup>  | 71.26 ± 5.46 <sup>ab</sup> | 14.36 ± 1.94 <sup>de</sup>  | 12.09 ± 1.99 <sup>a</sup>   |
|                               | FbFe                          | 8.35 ± 0.48 <sup>d</sup>  | 61.00 ± 0.45 <sup>c</sup>  | 10.25 ± 0.13 <sup>ab</sup>  | 17.28 ± 0.90 <sup>c</sup>   |
|                               | FbFeM                         | 4.73 ± 0.55 <sup>bc</sup> | 63.19 ± 1.85 <sup>ce</sup> | 17.53 ± 1.69 <sup>f</sup>   | 16.31 ± 3.11 <sup>c</sup>   |
|                               | FbZn                          | 8.60 ± 0.88 <sup>de</sup> | 65.63 ± 0.17 <sup>de</sup> | 14.86 ± 0.87 <sup>de</sup>  | 15.26 ± 0.89 <sup>abc</sup> |
|                               | FbZnM                         | 5.30 ± 0.98 <sup>b</sup>  | 67.89 ± 0.25 <sup>de</sup> | 16.58 ± 1.01 <sup>ef</sup>  | 12.80 ± 1.31 <sup>ab</sup>  |
|                               | FbFeZn                        | 10.34 ± 2.05 <sup>e</sup> | 71.69 ± 2.59 <sup>ab</sup> | 13.67 ± 0.86 <sup>cd</sup>  | 14.00 ± 1.79 <sup>abc</sup> |
|                               | FbFeZnM                       | 8.42 ± 0.17 <sup>d</sup>  | 72.68 ± 3.03 <sup>a</sup>  | 12.40 ± 0.37 <sup>bcd</sup> | 14.85 ± 1.48 <sup>abc</sup> |

Results are percentage of cell population in each cycle phase and are expressed as mean ± standard deviation (n = 4). \*\*Different case letter indicate significant statistically (p < 0.05) differences in the same column analysed by one-way ANOVA followed by Fischer's LSD post hoc test.

and -Px activity, although GSH-Px in cell cultures incubated with the sample FbFeZn did not differ from the controls. On the other hand, milk supplementation exerted a significant (p < 0.05) effect upon GSH-Rd activity relative to its respective counterparts, except when both minerals were supplemented together (FbFeZn and FbFeZnM). In contrast, GSH-Px activity proved highest in cultures incubated with FbFeZnM.

#### Cell cycle analysis and caspase-3 activity

Oxidative stress-induced alterations in the cell cycle phase populations are shown in table II. Cell cultures directly exposed to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> showed a marked decrease (17.6%) in the G<sub>1</sub> phase population with respect to control cultures. The incubation of cell cultures with samples supplemented with Fe, with/without milk, did not prevent the decrease in G<sub>1</sub> phase population, and only cell cultures incubated with samples FbM, FbFeZn and FbFeZnM exhibited a cell cycle profile closely resembling the controls. The other samples showed higher G<sub>1</sub> phase than H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> stressed cells without reaching control levels. These observations were accompanied by corresponding increases (p < 0.05) in the S phase populations, but not in cell cultures directly exposed to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and FbFe sample. In all cases, the G<sub>2</sub>/M phase population was unaltered, probably because of the short H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> exposure time (2 h) involved. In addition, none of the samples avoided the increase in sub-G<sub>1</sub> phase evoked by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>.

The H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-mediated deleterious effect upon Caco-2 cultures is evidenced by the sharp increase (p < 0.05) in caspase-3 activity compared to the controls (fig. 3). The results suggest that fruit beverages likely exerted a positive effect against H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced caspase-3 activation, as concluded from the statistically non significant (p > 0.05) differences recorded versus the controls.

Mineral, but not milk supplementation, seemed to interfere with caspase-3 activation. The potential pro-oxidant contribution of Fe supplementation to fruit beverages did not exert any additional effect upon caspase-3 activation. In addition, the data suggested a likely positive effect of Zn supplementation, alone and/or with Fe, upon caspase-3 activation, since its presence in BF is related to a suppressing in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced enhancement of caspase-3 activity.

#### Discussion

Oxidative stress was induced in human intestinal cell cultures (Caco-2) with a concentration of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> chosen

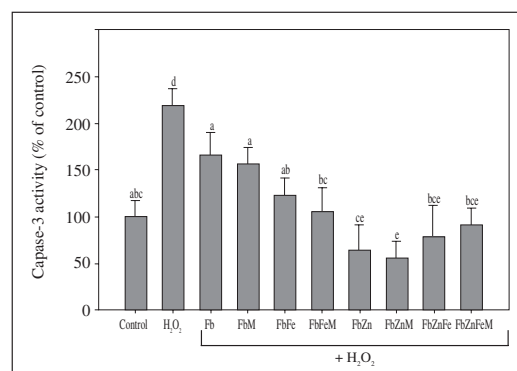


Fig. 3.—Effects of 5 mmol L<sup>-1</sup> H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (2 h) on caspase-3 activity in Caco-2 cells preincubated (24 h) or not with bioaccessible fractions of a fruit beverage (Fb) (grape + orange + apricot) with/without iron (Fe) and/or zinc (Zn) and with/without skimmed milk (M). Results are expressed as mean ± standard deviation (SD) (n = 4). Different letter on the bars indicate significant statistically (p < 0.05) differences analysed by one-way ANOVA followed by Fischer's LSD post hoc test.

from the broad range (10  $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$  to 10  $\text{mmol L}^{-1}$ ) reported in the literature,<sup>18,30</sup> and established for these experiments in previous studies by our group.<sup>7,11</sup>  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ -induced oxidative cytotoxicity is associated with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  diffusion into the mitochondrial matrix, and the subsequent cytochrome c-mediated degradation of phospholipids.<sup>12,18</sup> Accordingly, the decreased MTT conversion values (%) evidence the deleterious effect of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ -induced oxidative stress upon cell mitochondrial enzyme activities. The better-preserved MTT conversion values in cultures incubated with fruit beverages suggest a likely positive effect of the latter against oxidative stress, maintaining cell viability.

It is accepted that intracellular GSH depletion reflects oxidative stress,<sup>31,32</sup> and changes in GSH cycle enzymes have been proposed as fairly sensitive biomarkers of Caco-2 cellular response to  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ -induced oxidative stress.<sup>18,30</sup> Caco-2 cells exhibit antioxidant enzyme mechanisms - a reduced/oxidized glutathione balance (GSH/GSSG) being one of the principal systems involved in the adaptation and prevention of cell oxidative damage.<sup>9,30</sup> The accumulation of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  within cells, and the subsequent impairment of internal mitochondrial membrane integrity,<sup>11</sup> cause uncoupling in cell metabolism and the production of reducing equivalents, which could explain the observed decrease in GSH-Px. A similar effect, although accompanied by increased GSH-Rd, was observed in cultures exposed to FbM sample. Despite the unequivocal potential benefits of Fe supplementation for nutritional status, there is controversy as to whether such supplementation may contribute to oxidative stress. In our study, mineral supplementation did not impair the protection afforded by fruit beverages against  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ -induced oxidative damage. Antioxidant effects have been attributed *in vitro* to mineral solutions; Zn (0-200  $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ ) preserved intracellular sulfhydryl groups because of the induced synthesis of metallothioneins,<sup>33</sup> and Fe could catalyze the decomposition of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ .<sup>34</sup> In this study, the positive effect of milk supplementation upon GSH-Rd activity agrees with the reported effects of purified phosphopeptides from casein in skimmed milk<sup>7</sup> and oligophosphopeptides from hen egg yolk<sup>31</sup> upon Caco-2 cells. However, in this study we cannot rule out the participation of milk components other than CPPs in the milk-mediated positive effect observed.

Considerable scientific evidence indicates that redox signaling mechanisms function in cell regulation and growth control<sup>35,36</sup> - GSH participating in DNA synthesis and cellular resistance to apoptosis.<sup>37</sup> It has been reported that peroxides cause alteration of the G1 checkpoint in cycle progression,<sup>13</sup> and specifically  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  causes the targeted oxidation of cellular molecules such as DNA, proteins, and lipids - leading to mutagenesis and cell death.<sup>38</sup> These findings could explain the decreased G1 cell proportion and the observed increase in S phase population, which may reflect the tissue response. This hypothesis is sup-

ported by the increased GSH-Rd/Px activities observed, and is in agreement with the up-regulation of c-glutamylcysteine synthetase gene previously reported.<sup>38</sup>

In cell cycle analysis, the sub-G1 population is commonly regarded, though not exclusively, as representing hypo-diploid cells and could be considered as an indicator of apoptotic cell death;<sup>17</sup> however,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ -mediated DNA strand rupture cannot be ruled out when concentrations higher than 1  $\text{mmol L}^{-1}$  are used.<sup>39</sup> In this study of the relationship between the increased sub-G1 cell population and the potential participation of apoptotic cell death we determined caspase-3 activity, since it is one of the major executing enzymes in programmed cell death. At a first glance, the results suggest likely DNA strand rupture under the experimental conditions used, since no relationship between the sub-G1 phase populations and caspase-3 activity was found. This could be concordant with the increased sub-G1 peak in HepG2 cells challenged with bisphenanthroline-coumarin-6,7-dioacetatocopper (II) complex, attributed to peripheral chromatin condensation and large-scale DNA fragmentation.<sup>40</sup> The similar ( $p > 0.05$ ) caspase-3 activity observed in cell cultures incubated with mineral supplemented samples coincides with previous reports.<sup>33,41,42</sup> It has been indicated that metallothioneins, because of their nuclear localization, responding to Zn and Zn-Fe treatments, may play a role in preventing DNA damage and apoptosis.<sup>43</sup> Furthermore, Zn enhanced the Bcl-2/Bax ratio and reduced caspase-3 activity in Caco-2 cells treated with a  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ -generating system.<sup>42</sup> Regarding milk supplementation, Phelan et al.<sup>44</sup> have also recently reported the absence of genoprotective effects of casein hydrolysates against  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ -induced DNA damage in Caco-2 cells. However,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  exposure of cell cultures incubated with isolated CPPs from skimmed milk did not result in significantly increased sub-G1 phase population values<sup>7</sup>.

## Conclusion

The results obtained in the present study suggest that fruit beverages exert positive effects against  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ -induced oxidative stress in Caco-2 cell cultures. In addition, these effects are improved by mineral- and/or milk-supplementation. This conclusion is based on the observation of better-preserved GSH cycle enzyme activities, cell cycle distribution preservation and the fact that caspase-3 activity was not induced in cultures incubated with fruit beverages and challenged with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ -induced oxidative stress. However, fruit beverages failed to prevent the increase in sub-G1 phase population, which we hypothesize is primarily due to  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ -induced DNA fragmentation, but only affects as much as 10% of cell population in agreement with cell viability maintenance. To summarize, mineral- and milk-supplementation together

could help in nutritional strategies designed to comply with the dietary intake recommendations of antioxidants and minerals. However, it is important to point out that *in vitro* studies do not completely reflect the *in vivo* situation; accordingly, animal and human trials would be needed to confirm the beneficial effects of these fruit beverages.

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Original

## La glucemia de las primeras 24 horas no es un factor pronóstico de mortalidad en pacientes críticos

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### Resumen

**Introducción:** Las alteraciones de la glucemia han mostrado ser un factor de riesgo en patologías como la cardiopatía isquémica y el paciente neurológico. La constatación de que su control estricto en niveles estrechos de la normalidad, determinaba una disminución en mortalidad y morbilidad han dado lugar a estudios intentando corroborar los resultados y ampliar a otros campos patológicos.

**Objetivos:** Determinar si la alteración de la glucemia, per se, era un factor de riesgo para mortalidad en una muestra de pacientes ingresados en una unidad de medicina intensiva, con predominio de pacientes quirúrgico-traumáticos.

**Métodos:** Se revisan las características demográficas, analíticas y de variables de monitorización habitual en UCI, en una muestra de 2.554 pacientes correspondientes a ingresos entre el 1 de enero de 2004 y 31 de diciembre de 2008. Se extrajeron los datos de un repositorio que adquiere los datos del programa de monitorización en intensivos CareVue®. Se procesaron mediante la aplicación Excel con la utilidad hojas dinámicas, creando las variables glucemia inicial, glucemia promedio de las primeras 24 horas, y número de determinaciones. Del resto de variables analíticas y de monitorización se construyeron las correspondientes al promedio del primer día de ingreso, así como su número de determinaciones realizadas en ese primer día. La glucemia se determinó en sangre completa no capilar. Para el estudio estadístico se estratificó la muestra en dos grupos: a) Muestra General (MG) y b) excluyendo a los pacientes con ingreso tras cirugía programada (EQP). En ambos se comprobó el efecto de la glucemia inicial y la promediada. El grupo b se segmentó en dos según el número de determinaciones b1) una sola determinación de glucemia (EQP1) y b2) múltiples determinaciones (EQPM). De este grupo sin pacientes quirúrgicos programados, se repitió el estudio en aquellos pacientes con una duración de estancia de 3 o más días en

### BLOOD GLUCOSE LEVELS IN THE FIRST 24 HOURS OF ADMISSION IS NOT A RISK FACTOR FOR MORTALITY IN CRITICAL CARE PATIENTS

### Abstract

**Introduction:** Glycemic alterations are known as a risk condition of death in several diseases, such as ischemic cardiovascular and neurological disorders. The fact that its tight control under narrow normality levels decreases mortality and morbidity have led to further studies seeking to confirm the results and expand them to other disease areas.

**Objectives:** To determine whether glycemic changes by themselves are a mortality risk factor in a sample of patients within an Intensive Care Unit (ICU), among which predominates traumatic-surgical patients.

**Methods:** Demographic and analytical characteristics were revised, as well as common monitoring variables in an ICU, among a sample of 2,554 patients from admissions between 1st January 2004 and 31 December 2008. Data were obtained from a database which endorsed records compiled with the monitoring ICU patients program "Carevue". They were processed with dynamics sheets included in the Excel software with the following variables: initial glycemia, mean glycemia during the first 24 hours and number of determinations performed. We used the mean value in the admission day of the remaining analytical and monitoring variables and the number of test performed on this first day. The sample was stratified in two groups for the statistical analysis: a) General Sample (MG) and b) sample excluding patients admitted after a programmed surgery (EQP). In both cases the effect of initial and averaged glycemia was checked. Group b was divided in two, according to the number of determinations b1) a single blood glucose determination group (EQP1) and b2) a multiple determination group (EQPM). From this group of non-programmed surgical patients the study was repeated in those patients who stayed at the ICU 3 or more days (EQP3D). Chi-square and Mantel-Haenszel test for the ODD ratio determination were performed for qualitative variables; quantitative variables were examined with the Mann-Whitney test. At each analysis level, logistic regression was performed using mortality as the dependent variable, including those variables with p-values < 0.05 which represented more than 60% of the data. An initially saturated model

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UCI (EQP3D). Se empleó  $\chi^2$  para variables cualitativas y Mantel Haenzel para cálculo de ODD ratio; Mann-Whitney para las cuantitativas. En cada nivel de análisis, las variables con  $p < 0,05$  y que tenían una representación superior al 60% en los datos, se incluyeron en análisis de regresión logística, con la mortalidad como variable dependiente. Se empleó el modelo saturado de inicio con backward hasta la ecuación final. Se emplearon las aplicaciones estadísticas SPSS y GSTAT 2. Se estimó como significativo  $p < 0,05$ .

**Resultados y discusión:** Se estudiaron un total de 2.165 pacientes de los 2.554 que ingresaron en el periodo de estudio (96,5%). Los excluidos lo fueron por carecer de determinaciones de glucemia plasmática. En el estudio bivariado, la glucemia de inicio y la promedio mostraron diferencias significativas de mortalidad, ya en cifras absolutas, en la estratificación a tres niveles ( $< 60$  mg/dL; 60-110 mg/dL y  $> 110$  mg/dL) y en la estratificación de normal (60 a 110 mg/dL) frente a valores anormales ( $< 60$  o  $> 110$  mg/dL). Esta significación se pierde al realizar el modelo logístico. Del resto de las variables empleadas, la función renal y el NEMS se muestran como factores de riesgo para la mortalidad en esta muestra.

**Conclusiones:** La hiperglucemia es un fenómeno prevalente en pacientes graves. La hipoglucemia es menos frecuente, y marca una mayor mortalidad. La glucemia de inicio, per se, no fue factor de riesgo para mortalidad en el estudio multivariado y a ninguno de los niveles estudiados. La glucemia promedio no añadió ningún poder de predicción. Al menos en lo relacionado a las primeras 24 horas, las alteraciones de la glucemia parecen responder más a un proceso de adaptación que marcar per se, un riesgo en el alta del paciente.

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Palabras clave: Glucemia. Mortalidad. Factores de riesgo. Regresión logística. Cuidados intensivos.

## Introducción

La hiperglucemia inicial en enfermos graves se ha identificado como determinante independiente del pronóstico, en pacientes con trauma craneal<sup>1,2</sup>, con infarto agudo de miocardio (IAM)<sup>3-6</sup> y en accidentes vasculares cerebrales (ACVA)<sup>7</sup>. Su control estricto ha llevado, en un grupo con predominio de pacientes postquirúrgicos cardíacos<sup>8</sup>, a ser recomendado por sociedades científicas e incluso agencias reguladoras, e instituciones sanitarias con un nivel alto<sup>9</sup>.

Se ha observado como la hiperglucemia de estrés puede ocurrir durante la fase aguda de la enfermedad en el 5 al 30% de diferentes patologías, ACVA, IAM, sepsis, quemados, trauma, quirúrgicos, entre otras. Su aparición se ha relacionado a un pronóstico peor. El mecanismo por el cual se justifica esta mayor morbimortalidad no está suficientemente aclarado. Son diversas las teorías invocadas para explicar la influencia de la hiperglucemia en la alteración de la capacidad de defensa frente a la infección, su influencia en el fenómeno isquémico-reperusión y el retraso en la

curación de las heridas. El aumento del estrés oxidativo, con mayor producción de superóxido, que limpian el NO endógeno, con una mayor inestabilidad eléctrica cardíaca y aumentando el tono vascular periférico al atenuar la dilatación vascular dependiente de la respuesta endotelial al NO. Puede activar la activación leucocitaria, y aumentar la interacción de estos con el endotelio tras isquemia reperusión. La diabetes-hiperglucemia, puede atenuar el pre-condicionamiento cardíaco posiblemente inhibiendo los canales del K-ATP sensibles, que podrían ser protectores al permitir la activación de la glucólisis en el citosol<sup>10-13</sup>.

**Results and discussion:** A total of 2,165 of the 2,554 admitted patients during the study period were included (96.5%). Exclusion criteria were absence of plasma glucose determinations. In the bivariate analysis, first and mean glucose blood levels showed significant differences in mortality rates in absolute figures and also when data were classified stratified in three levels ( $< 60$  mg/dl; 60-110 mg/dl or  $> 110$  mg/dl) or in two (normal values 60 to 110 mg/dl and unusual figures  $< 60$  mg/dl or  $> 110$  mg/dl). These significant differences were lost when a logistic model was applied. From the remaining variables, renal function and NEMS showed to be mortality risks factors in this sample.

**Conclusions:** Hyperglycemia is a predominant phenomenon in critically ill patients. Hypoglycemia is less frequent and is associated with higher mortality rates. Initial glucose blood level, by itself, was not a mortality risk factor in the multivariate study and at none of the studied levels. Average glycemia did not add any prediction power. The changes in glucose blood levels seemed to be an adaptation process, which determined by itself a risk for the patient's discharge, at least in the first 24 hours period after ICU admission.

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Key words: Glycemia. Mortality. Risk factors. Logistic models. Critical care.

La hiperglucemia en el paciente crítico, puede ser debida a diabetes previa, sea conocida o no; intolerancia-resistencia a insulina; secundaria al estrés; o debida a alteración de la misma en el ayuno. La alteración y su variabilidad en las cifras de glucemia<sup>14</sup> parecen ser lesivos en el humano enfermo. Esta variabilidad es mas pernicioso en pacientes no diabéticos, y aun mas la hipoglucemia en el contexto del paciente grave. Con los intentos en mantener un control estricto de glucemia se ha incrementado la aparición de la hipoglucemia. Esta

es variable, pero alcanza niveles del 28,6%<sup>15</sup>. Esto ha llevado a sugerir que un control menos estricto puede conseguir resultados similares, al tiempo de disminuir la incidencia de hipoglucemias<sup>16</sup>.

Los intentos por normalizar estos “dañinos” niveles han sido objeto de estudio y sus resultados iniciales fueron muy esperanzadores<sup>8</sup>, si bien las replicas no han confirmado los hallazgos iniciales<sup>17-19</sup>. La falta de reproductibilidad reside quizás, en el tipo de paciente, postcirugía cardíaca en su mayoría, en los que además se les sometía a un aporte elevado de glucosa por vía parenteral (200-300 gramos/día), con lo que sus niveles de glucemia podrían ser más expresión de la sobrecarga, que respuesta al estrés. Otra crítica vertida sobre este artículo ha sido el elevado número de pacientes sometidos a nutrición parenteral, respecto a la práctica clínica habitual. Los pacientes con más de 3 días de ingreso fueron los más beneficiados.

La falta de eficacia del control estricto de la glucemia en la consecución de las metas propuestas por el grupo belga, podrían residir en el difícil manejo de la hiperglucemia en los límites de la normalidad en el paciente grave o bien en que realmente la hiperglucemia es un fenómeno habitual y necesario en el paciente con estrés y su extrema corrección puede ser inapropiada y contraproducente<sup>15</sup>.

Con estos antecedentes nos propusimos comprobar el efecto de la glucemia de las primeras 24 horas sobre el pronóstico en nuestra población.

## Objetivo

Cuantificar las alteraciones de la glucemia en el primer día de ingreso en UCI, en una población heterogénea y su posible implicación en el pronóstico.

## Material y método

Se incluyen en el estudio todos los pacientes que ingresaron en camas con historia clínica informatizada mediante la aplicación Care Vue® de la sección de neopolitraumatizados del Servicio de Medicina Intensiva del Hospital Clínico San Carlos (8 camas de 14) desde el 1 de enero de 2004 a 31 de diciembre de 2008. Se estudian aquellos pacientes con resultados de glucemia plasmática en el primer día de ingreso. Se utilizan los datos demográficos (edad, sexo), antropométricos (altura, peso, superficie corporal-Dubois, índice de masa corporal (IMC), tipo de ingreso, resultado al alta, motivo de ingreso específico y agrupado, servicio de procedencia, servicio al que se realizaba el alta. Se recogieron variables de laboratorio como la glucemia, creatinina, hemoglobina, bicarbonato, INR, potasio, sodio, lactato, y leucocitos. Parámetros de oxigenación y ventilación:  $\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2$ ,  $\text{paO}_2$ ,  $\text{FiO}_2$  del ventilador, frecuencia ventilatoria. Parámetros de monitorización: presión arterial invasiva y no invasiva; frecuencia car-

diaca, temperatura corporal y finalmente se recogió el Nine Equivalents of Nursing Manpower Use Score (NEMS)<sup>20</sup>, como expresión de carga de trabajo para la enfermería e indicador de complejidad del paciente.

Todos los datos recogidos se restringieron al primer día de ingreso, salvo la estancia. Fueron importados desde una aplicación informática (SR5). Los valores clínicos son validados por la enfermera y los analíticos por el propio laboratorio antes de su exportación a Care Vue. Para la glucemia se generaron tres tablas: glucemia inicial, glucemia promedio y número de determinaciones. Para el resto de la analítica dos, el promedio y el número de determinaciones de cada variable.

En la glucemia, si solamente había una determinación, la inicial y el promedio eran coincidentes, por ello al objeto de evitar redundancias se utilizó la variable número de determinaciones de glucemia, que separaba a los pacientes en dos grupos: determinación inicial, significando una determinación y más de una determinación, expresión del promedio de la variable. En el estudio estadístico se utilizó la glucemia inicial y el promedio, mientras que en el resto de las variables se utilizó el promedio de las primeras 24 horas, independientemente del número de determinaciones que cada variable fuese estimada. Solo se utilizaron determinaciones plasmáticas de glucemia.

Con la creatinina, el cociente  $\text{pO}_2/\text{FiO}_2$ ; la presión arterial invasiva y no invasiva, la edad, el IMC, el tipo de ingreso, la causa del ingreso y la glucemia se hicieron estratos en dos o tres niveles.

Las variables cuantitativas se estratificaron: la creatinina se estimó como normal en función de su nivel plasmático, cuando este era inferior a 1,2 mg/dL; hasta 2 mg/dL se consideró que podría existir una función renal alterada, y por encima de 2 mg/dL, se definió como fallo renal. Los estratos del índice  $\text{paO}_2/\text{FiO}_2$  se definieron según la literatura<sup>21</sup> en  $\leq 200$  mm Hg como síndrome de distrés respiratorio agudo, entre 200 y 300 como lesión aguda pulmonar y por encima de los 300 mm Hg como valor normal. La presencia de valores derivados de la gasometría, están representados en el estudio en un número menor de muestras, por el motivo comentado con anterioridad. Los 60 mm Hg de presión arterial media se estimó como umbral de hipotensión, tanto en la presión arterial invasiva como en la no invasiva<sup>22</sup>.

Se establecieron niveles de glucemia menores de 60 mg/dL para la hipoglucemia, y superiores de 110 mg/dL para la hiperglucemia, el estrato intermedio correspondió a la normalidad. Se estratificaron también en normal y anormal, donde en este último se recogían ambos extremos de glucemia. Según el número de determinaciones de glucemia en el primer día se establecieron dos estratos: 1 determinación y más de una determinación, siendo el máximo recogido de hasta 5 determinaciones (se refiere a glucemias plasmáticas, no capilares). La elección de estos límites reflejan los niveles de normalidad del laboratorio para el paciente en ayuno. Se ha incrementado de 100 a 110 mg/dL, al ser esta la cifra superior empleada en los

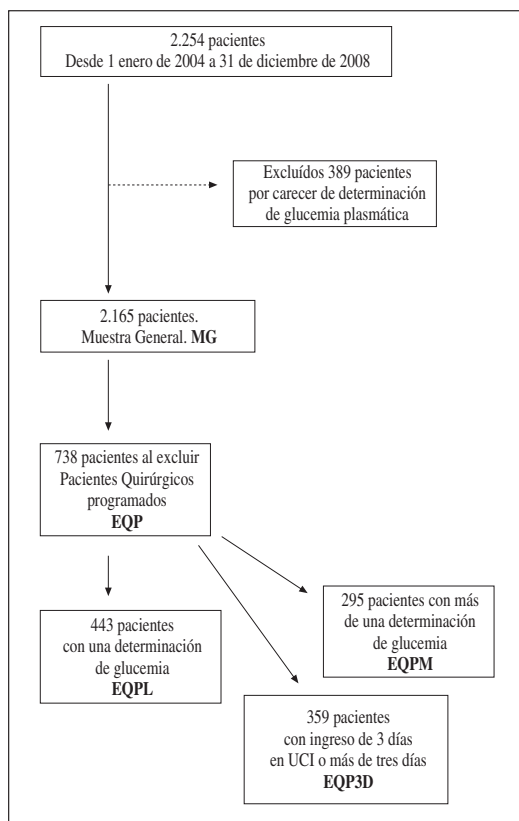


Fig. 1.—Diagrama de los niveles estudiados. MG= Muestra General; EQP= Excluidos Quirúrgicos programados; EQP1= Una determinación de glucemia, excluidos quirúrgicos programados; EQPM= Media de glucemias, excluidos quirúrgicos programados; EQP3D= Pacientes con estancia de 3 días o mas, excluidos quirúrgicos programados.

estudios de control estricto de la glucemia. A efectos del estudio multivariado se hizo estratificación de la glucemia en seis niveles: 1: de 80 a 110 mg/dL; 2: 111 a 144 mg/dL; 3: 145 a 180 mg/dL; 4: 181- 200 mg/dL; 5: > 200 mg/dL y 6: < 80 mg/dL.

Las variables demográficas solo precisaron una tabla que sirvió de base. Todas las tablas se exportaron a SPSS, y se unificaron mediante el campo común del número de historia clínica.

Del total de 2.554 ingresados en ese periodo de tiempo, se excluyeron 389 pacientes, por falta de glucemia plasmática, siendo 2.165 los finalmente estudiados (96,5% del total). Esta falta de datos tuvo múltiples causas: falta de sincronía de las aplicaciones del laboratorio con CareVue por inadecuada codificación en laboratorio; pacientes manejados con glucemias capilares; caídas del sistema informático; cambio en la aplicación informática del laboratorio y demora en la resincronización con CareVue fundamentalmente.

Los diferentes niveles de estudio se esquematizan en la figura 1.

Se realizaron cinco estratos de análisis: Muestra General (MG) (2.165 pacientes); excluidos los pacientes quirúrgicos (EQP) (738); excluidos pacientes quirúrgicos programados con una sola determinación de glucemia (EQP1) (443) y con múltiples determinaciones de glucemias, excluidos los quirúrgicos programados (EQPM) (295) y uno final de los pacientes que excluidos los quirúrgicos programados, permanecieron 3 o más días ingresados en UCI (EQP3D) (379).

Se hizo estudio comparativo del comportamiento de las variables en vivos y fallecidos, mediante tablas de contingencia y determinación del  $\chi^2$  en las variables cualitativas. Mediante Mantel Haenzels se calculó la Odd ratio cruda. Para las cuantitativas, con distribución no normal, se empleó el test de U de Mann-Whitney. La presentación de los datos se hace mediante porcentajes en relación a la muestra general y la específica al nivel de estudio, y con la mediana y rango intercuartílico 25-75 (Apéndice). Se estimó un nivel de  $p < 0,05$  como significación.

Para el estudio multivariado se utilizó la regresión logística de forma que la variable dependiente fuese el alta = exitus. Las independientes fueron todas las variables que resultaron con significación y que superaban el 60% de representación en el nivel de estudio. La glucemia se incluyó de forma obligada, fuese o no significativa en el análisis bivariado, y de forma excluyente, de forma que cuando se utilizaba una expresión de glucemia, por ejemplo glucemia inicial, el resto de las expresiones de glucemia no eran incluidas en ese cálculo. En la tabla II, se especifican dentro de la columna inicial las diferentes expresiones de glucemia que se efectuaron; en la segunda, las covariables que se mantenían en cada estudio de regresión. Las columnas siguientes expresan el nivel de significación, la Odd ratio (OR) y el intervalo de confianza (IC) al 95%. Con pequeñas variaciones, la OR y el IC se mantuvo similar con independencia de la glucemia empleada.

Se utilizaron las variables estratificadas sobre las cuantitativas, para la misma variable, siendo excluyentes. En la tabla II se señalan las variables independientes, que en el análisis bivariado mostraron diferencias con significación respecto al resultado del alta (vivo/exitus). Aquellas variables, que aun siendo significativas tuvieron escasa presencia, por ejemplo las derivadas del intercambio gaseoso, fueron retiradas al objeto de contar con suficiente casuística en cada estrato de análisis.

Se utilizó el modelo saturado de inicio con eliminación progresiva de variables hasta las definitivas (backward Wald). Se comprobó la homogeneidad de la muestra mediante la prueba de Hosmer y Lemeshow.

Se emplearon los paquetes estadísticos SPSS 15 para Windows® y G-Stat 2.0®.

## Resultados

De los 2.565 pacientes iniciales se estudiaron 2165 en cuya analítica constaban resultados de glucemia plasmática. En la tabla I se muestra las características

**Tabla I**  
*Demografía. Características de la muestra*

| Variables               | Muestra General (MG) |      | Muestra excluidos los Qx prog (EQP) |      |      | Una determinación sin Qx prog (EQP1) |      |       | Mas de una determinación sin Qx prog (EQPM) |      |       | Ingresados por 3 o más días (EQP3) |      |       |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------|-------------------------------------|------|------|--------------------------------------|------|-------|---------------------------------------------|------|-------|------------------------------------|------|-------|
|                         | N                    | % MG | N                                   | % MG | % M  | N                                    | % MG | % M   | N                                           | % MG | % M   | N                                  | % MG | % M   |
| Total de pacientes      | 2.165                | 100  | 738                                 | 34,1 | 100  | 443                                  | 20,5 | 100,0 | 295                                         | 13,6 | 100,0 | 379                                | 17,5 | 100,0 |
| Hombres                 | 1.189                | 54,9 | 495                                 | 22,9 | 67,1 | 294                                  | 13,6 | 66,4  | 201                                         | 9,3  | 68,1  | 257                                | 11,9 | 67,8  |
| <i>Causa de ingreso</i> |                      |      |                                     |      |      |                                      |      |       |                                             |      |       |                                    |      |       |
| Quirúrgico              | 1.478                | 68,3 | 106                                 | 4,9  | 14,4 | 68                                   | 3,1  | 15,3  | 38                                          | 1,8  | 12,9  | 40                                 | 1,8  | 10,6  |
| Trauma                  | 358                  | 16,5 | 333                                 | 15,4 | 45,1 | 187                                  | 8,6  | 42,2  | 146                                         | 6,7  | 49,5  | 184                                | 8,5  | 48,5  |
| Médico                  | 329                  | 15,2 | 299                                 | 13,8 | 40,5 | 188                                  | 8,7  | 42,4  | 111                                         | 5,1  | 37,6  | 155                                | 7,2  | 40,9  |
| <i>Tipo de ingreso</i>  |                      |      |                                     |      |      |                                      |      |       |                                             |      |       |                                    |      |       |
| Urgente                 | 713                  | 32,9 | 713                                 | 32,9 | 96,6 | 427                                  | 19,7 | 96,4  | 286                                         | 13,2 | 96,9  | 365                                | 16,9 | 96,3  |
| Programado              | 1.210                | 55,9 | 25                                  | 1,2  | 3,4  | 16                                   | 0,7  | 3,6   | 9                                           | 0,4  | 3,1   | 14                                 | 0,6  | 3,7   |
| Perdidos                | 242                  | 11,2 |                                     |      |      |                                      |      |       |                                             |      |       |                                    |      |       |
| <i>Alta</i>             |                      |      |                                     |      |      |                                      |      |       |                                             |      |       |                                    |      |       |
| Vivos                   | 1.925                | 88,9 | 580                                 | 26,8 | 78,6 | 361                                  | 16,7 | 81,5  | 219                                         | 10,1 | 74,2  | 295                                | 13,6 | 77,8  |
| Exitus                  | 144                  | 6,7  | 120                                 | 5,5  | 16,3 | 65                                   | 3,0  | 14,7  | 55                                          | 2,5  | 18,6  | 65                                 | 3,0  | 17,2  |
| Perdidos                | 96                   | 4,4  | 38                                  | 1,8  | 5,1  | 17                                   | 0,8  | 3,8   | 21                                          | 1,0  | 7,1   | 19                                 | 0,9  | 5,0   |
| <i>Estratos de edad</i> |                      |      |                                     |      |      |                                      |      |       |                                             |      |       |                                    |      |       |
| < 65 años               | 1.265                | 58,4 | 506                                 | 23,4 | 68,6 | 301                                  | 13,9 | 67,9  | 205                                         | 9,5  | 69,5  | 244                                | 11,3 | 64,4  |
| > 64 años               | 846                  | 39,1 | 211                                 | 9,7  | 28,6 | 142                                  | 6,6  | 32,1  | 82                                          | 3,8  | 27,8  | 125                                | 5,8  | 33,0  |
| Perdidos                | 54                   | 2,5  | 21                                  | 1,0  | 2,8  | 0                                    | 0,0  | 0,0   | 8                                           | 0,4  | 2,7   | 10                                 | 0,5  | 2,6   |
| <i>Estratos IMC</i>     |                      |      |                                     |      |      |                                      |      |       |                                             |      |       |                                    |      |       |
| < 20                    | 120                  | 5,5  | 39                                  | 1,8  | 5,3  | 23                                   | 1,1  | 5,2   | 16                                          | 0,7  | 5,4   | 18                                 | 0,8  | 4,7   |
| 20-30                   | 1.731                | 80   | 629                                 | 29,1 | 85,2 | 373                                  | 17,2 | 84,2  | 256                                         | 11,8 | 86,8  | 323                                | 14,9 | 85,2  |
| > 30                    | 314                  | 14,5 | 70                                  | 3,2  | 9,5  | 47                                   | 2,2  | 10,6  | 23                                          | 1,1  | 7,8   | 38                                 | 1,8  | 10,0  |

IMC = Índice de masa corporal. MG = muestra general; EQP = Excluidos quirúrgicos programados; EQP1 = una glucemia, Excluidos quirúrgicos programados; EQPM = Promedio de mas de una glucemia, Excluidos Quirúrgicos Programados; EQP3 = Muestra de pacientes con una estancia en UCI de 3 o más días, excluidos quirúrgicos programados.

demográficas de los diferentes estratos. Predominaron en todos los niveles, los hombres, pero mientras que en la Muestra General (MG) eran los quirúrgicos, en las demás lo fueron traumáticos y médicos.

En la MG la distribución por sexo es muy similar con un 54,9% de hombres. Predominan los pacientes quirúrgicos (68,3%); el ingreso programado (55,9%); los jóvenes puesto que el 58,4% era menor de 65 años y con un aceptable buen estado nutricional (80% con IMC entre 20 y 30). Se mortalidad fue del 6,7%, con un 4,4% de casos perdidos. Cuando excluimos a los pacientes programados postquirúrgicos (EQP), la muestra se reduce a 738 pacientes. El 67,1% son varones; el trauma y el paciente medico predomina sobre el quirúrgico; el ingreso en su mayoría es urgente (96,6%), con un incremento en la mortalidad hasta el 16,3% (5,1% casos perdidos), siguen siendo jóvenes y con buen estado nutricional. Al fragmentar este grupo de pacientes en función del número de determinaciones de glucemia (EQP1 y EQPM), se mantienen las características expresadas, salvo en el caso de la mortalidad que es casi un 4% superior en el subgrupo EQPM.

Los 379 pacientes que permanecieron ingresados mas de 3 días y no eran postquirúrgicos programados (EQP3), mostraban características similares a los dos

grupos precedentes tanto en el predominio masculino, el ingreso por trauma o causa medica, el carácter urgente del mismo, la frecuente presencia de pacientes menores de 65 años, el buen estado nutricional y la mortalidad similar (17,2% con 5% de pacientes perdidos).

En la tabla II se reflejan los resultados de los diferentes estudios de regresión realizados. En ningún estrato de muestra, ni con ninguna expresión de glucemia empleada se obtuvo un resultado que mostrase a la glucemia como una variable independiente de riesgo de mortalidad. En la MG se utilizó la glucemia estratificada ya fuese inicial o promediada; la glucemia dual (norma/anormal) tanto inicial como promediada y la glucemia estratificada en 6 niveles. Las covariables, en este nivel de estudio, fueron las mas numerosas, pero solo resultaron con significación las derivadas de la función renal, el ingreso urgente, el potasio y el NEMS.

En el nivel EQP con un número semejante de covariables, la utilización de estratos de glucemia promediada o inicial, mostraron significación las variables relacionadas con la estratificación de la creatinina, el NEMS, y el ingreso por trauma o medico sobre el quirúrgico. En este nivel cuando se utilizo la estratificación dual o los 6 niveles de glucemia, desapareció la significación para el tipo de motivo de ingreso (trauma,

**Tabla II**  
**Resultados de regresión logística**

| Independiente obligada                      | Variables independientes                                              | Variables en ecuación | Sig.  | Exp (B) | IC 95% para Exp (B) |          |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|---------|---------------------|----------|
|                                             |                                                                       |                       |       |         | inferior            | superior |
| Muestra General                             |                                                                       |                       |       |         |                     |          |
| Estrato glucemia inicial                    | Estrato creatinina; Estrato TA no invasiva; Sexo; Motivo de ingreso;  | F. renal normal       | 0,000 |         |                     |          |
| Estrato glucemia promedio                   | Tipo de ingreso; Estancia; Hb; INR; F. Cardíaca; K; Na; NEMS.         | F renal alterada      | 0,000 | 4,244   | 1,996               | 9,023    |
| Dual glucemia inicial                       |                                                                       | Fallo renal           | 0,010 | 5,445   | 1,509               | 19,639   |
| Dual glucemia promedio                      |                                                                       | Ingreso urgente       | 0,000 | 7,59    | 3,041               | 18,944   |
| Glucemia en 6 estratos                      |                                                                       | K                     | 0,009 | 0,486   | 0,283               | 0,835    |
|                                             |                                                                       | NEMS                  | 0,000 | 1,09    | 1,052               | 1,129    |
| Excluidos los quirúrgicos programados (EQP) |                                                                       |                       |       |         |                     |          |
| Estrato glucemia promedio                   | Estrato creatinina; Estrato TA no invasiva; Motivo de ingreso;        | F. renal normal       | 0,006 | 1       |                     |          |
| Estrato glucemia inicial                    | Tipo de ingreso; Hb; INR; F. cardíaca; Na; NEMS; Bicarbonato;         | F. renal alterada     | 0,005 | 2,642   | 1,335               | 5,228    |
|                                             | Lactato; Urea; Edad.                                                  | Fallo renal           | 0,032 | 3,575   | 1,112               | 11,49    |
|                                             |                                                                       | Quirúrgico            | 0,052 | 1       |                     |          |
|                                             |                                                                       | Trauma                | 0,037 | 9,941   | 1,153               | 85,712   |
|                                             |                                                                       | Médico                | 0,018 | 12,751  | 1,538               | 105,73   |
|                                             |                                                                       | NEMS                  | 0,022 | 1,046   | 1,007               | 1,088    |
|                                             |                                                                       | Lactato               | 0,036 | 1,17    | 1,01                | 1,355    |
| Dual glucemia inicial                       | Estrato creatinina; Estrato TA no invasiva; Motivo de ingreso;        | F. renal normal       | 0,012 |         |                     |          |
| Dual glucemia promedio                      | Hb; INR; F. cardíaca; Na; NEMS; Bicarbonato; Lactato; Urea;           | F. renal alterada     | 0,016 | 3,031   | 1,233               | 7,453    |
| Glucemia en 6 estratos                      | Edad.                                                                 | Fallo renal           | 0,022 | 5,339   | 1,275               | 22,358   |
|                                             |                                                                       | NEMS                  | 0,035 | 1,052   | 1,003               | 1,103    |
| EQP con 1 determinación (EQP1)              |                                                                       |                       |       |         |                     |          |
| Dual glucemia inicial                       | Estrato creatinina; Estrato TA no invasiva; Edad; Hb; INR; NEMS;      | NEMS                  | 0,001 | 1,097   | 1,039               | 1,157    |
| Glucemia inicial                            | Urea.                                                                 | Urea                  | 0,017 | 1,028   | 1,005               | 1,052    |
| Glucemia en 6 estratos                      |                                                                       |                       |       |         |                     |          |
| EQP con más de 1 determinación (EQPM)       |                                                                       |                       |       |         |                     |          |
| Estrato glucemia promedio                   | Estrato creatinina; Motivo de ingreso; Bicarbonato; INR; F. cardíaca; | NEMS                  | 0,001 | 1,107   | 1,041               | 1,176    |
| Dual glucemia promedio                      | Lactato; Na; NEMS; TA no invasiva.                                    |                       |       |         |                     |          |
| EQP con Estancia; superior a 3 días (EQP3)  |                                                                       |                       |       |         |                     |          |
| Estrato glucemia inicial                    | Estrato creatinina; NEMS; Urea                                        | NEMS                  | 0,002 | 1,062   | 1,022               | 1,103    |
| Estrato glucemia promedio                   |                                                                       | Urea                  | 0,003 | 1,014   | 1,005               | 1,023    |
| Dual glucemia inicial                       |                                                                       |                       |       |         |                     |          |
| Glucemia en 6 estratos                      |                                                                       |                       |       |         |                     |          |

TA = Tensión Arterial; Hb = Hemoglobina; INR = International normalized ratio; Na = Sodio; K = Potasio; NEMS = Nine Equivalents of nursing Manpower use Score.

médico), permaneciendo la significación de los estratos de creatinina, y el NEMS.

Para el nivel EQP1 se utilizaron como variables obligadas la dual glucemia inicial, la glucemia inicial, y la glucemia en 6 estratos. Solo NEMS y urea mostraron significación. En el nivel EQPM y utilizando las variables obligadas estrato glucemia promedio, dual promedio, y glucemia en 6 estratos, solo el NEMS resultó con significación. Finalmente en el nivel de EQP3 con cuatro diferentes estudios, lo fueron el NEMS y la urea.

## Discusión

Se ha descrito repetidamente en la literatura que la elevación de las cifras de glucemia en el paciente no diabé-

tico, es un factor que incrementa la mortalidad y morbilidad en patologías como el trauma craneal<sup>1-2</sup>, el accidente vascular cerebral<sup>7</sup> y el infarto agudo de miocardio<sup>3-6</sup>. La extensión de la lesión primaria, la determinación de un mayor tamaño del infarto, la pérdida del pre-condicionamiento isquémico, hacen que órganos como el corazón, disfuncionen con mayor intensidad en presencia de hiperglucemia. La hipoglucemia, por otro lado, también ha sido un factor condicionante de morbilidad y mortalidad en pacientes con trauma craneal, determinando un mayor riesgo para la supervivencia<sup>23-24</sup>.

En nuestro estudio, en un grupo heterogéneo de pacientes ingresados en una UCI cuyos ingresos preferentes son postquirúrgicos programados, no hemos podido encontrar esta relación entre incremento de la glucemia y mayor riesgo de mortalidad. Intentando

excluir paciente de menor gravedad y con menor estrés, se excluyeron todos los pacientes quirúrgicos ingresados de forma programada, sin que tampoco pudiésemos encontrar ese mayor riesgo de mortalidad. Existen estudios que como en nuestro caso, no han encontrado relación entre hiperglucemia y mortalidad en diferentes grupos de pacientes “graves”.

Los modelos predictivos o de valoración de gravedad (APACHE II, SAPS II, MOF, MARSHALL, LODS, SOFA)<sup>25</sup>, no contemplan a la glucemia como una variable de peso que requiera ser incluida en ellos. Esto contrasta con los hallazgos de los grupos de pacientes graves en los que sí parece haber una relación pronóstica entre la hiperglucemia y el desenlace final. Solamente en los escores relacionados con pancreatitis<sup>26-28</sup>, es estimada la glucemia como una variable a considerar y solo en la valoración inicial.

La aparición del estudio Leuven I<sup>8</sup> en pacientes de predominio quirúrgicos, fue una llamada de atención, afirmando que el mantener la glucemia dentro de sus límites de normalidad, lo que se dio por denominar como el control estricto de la glucemia, conllevaba una disminución significativa de la mortalidad, una disminución de la disfunción orgánica, y de infecciones entre otros hechos ventajosos. Tras éste, aparecieron nuevos estudios que corroboraban sus resultados<sup>29-31</sup>, aunque pequeños o retrospectivos con controles históricos. La asunción de la bondad de estos resultados dio lugar a su valoración con alto valor de evidencia y por tanto con un nivel elevado de recomendación. Sin embargo ensayos posteriores, no pudieron corroborar estos prometedores hallazgos, de manera que los estudios Visep<sup>17</sup>, y Glucontrol<sup>19</sup> hubieron de suspenderse con anticipación por los efectos deletéreos con esta práctica (mayor hipoglucemia y mayor violación de protocolo, respectivamente). En el 2006 el mismo grupo belga, no consiguió encontrar resultados similares en pacientes médicos en UCI<sup>32</sup>. El último ensayo aparecido sobre el tema, Nice Sugar<sup>33</sup>, determinó que no hay ventaja en la limitación tan estrecha de la glucemia, y que existe riesgo de mortalidad aumentada en el grupo de mayor rigor terapéutico. Aconsejan niveles de control más relajados, evitando hiperglucemia superiores a 180 mg/dL. Esta aproximación más prudente al control estricto de la glucemia hace que en las guías canadienses, en su actualización de 2009 (punto 10.4)<sup>1</sup>, modifican su recomendación a mantener la glucemia en la vecindad de 8 mmol/L (7-9 mmol/L)<sup>3</sup>. Si bien algún tipo de pacientes podrían beneficiarse del control estricto, como los pacientes quirúrgicos<sup>34</sup>.

La justificación de esta disparidad de resultados se puede hallar en las diferencias existentes entre el trabajo del grupo belga, que estudia una muestra tratada específica de baja mortalidad, aporte fuera de la práctica habitual de alta carga hidrocarbonada al inicio, tipo de enfermos, relación enfermera/paciente, alto porcentual de pacientes con nutrición mixta, que en su conjunto se aleja de la práctica común en UCI. Mientras que en los otros se argumenta que los beneficios son sobrepasados por la aparición de una inusitada frecuencia de hipoglucemias y

su importante repercusión funcional<sup>17,19,33</sup>. En el Nice Sugar<sup>33</sup>, trabajo con mayor número de pacientes reclutados hasta la fecha, se vio un incremento de la mortalidad en el grupo de estudio, si bien a los 90 días. Un artículo reciente<sup>35</sup>, señala estas diferencias importantes que hacen cuestionable la comparación del estudio belga con el Nice Sugar. Básicamente se puede resumir en que mientras que uno es unicéntrico, el otro es multicéntrico; los niveles de glucemia del grupo control son diferentes (180-215 mg/dL frente a 140-180 mg/dL); el número de pacientes en cada estudio; el tipo de los pacientes (predominantemente homogéneo frente a grupo heterogéneo medicoquirúrgico; porcentaje de pacientes que alcanzan el control glicémico deseado (70% frente al 50%); la determinación de las glucemias, el método de dispensa de la insulina, la duración de la terapia y finalmente la diferencia de los resultados en mortalidad y morbilidad. De todas estas diferencias, en nuestra opinión las más relevantes quizás sean los niveles de glucemia del grupo control, pues mientras que en el estudio belga, el nivel de glucemia está dentro del rango claro de lo patológico y dañino, el Nice-Sugar mantiene unos niveles de glucemia que han sido estimados hasta como fisiológicos en el entorno del paciente crítico y por tanto deseables. Probablemente en este punto resida uno de los fundamentos que justifiquen la desigualdad en los resultados obtenidos por cada uno de los estudios.

Aun antes de disponer de los resultados de este estudio, y señalando el precedente, un metanálisis<sup>9</sup> concluía que por el momento, no había asociación entre el control estricto de la glucemia y la reducción de la mortalidad o la necesidad de diálisis. Solo los episodios de sepsis eran menos frecuentes, y solo en relación a los pacientes quirúrgicos. Llegan a sugerir la procedencia de revisión de las guías que recomendasen el control estricto de la glucemia, hasta la existencia de resultados más extensos y definitivos, advirtiendo del riesgo cierto en el incremento de los episodios de hipoglucemia, que si bien no es posible relacionar directamente con incremento de mortalidad por su causa, puede ser un factor que la favorezca o bien señale la gravedad de la enfermedad.

No hay pues, por el momento, evidencia suficiente para aconsejar la persecución de control estricto de la glucemia, aunque existan recomendaciones relevantes con tal objetivo, quedando pendiente delimitar el grupo de pacientes, así como el momento y nivel de control, en los que esta estrategia pudiera ser beneficiosa. De forma llamativa la Sociedad Europea de Alimentación Enteral y Parenteral (ESPEN), en relación a este aspecto aconseja en sus guías<sup>36</sup> unos niveles menos estrictos de control glicémico, advirtiendo con nivel de recomendación A, la presencia aumentada de la hipoglucemia en pacientes con control estricto de la glucemia.

Finalmente se ha sugerido que la glucemia en las primeras 48 horas expresa más la adaptación del paciente gravemente agredido, que una intolerancia o resistencia a la utilización de la glucemia. Esto podría estar en la base de que durante al menos ese tiempo, no debería modificarse, dentro de límites razonables, comenzando su mani-

pulación farmacológica y/o dietética a partir del tercer día. Tampoco existe evidencia que sostenga esta afirmación, pero en el segundo estudio del grupo belga<sup>32</sup>, en pacientes médicos, eran estos, los que se mantenían más de tres días en UCI, los que mostraban mejores resultados.

El concepto de resistencia a la insulina, se fundamenta en la intención del organismo lesionado de ofertar el nutriente principal de las células de rápida replicación, posponiendo su utilización por otras células menos relevantes en el centro de la agresión. Un ejemplo clarificador es el muscular que en situación de agresión se vuelve impermeable a la entrada de glucosa, salvo que sea lesionado en cuyo caso se transforma en "órgano preferencial".

Hay estudios, que como el presente, no encuentran que la glucemia inicial, o la de ayuno o incluso la promediada del primer día, sea indicador de riesgo per se, al menos de forma general para los pacientes en estado crítico<sup>37-39</sup>. Esta hiperglucemia expresa, mas bien, un grado de mayor lesión y es esta intensidad, la que verdaderamente determina el riesgo.

Se ha demostrado que la variabilidad de la modificación de la glucemia puede ser un factor que exprese riesgo, pero esta variabilidad aparece o se calcula con posterioridad, por lo que su valor como indicador pronóstico desaparece<sup>14, 40</sup>.

El trabajo presentado tiene debilidades. Es un estudio retrospectivo con las limitaciones derivadas del mismo; no se han estimado la participación de pacientes previamente diabéticos; ni el tipo de la misma; no hay determinación de la terapéutica empleada que pudiera modificar las cifras de glucemia (esteroides, insulina, antidiabéticos orales...); el tipo de pacientes es variado, predominando pacientes quirúrgicos en la MG, y traumáticos y médicos en los demás niveles.

Tiene sin embargo la ventaja de proceder de un sistema semiautomático, donde los valores de las diferentes variables han sido introducidas de forma automática y auditadas por el personal de enfermería o analistas antes de su incorporación a la base.

La estratificación puede ser discutible, principalmente la relacionada con la glucemia, pero su defecto desaparecería una vez es contemplada en el análisis de regresión como una variable continua y en este caso tampoco señaló un específico incremento del riesgo de fallecer relacionada con ella. Con una estratificación de la glucemia inicial en 6 niveles, e incluidas en el análisis multivariado, siendo el referente de comparación el estrato de normalidad (80-110 mg/dL) no han mostrado variación alguna en los resultados (datos no mostrados).

La conclusión que se puede sacar del estudio es que la hiperglucemia es frecuente en los pacientes ingresados en UCI, y esta presente ya desde la primera determinación al ingreso. Que habitualmente los pacientes en su mayoría están normonutridos, según el IMC, aunque no se puede descartar la presencia de malnutrición proteica; y que no parece existir una relación directa entre las cifras de glucemia al ingreso y el resultado final del paciente. Ni tampoco el promedio de las glucemias del primer día,

parece indicar algo diferente a lo señalado ni aumentan la capacidad de predicción de la glucemia inicial.

La glucemia inicial expresa, posiblemente, más una respuesta "fisiológica" a la agresión que ser un factor de riesgo para la supervivencia del paciente. Y por tanto su control estricto, al menos en la fase inicial de la enfermedad, puede conllevar más riesgos que beneficios.

Queda por determinar si la hiperglucemia mantenida más allá de los primeros días tiene otro significado y cual sería su umbral de inicio en el efecto deletéreo.

Muchas fueron las variables que mostraban, en la comparación bivariada, significación, pero de forma repetida, la variable que permanecía como factor de riesgo per se, una vez se realizaba el ajuste mediante la regresión logística, era el NEMS. Esta variable es utilizada por la enfermería<sup>41</sup> para señalar las cargas de trabajo que los pacientes generan y en función de ello, se ha usado para la gestión de personal, e incluso en la decisión del alta de pacientes a niveles asistenciales de menor intensidad. Hay estudios que han correlacionado esta variable con el APACHE II mostrados un r superior a 0,6, y por tanto expresando que aquellos pacientes con mayor gravedad son los que generan una mayor carga de trabajo<sup>42, 43</sup>. Quizás su contemplación como factor pronóstico mereciese un estudio en mayor profundidad<sup>44-46</sup>.

## Conclusiones

En la muestra analizada no se encuentra una mayor mortalidad relacionada con los niveles de glucemia, ni basal ni la promediada del primer día. Ni en pacientes con predominio quirúrgicos programado (MG), ni en pacientes no quirúrgicos con ingresos en UCI de forma urgente.

Llama la atención que el nivel de carga asistencial, marcado por el NEMS, si lo muestre de forma significativa. Esto sugiere la necesidad de investigar dicho NEMS como factor predictor de mortalidad.

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## APÉNDICES

| MG. Muestra General                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                        |       |        |             |            |         |                     |             |         |         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------|--------|-------------|------------|---------|---------------------|-------------|---------|---------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                        | N     | % MG   | vivos       | % de N     | p       | OR Cr               |             |         |         |
| Estratos Creatinina                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | FR nomal Cr < 1,2      | 1.769 | 81,71  | 1.685       | 95,25      | < 0,001 | 1                   |             |         |         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | FR alterada Cr 1,2 a 2 | 208   | 9,61   | 166         | 79,81      |         | 5,07 (3,39-7,59)    |             |         |         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Fracaso renal > 2      | 85    | 3,93   | 68          | 80,00      |         | 5,01 (2,82-8,91)    |             |         |         |
| Estratos paO2/FiO2                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | < 200                  | 153   | 7,07   | 114         | 74,51      | 0,002   | 1                   |             |         |         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 200-300                | 98    | 4,53   | 79          | 80,61      |         | 0,70 (0,37-1,30)    |             |         |         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | > 300                  | 213   | 9,84   | 189         | 88,73      |         | 0,37 (0,21-0,65)    |             |         |         |
| Estratos Pr. Arterial Inv.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | < 60                   | 23    | 1,06   | 14          | 60,87      | < 0,001 | 1                   |             |         |         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | > 60                   | 1.112 | 51,36  | 1.019       | 91,64      |         | 0,142 (0,06-0,337)  |             |         |         |
| Estratos Pr.Art. no inv.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | < 60                   | 63    | 2,91   | 49          | 77,78      | < 0,001 | 1                   |             |         |         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | > 60                   | 1.744 | 80,55  | 1.626       | 93,23      |         | 0,25 (0,136- 0,473) |             |         |         |
| Estratos glucemia inicial                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Hipoglucemia (< 60)    | 7     | 0,32   | 6           | 85,71      | 0,056   | 4,88 (0,55-43,3)    |             |         |         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Normoglucemia (60-110) | 424   | 19,58  | 410         | 96,70      |         | 1                   |             |         |         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Hiperglucemia (> 110)  | 1.085 | 50,12  | 1.019       | 93,92      |         | 1,89 (1,05-3,41)    |             |         |         |
| Estratos glucemia promedio                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Hipoglucemia (< 60)    | –     | –      | –           | –          | 0,105   | 1                   |             |         |         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Normoglucemia (60-110) | 114   | 5,27   | 106         | 92,98      |         | 1,87 (0,86-4,06)    |             |         |         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Hiperglucemia (> 110)  | 435   | 20,09  | 381         | 87,59      |         |                     |             |         |         |
| Estratos glucemia inicial dual                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Anormal                | 1.092 | 50,44  | 1.025       | 93,86      | 0,028   | 1                   |             |         |         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Normal                 | 424   | 19,58  | 410         | 96,70      |         | 0,52 (0,29-0,94)    |             |         |         |
| N.º de determinaciones de glucemia                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Una                    | 1.520 | 70,21  | 1.438       | 94,61      | < 0,001 | 1                   |             |         |         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Más de una             | 549   | 25,36  | 487         | 88,71      |         | 2,23 (1,58-3,154)   |             |         |         |
| Sexo                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Hombre                 | 1.141 | 52,70  | 1.046       | 91,67      | 0,007   | 1                   |             |         |         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Mujer                  | 928   | 42,86  | 879         | 94,72      |         | 0,614 (0,43-0,876)  |             |         |         |
| Causa de ingreso                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Quirúrgico             | 1.425 | 65,82  | 1.396       | 97,96      | < 0,001 | 1                   |             |         |         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Trauma                 | 339   | 15,66  | 288         | 84,96      |         | 8,52 (5,31-13,68)   |             |         |         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Médico                 | 305   | 14,09  | 241         | 79,02      |         | 12,78 (8,07-20,24)  |             |         |         |
| Tipo de ingreso                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Programado             | 1.175 | 54,27  | 1.160       | 98,72      | < 0,001 | 1                   |             |         |         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Urgente                | 676   | 31,22  | 556         | 82,25      |         | 16,69 (9,66-28,81)  |             |         |         |
| Estratos de edad                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Jóvenes (< 65 años)    | 1.214 | 56,07  | 1.129       | 93,00      | 0,738   | 0,941 (0,66-1,34)   |             |         |         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Mayores (> 64 años)    | 801   | 37,00  | 748         | 93,38      |         | 1                   |             |         |         |
| Estratos BMI                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Bajo peso (< 20)       | 117   | 5,40   | 109         | 93,16      | 0,773   | 0,95 (0,45-2,0)     |             |         |         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Normal (20-30)         | 1.652 | 76,30  | 1.534       | 92,86      |         | 1                   |             |         |         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Obeso (> 30)           | 300   | 13,86  | 282         | 94,00      |         | 0,82 (0,49-1,38)    |             |         |         |
| MG                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Vivos                  |       |        |             | Fallecidos |         |                     |             |         |         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | N                      | % MG  | MDN    | RIQ 25-75   | N          | %MG     | MDN                 | RIQ 25-75   | Z       | p       |
| Edad                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 1.877                  | 86,7  | 60     | 42-72       | 138        | 6,4     | 59                  | 40-73       | -0,276  | 0,783   |
| Peso                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 1.925                  | 88,9  | 71     | 65-80       | 144        | 6,7     | 75                  | 65-81,5     | -1,508  | 0,132   |
| Altura                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 1.925                  | 88,9  | 166    | 160-172,5   | 144        | 6,7     | 170                 | 160-175     | -2,27   | 0,023   |
| BMI (kg/m²)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 1.925                  | 88,9  | 25,71  | 23,4-27,7   | 144        | 6,7     | 25,39               | 23,4-27,6   | -0,072  | 0,943   |
| S. Corporal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 1.925                  | 88,9  | 1,81   | 1,68-1,91   | 144        | 6,7     | 1,86                | 1,6-1,9     | -2,204  | 0,028   |
| Estancia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 1.923                  | 88,8  | 1      | 1-3         | 144        | 6,7     | 3                   | 1-8         | -7,35   | < 0,001 |
| Creatinina                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 1.919                  | 88,6  | 0,84   | 0,7-1,01    | 143        | 6,6     | 1,1                 | 0,8-1,4     | -7,631  | < 0,001 |
| Glucosa inicial                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 1.435                  | 66,3  | 130    | 107-159     | 81         | 3,7     | 144                 | 117-182,5   | -2,994  | 0,003   |
| Glucosa Promedio                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 487                    | 22,5  | 134    | 113-162     | 62         | 2,9     | 149,20              | 121,6-192,2 | -2,78   | 0,005   |
| Hemoglobina                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 1.917                  | 88,5  | 11,8   | 10,5-13     | 140        | 6,5     | 11,45               | 9,8-13,2    | -1,196  | 0,232   |
| Bicarbonato                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 1.103                  | 50,9  | 22,8   | 21-24,8     | 119        | 5,5     | 22,38               | 19,4-24,3   | -2,169  | 0,03    |
| INR                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 1.849                  | 85,4  | 1,1    | 1-1,2       | 127        | 5,9     | 1,2                 | 1,1-1,5     | -6,191  | < 0,001 |
| Fr. Cardíaca                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1.354                  | 62,5  | 76,7   | 67,15-87,7  | 88         | 4,1     | 90,95               | 73,1-102,7  | -5,168  | < 0,001 |
| FiO2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 388                    | 17,9  | 55,58  | 47-66,6     | 68         | 3,1     | 72,95               | 55,2-89,7   | -5,394  | < 0,001 |
| Fr. Respiratoria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 1345                   | 62,1  | 15,80  | 13,8-18,08  | 87         | 4,0     | 16,41               | 14-19,45    | -1,421  | 0,155   |
| K                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 1.856                  | 85,7  | 3,98   | 3,7-4,3     | 136        | 6,3     | 3,8                 | 3,4-4,2     | -2,63   | 0,009   |
| Lactato                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 1.097                  | 50,7  | 1,50   | 1-2,4       | 117        | 5,4     | 2,5                 | 1,1-4,6     | -6,352  | < 0,001 |
| Leucocitos                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 1.913                  | 88,4  | 11,49  | 8,99-14,47  | 143        | 6,6     | 11,36               | 8,4-15,5    | -0,279  | 0,78    |
| Na                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 1.918                  | 88,6  | 138,33 | 136-141     | 143        | 6,6     | 140                 | 136-143,7   | -3,667  | < 0,001 |
| NEMS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 1.643                  | 75,9  | 21     | 18-27       | 110        | 5,1     | 34                  | 29-39       | -11,947 | < 0,001 |
| paO2/FiO2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 382                    | 17,6  | 297,11 | 180,2-407,6 | 82         | 3,8     | 219,16              | 102,6-354,5 | -3,301  | 0,001   |
| Pr. Art. INV                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1.033                  | 47,7  | 85,67  | 76,8-94,5   | 102        | 4,7     | 79,18               | 68,7-91,1   | -3,79   | < 0,001 |
| Pr. Art No INV                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 1.675                  | 77,4  | 87,75  | 77,42-99    | 132        | 6,1     | 86,06               | 73,3-100,2  | -1,101  | 0,271   |
| pO2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 695                    | 32,1  | 115    | 59-181,5    | 69         | 3,2     | 126,33              | 76,5-183,7  | -1,011  | 0,312   |
| Temperatura                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 1.334                  | 61,6  | 36,24  | 35,9-36,6   | 83         | 3,8     | 36,00               | 35,4-36,7   | -2,325  | 0,02    |
| Urea                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 1.917                  | 88,5  | 33     | 24,5-44     | 143        | 6,6     | 38                  | 27,5-59     | -4,003  | < 0,001 |
| “% MG % de muestra general; % M % de muestra; Md media; d.e. Desviación estándar; MDN Mediana; RIQ Rango intercuartílico; n Número de pacientes del nivel”.<br>“OR cr Odd ratio cruda (tabla Contingencia; MH); OR aj Odd ratio ajustada (RL)”. |                        |       |        |             |            |         |                     |             |         |         |

| EQP. Excluidos Quirúrgicos Programados                                                                                                                      |                        |             |            |                  |            |                 |            |                     |          |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|------------|---------------------|----------|----------|
|                                                                                                                                                             |                        | <i>N</i>    | % total    | % Muestra        | Vivos      | % resp <i>n</i> | <i>p</i>   | <i>ORc (IC 95%)</i> |          |          |
| <i>Estratos Creatinina</i>                                                                                                                                  | FR nomal Cr < 1,2      | 542         | 25,0       | 73,4             | 473        | 87,3            | < 0,001    | 1                   |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                             | FR alterada Cr 1,2 a 2 | 113         | 5,2        | 15,3             | 76         | 67,3            |            | 3,34 (2,1-5,32)     |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                             | Fracaso renal > 2      | 42          | 1,9        | 5,7              | 29         | 69,0            |            | 3,07 (1,52-6,19)    |          |          |
| <i>Estratos paO2/FiO2</i>                                                                                                                                   | <200                   | 120         | 5,5        | 16,3             | 84         | 70,0            | 0,06       | 1                   |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                             | 200-300                | 67          | 3,1        | 9,1              | 50         | 74,6            |            | 0,79 (0,40-1,55)    |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                             | > 300                  | 108         | 5,0        | 14,6             | 90         | 83,3            |            | 0,47 (0,24-0,88)    |          |          |
| <i>Estratos Pr. Arterial inv.</i>                                                                                                                           | < 60                   | 15          | 0,7        | 2,0              | 7          | 46,7            | 0,005      | 1                   |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                             | > 60                   | 363         | 16,8       | 49,2             | 283        | 78,0            |            | 0,24 (0,087-0,70)   |          |          |
| <i>Estratos Pr.Art. no inv.</i>                                                                                                                             | < 60                   | 35          | 1,6        | 4,7              | 22         | 62,9            | 0,001      | 1                   |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                             | > 60                   | 604         | 27,9       | 81,8             | 506        | 83,8            |            | 0,32 (0,16-0,67)    |          |          |
| <i>Estratos glucemia inicial</i>                                                                                                                            | Hipoglucemia (< 60)    | 3           | 0,1        | 0,4              | 2          | 66,7            | 0,091      | 5,0 (0,42-60,1)     |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                             | Normoglucemia (60-110) | 110         | 5,1        | 14,9             | 100        | 90,9            |            | 1                   |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                             | Hiperglucemia (> 110)  | 311         | 14,4       | 42,1             | 258        | 83,0            |            | 2,05 (1,01-4,19)    |          |          |
| <i>Estratos glucemia promedio</i>                                                                                                                           | Hipoglucemia (<60)     | –           | –          | –                | –          | –               | 0,099      | 1                   |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                             | Normoglucemia (60-110) | 57          | 2,6        | 7,7              | 50         | 87,7            |            | 2,03 (0,86-4,76)    |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                             | Hiperglucemia (> 110)  | 217         | 10,0       | 29,4             | 169        | 77,9            |            |                     |          |          |
| <i>Estratos glucemia inicial dual</i>                                                                                                                       | Anormal                | 314         | 14,5       | 42,5             | 260        | 82,8            | 0,041      | 1                   |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                             | Normal                 | 110         | 5,1        | 14,9             | 100        | 90,9            |            | 0,48 (0,236-0,982)  |          |          |
| <i>Determinaciones de glucemia</i>                                                                                                                          | Una                    | 426         | 19,7       | 57,7             | 361        | 84,7            | 0,099      | 1                   |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                             | Más de una             | 274         | 12,7       | 37,1             | 219        | 79,9            |            | 1,39 (0,938-2,07)   |          |          |
| <i>Sexo</i>                                                                                                                                                 | Hombre                 | 475         | 21,9       | 64,4             | 395        | 83,2            | 0,759      | 1                   |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                             | Mujer                  | 225         | 10,4       | 30,5             | 185        | 82,2            |            | 1,068 (0,70-1,62)   |          |          |
| <i>Causa de ingreso</i>                                                                                                                                     | Quirúrgico             | 102         | 4,7        | 13,8             | 91         | 89,2            | 0,038      | 1                   |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                             | Trauma                 | 319         | 14,7       | 43,2             | 269        | 84,3            |            | 1,54 (0,77-3,1)     |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                             | Médico                 | 279         | 12,9       | 37,8             | 220        | 78,9            |            | 2,22 (1,1-4,4)      |          |          |
| <i>Tipo de ingreso</i>                                                                                                                                      | Programado             | 24          | 1,1        | 3,3              | 24         | 100,0           | 0,023      | –                   |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                             | Urgente                | 676         | 31,2       | 91,6             | 556        | 82,2            |            |                     |          |          |
| <i>Estratos de edad</i>                                                                                                                                     | Jóvenes (< 65 años)    | 486         | 22,4       | 65,9             | 409        | 84,2            | 0,228      | 1                   |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                             | Mayores (> 64 años)    | 193         | 8,9        | 26,2             | 155        | 80,3            |            | 1,30 (0,84-2,0)     |          |          |
| <i>Estratos BMI</i>                                                                                                                                         | Bajo peso (< 20)       | 38          | 1,8        | 5,1              | 32         | 84,2            | 0,768      | 0,92 (0,38-2,26)    |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                             | Normal (20-30)         | 598         | 27,6       | 81,0             | 497        | 83,1            |            | 1                   |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                             | Obeso (> 30)           | 51          | 2,4        | 6,9              | 51         | 100,0           |            | 0,096 (0,013-0,7)   |          |          |
| EQP                                                                                                                                                         | Vivos                  |             |            |                  | Fallecidos |                 |            |                     |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                             | <i>N</i>               | % <i>MG</i> | <i>MDN</i> | <i>RIQ 25-75</i> | <i>N</i>   | % <i>MG</i>     | <i>MDN</i> | <i>RIQ 25-75</i>    | <i>Z</i> | <i>P</i> |
| Edad                                                                                                                                                        | 564                    | 26,1        | 50,0       | 32,2-67          | 115        | 5,3             | 58,0       | 39-72               | -2,732   | 0,006    |
| Peso                                                                                                                                                        | 580                    | 26,8        | 75,0       | 65-80            | 120        | 5,5             | 75,0       | 65-80               | -0,324   | 0,746    |
| Altura                                                                                                                                                      | 580                    | 26,8        | 170,0      | 165-175          | 120        | 5,5             | 170,0      | 160-175             | -0,846   | 0,397    |
| BMI (kg/m²)                                                                                                                                                 | 580                    | 26,8        | 25,0       | 23,1-27,5        | 120        | 5,5             | 25,4       | 23,4-27,5           | -0,989   | 0,323    |
| S. Corporal                                                                                                                                                 | 580                    | 26,8        | 1,9        | 1,7-1,9          | 120        | 5,5             | 1,9        | 1,71-1,9            | -0,152   | 0,879    |
| Estancia                                                                                                                                                    | 580                    | 26,8        | 3,0        | 1-7              | 120        | 5,5             | 3,5        | 1-8                 | -0,652   | 0,514    |
| Creatinina                                                                                                                                                  | 578                    | 26,7        | 0,9        | 0,7-1,1          | 119        | 5,5             | 1,1        | 0,8-1,4             | -4,721   | < 0,001  |
| Glucemia Basal                                                                                                                                              | 360                    | 16,6        | 128,5      | 107,5-162        | 64         | 3,0             | 144,0      | 107,5-206           | -2,62    | 0,009    |
| Glucemia Promedio                                                                                                                                           | 219                    | 10,1        | 132,0      | 112,7-161        | 55         | 2,5             | 145,2      | 122,3-186,6         | -2,7     | 0,007    |
| Hemoglobina                                                                                                                                                 | 576                    | 26,6        | 12,2       | 10,4-13,4        | 116        | 5,4             | 11,4       | 9,5-13,5            | -2,215   | 0,027    |
| Bicarbonato                                                                                                                                                 | 413                    | 19,1        | 23,1       | 21,1-25,6        | 99         | 4,6             | 22,4       | 19,1-24,3           | -2,7     | 0,007    |
| INR                                                                                                                                                         | 558                    | 25,8        | 1,1        | 1-1,3            | 108        | 5,0             | 1,3        | 1,1-1,5             | -3,631   | < 0,001  |
| Fr. Cardiaca                                                                                                                                                | 364                    | 16,8        | 82,4       | 72,1-95          | 71         | 3,3             | 91,3       | 76-105              | -2,995   | 0,003    |
| FiO2                                                                                                                                                        | 184                    | 8,5         | 57,7       | 48,6-68,9        | 57         | 2,6             | 72,9       | 56,2-88,3           | -3,677   | < 0,001  |
| Fr. Respiratoria                                                                                                                                            | 363                    | 16,8        | 16,3       | 14,1-19,1        | 70         | 3,2             | 16,3       | 14,09-19            | -0,364   | 0,716    |
| K                                                                                                                                                           | 556                    | 25,7        | 3,8        | 3,5-4,1          | 115        | 5,3             | 3,8        | 3,4-4,2             | -0,504   | 0,614    |
| Lactato                                                                                                                                                     | 410                    | 18,9        | 1,7        | 1,1-2,6          | 97         | 4,5             | 2,6        | 1,4-4,6             | -4,677   | < 0,001  |
| Leucocitos                                                                                                                                                  | 576                    | 26,6        | 11,4       | 8,9-14,6         | 119        | 5,5             | 11,4       | 8,7-15,7            | -0,493   | 0,622    |
| Na                                                                                                                                                          | 576                    | 26,6        | 139,0      | 136-141          | 119        | 5,5             | 140,0      | 136,5-144           | -2,853   | 0,004    |
| NEMS                                                                                                                                                        | 488                    | 22,5        | 26,0       | 20,1-32,5        | 91         | 4,2             | 34,0       | 31,6-40             | -7,763   | < 0,001  |
| paO2/FiO2                                                                                                                                                   | 224                    | 10,3        | 250,9      | 151,1-380,8      | 71         | 3,3             | 199,4      | 102,6-301,6         | -2,226   | 0,026    |
| Pr. Art. INV                                                                                                                                                | 290                    | 13,4        | 81,7       | 74,2-89,8        | 88         | 4,1             | 79,1       | 69,1-91,4           | -1,426   | 0,154    |
| Pr. Art No INV                                                                                                                                              | 528                    | 24,4        | 87,5       | 77,2-98          | 111        | 5,1             | 84,2       | 73-98,4             | -1,501   | 0,133    |
| pO2                                                                                                                                                         | 237                    | 10,9        | 105,0      | 53,7-181,7       | 54         | 2,5             | 129,6      | 82,06-181,3         | -1,597   | 0,110    |
| Temperatura                                                                                                                                                 | 354                    | 16,4        | 36,5       | 35,9-36,9        | 66         | 3,0             | 36,0       | 35,4-36,82          | -2,887   | 0,004    |
| Urea                                                                                                                                                        | 576                    | 26,6        | 31,2       | 23-44            | 119        | 5,5             | 37,0       | 27-54               | -3,384   | 0,001    |
| “% MG % de muestra general; % M % de muestra; Md media; d.e. Desviacion estandar; MDN Mediana; RIQ Rango intercuartílico; n Número de pacientes del nivel.” |                        |             |            |                  |            |                 |            |                     |          |          |
| “OR cr Odd ratio cruda (tabla Contingencia; MH); OR aj Odd ratio ajustada (RL)”.                                                                            |                        |             |            |                  |            |                 |            |                     |          |          |
| z. de Mann Whitney.                                                                                                                                         |                        |             |            |                  |            |                 |            |                     |          |          |

| EQP1. Excluidos Quirúrgicos Programados, una determinación de glucemia                                                                                                                                                                         |                        |      |      |       |            |            |      |         |       |             |                     |       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------|------|-------|------------|------------|------|---------|-------|-------------|---------------------|-------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                        | N    |      |       |            | % MG       | N    | % grupo |       | p           | ORc (IC)            |       |
| Estratos Creatinina                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | FR nomal Cr<1,2        | 336  |      |       |            | 15,52      | 299  | 89,0    |       | <0,001      | 1                   |       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | FR alterada Cr 1,2 a 2 | 61   |      |       |            | 2,82       | 41   | 67,2    |       |             | 3,94 (2,09-7,4)     |       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Fracaso renal > 2      | 26   |      |       |            | 1,20       | 19   | 73,1    |       |             | 2,98 (1,17-7,56)    |       |
| Estratos paO2/FiO2                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <200                   | 69   |      |       |            | 3,2        | 49   | 71,0    |       | 0,303       | 1                   |       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 200-300                | 34   |      |       |            | 1,6        | 26   | 76,5    |       |             | 0,75 (0,29-1,9)     |       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | >300                   | 53   |      |       |            | 2,4        | 44   | 83,0    |       |             | 0,50 (0,20-1,2)     |       |
| Estratos Pr. Arterial inv.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <60                    | 10   |      |       |            | 0,5        | 5    | 50,0    |       | 0,024       | 1                   |       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | >60                    | 171  |      |       |            | 7,9        | 137  | 80,1    |       |             | 0,248 (0,068-0,906) |       |
| Estratos Pr.Art.no inv.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <60                    | 19   |      |       |            | 0,9        | 12   | 63,2    |       | 0,01        | 1                   |       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | >60                    | 369  |      |       |            | 17,0       | 315  | 85,4    |       |             | 0,294 (0,111-0,78)  |       |
| Estratos glucemia inicial                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Hipoglucemia (<60)     | 3    |      |       |            | 0,1        | 2    | 66,7    |       | 0,091       | 5,0 (0,46-60,1)     |       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Normoglucemia (60-110) | 110  |      |       |            | 5,1        | 100  | 90,9    |       |             | 1                   |       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Hiperglucemia (>110)   | 311  |      |       |            | 14,4       | 258  | 83,0    |       |             | 2,05 (1,01-4,19)    |       |
| Estratos glucemia inicial dual                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Anormal                | 314  |      |       |            | 14,5       | 260  | 82,8    |       | 0,041       | 1                   |       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Normal                 | 110  |      |       |            | 5,1        | 100  | 90,9    |       |             | 0,481 (0,236-0,982) |       |
| Sexo                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Hombre                 | 286  |      |       |            | 13,2       | 244  | 85,3    |       | 0,63        | 1                   |       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Mujer                  | 140  |      |       |            | 6,5        | 117  | 83,6    |       |             | 1,142 (0,656-1,98)  |       |
| Causa de ingreso                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Quirúrgico             | 66   |      |       |            | 3,0        | 57   | 86,4    |       | 0,028       | 1                   |       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Trauma                 | 180  |      |       |            | 8,3        | 161  | 89,4    |       |             | 0,74 (0,32-1,74)    |       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Médico                 | 180  |      |       |            | 8,3        | 143  | 79,4    |       |             | 1,64 (0,74-3,6)     |       |
| Tipo de ingreso                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Programado             | 16   |      |       |            | 0,7        | 16   | 100,0   |       | 0,084       |                     |       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Urgente                | 410  |      |       |            | 18,9       | 345  | 84,1    |       |             |                     |       |
| Estratos de edad                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Jóvenes (< 65 años)    | 290  |      |       |            | 13,4       | 252  | 86,9    |       | 0,143       | 1                   |       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Mayores (> 64 Años)    | 123  |      |       |            | 5,7        | 100  | 81,3    |       |             | 1,52 (0,865-2,69)   |       |
| Estratos BMI                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Bajo peso (<20)        | 23   |      |       |            | 1,1        | 21   | 91,3    |       | 0,25        | 0,095 (0,023-0,39)  |       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Normal (20-30)         | 359  |      |       |            | 16,6       | 306  | 85,2    |       |             | 1                   |       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Obeso (>30)            | 44   |      |       |            | 2,0        | 34   | 77,3    |       |             | 1,69 (0,79-3,64)    |       |
| EQPID                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Vivos                  |      |      |       |            | Fallecidos |      |         |       |             |                     |       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | N                      | % MG | % M  | MDN   | RIQ 25-75  | N          | % MG | % M     | MDN   | RIQ 25-75   | Z                   | P     |
| Edad                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 352                    | 16,3 | 79,5 | 50,5  | 33-67      | 61         | 2,8  | 13,8    | 59,0  | 42-73       | -2,968              | 0,003 |
| Peso                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 361                    | 16,7 | 81,5 | 75,0  | 65-80      | 65         | 3,0  | 14,7    | 75,0  | 65-80       | -0,257              | 0,798 |
| Talla                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 361                    | 16,7 | 81,5 | 170,0 | 164,5-175  | 65         | 3,0  | 14,7    | 167,0 | 160-175     | -1,631              | 0,103 |
| BMI (kg/m²)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 361                    | 16,7 | 81,5 | 24,8  | 23,1-27,5  | 65         | 3,0  | 14,7    | 25,7  | 23,8-27,7   | -1,608              | 0,108 |
| sc_Du Bois                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 361                    | 16,7 | 81,5 | 1,8   | 1,7-1,9    | 65         | 3,0  | 14,7    | 1,8   | 1,6-1,9     | -0,25               | 0,803 |
| Estancia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 361                    | 16,7 | 81,5 | 2,0   | 1-6        | 65         | 3,0  | 14,7    | 2,0   | 1-7         | -0,416              | 0,677 |
| Creatinina                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 359                    | 16,6 | 81,0 | 0,9   | 0,7-1,1    | 64         | 3,0  | 14,4    | 1,1   | 0,8-1,5     | -3,324              | 0,001 |
| Glu inicial                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 360                    | 16,6 | 81,3 | 128,5 | 107,5-162  | 64         | 3,0  | 14,4    | 144,0 | 117,5-206   | -2,625              | 0,009 |
| Hemoglobina                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 357                    | 16,5 | 80,6 | 12,5  | 10,9-13,7  | 61         | 2,8  | 13,8    | 11,2  | 9,5-13,35   | -3,107              | 0,002 |
| Bicarb                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 220                    | 10,2 | 49,7 | 23,0  | 20,9-25,75 | 48         | 2,2  | 10,8    | 22,8  | 19,3-25,5   | -0,568              | 0,570 |
| INR                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 341                    | 15,8 | 77,0 | 1,1   | 1-1,3      | 55         | 2,5  | 12,4    | 1,2   | 1-1,4       | -2,512              | 0,012 |
| Frec. Cardíaca                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 229                    | 10,6 | 51,7 | 81,7  | 70,5-94,8  | 40         | 1,8  | 9,0     | 91,2  | 73,1-102,7  | -1,846              | 0,065 |
| FiO2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 99                     | 4,6  | 22,3 | 59,0  | 50-75      | 29         | 1,3  | 6,5     | 80,5  | 61,2-93,6   | -2,907              | 0,004 |
| Frec.Respiratoria                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 229                    | 10,6 | 51,7 | 16,3  | 14-19,3    | 39         | 1,8  | 8,8     | 16,6  | 14-20       | -0,073              | 0,942 |
| K                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 337                    | 15,6 | 76,1 | 3,9   | 3,5-4,2    | 60         | 2,8  | 13,5    | 3,8   | 3,5-4,3     | -0,501              | 0,616 |
| Lactato                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 218                    | 10,1 | 49,2 | 1,7   | 1-2,6      | 46         | 2,1  | 10,4    | 2,1   | 1,06-3,4    | -1,423              | 0,155 |
| Leucocitos                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 357                    | 16,5 | 80,6 | 11,6  | 9,1-14,4   | 64         | 3,0  | 14,4    | 11,5  | 8,4-15,8    | -0,375              | 0,708 |
| Na                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 358                    | 16,5 | 80,8 | 138,0 | 136-141    | 64         | 3,0  | 14,4    | 139,0 | 135,1-143,7 | -1,543              | 0,123 |
| NEMS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 282                    | 13,0 | 63,7 | 24,0  | 18-32      | 38         | 1,8  | 8,6     | 33,4  | 27-42,1     | -4,897              | 0,000 |
| paO2/FiO2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 119                    | 5,5  | 26,9 | 235,7 | 140-378,3  | 37         | 1,7  | 8,4     | 180,6 | 91,5-285,4  | -1,412              | 0,158 |
| Pres. art Invasiva                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 142                    | 6,6  | 32,1 | 84,4  | 75,8-92,1  | 39         | 1,8  | 8,8     | 78,8  | 66,4-99     | -0,878              | 0,380 |
| Pres. art No Inv                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 327                    | 15,1 | 73,8 | 89,0  | 78,8-99,5  | 61         | 2,8  | 13,8    | 90,0  | 76,3-106,6  | -0,331              | 0,740 |
| PO2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 119                    | 5,5  | 26,9 | 99,0  | 51-190     | 26         | 1,2  | 5,9     | 106,0 | 70,5-175,3  | -0,536              | 0,592 |
| Temperatura                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 220                    | 10,2 | 49,7 | 36,4  | 35,9-36,9  | 35         | 1,6  | 7,9     | 36,1  | 35,4-36,6   | -2,226              | 0,026 |
| Urea                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 357                    | 16,5 | 80,6 | 33,0  | 23-44,5    | 64         | 3,0  | 14,4    | 40,5  | 28-63,25    | -3,308              | 0,001 |
| “%MG % de muestra general; % M % de muestra; Md media; d.e. Desviación estandar; MDN Mediana; RIQ Rango intercuartílico; n Número de pacientes del nivel.”<br>“OR cr Odd ratio cruda (tabla Contingencia; MH); OR aj Odd ratio ajustada (RL)”. |                        |      |      |       |            |            |      |         |       |             |                     |       |

| EQPM. Excluidos Quirúrgicos Programados con más de una determinación de glucemia                                                                           |                        |             |            |            |                    |                   |             |            |            |                     |          |          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------|------------|---------------------|----------|----------|
|                                                                                                                                                            |                        |             |            | <i>N</i>   | % <i>MG</i>        | <i>Vivos</i>      | %           |            | <i>p</i>   | <i>ORc (IC)</i>     |          |          |
| <i>Estratos Creatinina</i>                                                                                                                                 | FR nomal Cr < 1.2      |             |            | 206        | 9,5                | 174               | 84,5        |            | 0,004      | 1                   |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                            | FR alterada Cr 1,2 a 2 |             |            | 52         | 2,4                | 35                | 67,3        |            |            | 2,64 (1,32-5,27)    |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                            | Fracaso renal > 2      |             |            | 16         | 0,7                | 10                | 62,5        |            |            | 3,26 (1,11-9,61)    |          |          |
| <i>Estratos paO2/FiO2</i>                                                                                                                                  | < 200                  |             |            | 51         | 2,4                | 35                | 68,6        |            | 0,182      | 1                   |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                            | 200-300                |             |            | 33         | 1,5                | 24                | 72,7        |            |            | 0,82 (0,31-2,16)    |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                            | > 300                  |             |            | 55         | 2,5                | 46                | 83,6        |            |            | 0,43 (0,17-1,08)    |          |          |
| <i>Estratos Pr. Arterial inv.</i>                                                                                                                          | < 60                   |             |            | 5          | 0,2                | 2                 | 40,0        |            | 0,066      |                     |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                            | > 60                   |             |            | 192        | 8,9                | 146               | 76,0        |            |            | 0,21 (0,034-1,29)   |          |          |
| <i>Estratos Pr Art. no inv.</i>                                                                                                                            | < 60                   |             |            | 16         | 0,7                | 10                | 62,5        |            | 0,069      |                     |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                            | > 60                   |             |            | 235        | 10,9               | 191               | 81,3        |            |            | 0,384 (0,133-1,112) |          |          |
| <i>Estratos Glucemia Prom</i>                                                                                                                              | Hipoglucemia (< 60)    |             |            | –          | –                  | –                 | –           |            | –          |                     |          |          |
| <i>Estrato dual</i>                                                                                                                                        | Normoglucemia (60-110) |             |            | 57         | 2,6                | 50                | 87,7        |            | 0,099      | 1                   |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                            | Hiperlucemia (> 110)   |             |            | 217        | 10,0               | 169               | 77,9        |            |            | 2,029 (0,864-4,76)  |          |          |
| <i>Sexo</i>                                                                                                                                                | Hombre                 |             |            | 189        | 8,7                | 151               | 79,9        |            | 0,980      |                     |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                            | Mujer                  |             |            | 85         | 3,9                | 68                | 80,0        |            |            | 0,993 (0,524-1,88)  |          |          |
| <i>Causa de Ingreso</i>                                                                                                                                    | Quirúrgico             |             |            | 36         | 1,7                | 34                | 94,4        |            | 0,066      | 1                   |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                            | Trauma                 |             |            | 139        | 6,4                | 108               | 77,7        |            |            | 4,88 (1,11-21,45)   |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                            | Médico                 |             |            | 99         | 4,6                | 77                | 77,8        |            |            | 4,86 (1,08-21,83)   |          |          |
| <i>Tipo de ingreso</i>                                                                                                                                     | Programado             |             |            | 8          | 0,4                | 8                 | 100,0       |            | 0,150      |                     |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                            | Urgente                |             |            | 266        | 12,3               | 211               | 79,3        |            |            |                     |          |          |
| <i>Estratos de edad</i>                                                                                                                                    | Jóvenes (< 65 años)    |             |            | 196        | 9,1                | 157               | 80,1        |            | 0,780      |                     |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                            | Mayores (> 64 años)    |             |            | 70         | 3,2                | 55                | 78,6        |            |            | 1,09 (0,56-2,14)    |          |          |
| <i>Estratos de BMI</i>                                                                                                                                     | Bajo peso (< 20)       |             |            | 15         | 0,7                | 11                | 73,3        |            | 0,695      | 1,45 (0,44-4,74)    |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                            | Normal (20-30)         |             |            | 239        | 11,0               | 191               | 79,9        |            |            | 1                   |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                            | Obeso (> 30)           |             |            | 20         | 0,9                | 17                | 85,0        |            |            | 0,70 (0,20-2,49)    |          |          |
| <b>EQPM</b>                                                                                                                                                | <b>Vivos</b>           |             |            |            |                    | <b>Fallecidos</b> |             |            |            |                     |          |          |
|                                                                                                                                                            | <i>N</i>               | % <i>MG</i> | % <i>M</i> | <i>MDN</i> | <i>RIQ</i> (25-75) | <i>N</i>          | % <i>MG</i> | % <i>M</i> | <i>MDN</i> | <i>RIQ</i> (25-75)  | <i>Z</i> | <i>P</i> |
| Edad                                                                                                                                                       | 212                    | 9,8         | 71,9       | 49,5       | 32-66              | 54                | 2,5         | 18,3       | 54,5       | 32,7-70             | -0,96    | 0,337    |
| Peso                                                                                                                                                       | 219                    | 10,1        | 74,2       | 75,0       | 65-80              | 55                | 2,5         | 18,6       | 75,0       | 65-80               | -0,181   | 0,856    |
| CM                                                                                                                                                         | 219                    | 10,1        | 74,2       | 170,0      | 165-175            | 55                | 2,5         | 18,6       | 170,0      | 165-178             | -0,566   | 0,572    |
| BMI (kg/m²)                                                                                                                                                | 219                    | 10,1        | 74,2       | 25,2       | 23,1-27,3          | 55                | 2,5         | 18,6       | 24,8       | 23,3-27,3           | -0,308   | 0,758    |
| sc_Du Bois                                                                                                                                                 | 219                    | 10,1        | 74,2       | 1,9        | 1,7-1,9            | 55                | 2,5         | 18,6       | 1,9        | 1,7-2               | -0,527   | 0,598    |
| Estancia                                                                                                                                                   | 219                    | 10,1        | 74,2       | 3,0        | 1-9                | 55                | 2,5         | 18,6       | 5,0        | 1-9                 | -1,209   | 0,227    |
| Creatinina                                                                                                                                                 | 219                    | 10,1        | 74,2       | 0,9        | 0,7-1,1            | 55                | 2,5         | 18,6       | 1,1        | 0,89-1,4            | -3,33    | 0,001    |
| GLU PRO                                                                                                                                                    | 219                    | 10,1        | 74,2       | 132,0      | 112,6-161          | 55                | 2,5         | 18,6       | 145,3      | 122,3-186,6         | -2,702   | 0,007    |
| Hmoglobina                                                                                                                                                 | 219                    | 10,1        | 74,2       | 11,7       | 10,1-13,05         | 55                | 2,5         | 18,6       | 11,8       | 9,5-13,5            | -0,371   | 0,711    |
| Bicarbonato                                                                                                                                                | 193                    | 8,9         | 65,4       | 23,3       | 21,5-25,6          | 51                | 2,4         | 17,3       | 22,1       | 18,78-24,2          | -3,277   | 0,001    |
| INR                                                                                                                                                        | 217                    | 10,0        | 73,6       | 1,2        | 1,05-1,35          | 53                | 2,4         | 18,0       | 1,3        | 1,1-1,5             | -2,385   | 0,017    |
| Frec. Cardiaca                                                                                                                                             | 135                    | 6,2         | 45,8       | 84,5       | 73,5-96,2          | 31                | 1,4         | 10,5       | 92,6       | 76,8-107,6          | -2,341   | 0,019    |
| FiO2                                                                                                                                                       | 85                     | 3,9         | 28,8       | 56,7       | 46,3-65,7          | 28                | 1,3         | 9,5        | 66,3       | 50,9-79,6           | -2,301   | 0,021    |
| Frec. Respiratoria                                                                                                                                         | 134                    | 6,2         | 45,4       | 16,3       | 14,5-19,1          | 31                | 1,4         | 10,5       | 16,2       | 14,2-18,2           | -0,526   | 0,599    |
| K                                                                                                                                                          | 219                    | 10,1        | 74,2       | 3,8        | 3,5-4,1            | 55                | 2,5         | 18,6       | 3,8        | 3,3-4,1             | -0,055   | 0,956    |
| Lactato                                                                                                                                                    | 192                    | 8,9         | 65,1       | 1,7        | 1,1-2,6            | 51                | 2,4         | 17,3       | 3,2        | 1,95-5,6            | -5,082   | <0,001   |
| Leucocitos                                                                                                                                                 | 219                    | 10,1        | 74,2       | 11,0       | 8,6-14,9           | 55                | 2,5         | 18,6       | 10,8       | 8,74-15,045         | -0,353   | 0,724    |
| Na                                                                                                                                                         | 218                    | 10,1        | 73,9       | 139,0      | 136,6-142          | 55                | 2,5         | 18,6       | 141,3      | 137,3-145           | -2,235   | 0,025    |
| NEMS                                                                                                                                                       | 206                    | 9,5         | 69,8       | 28,5       | 22,5-34            | 53                | 2,4         | 18,0       | 35,7       | 32,7-39,3           | -5,4     | <0,001   |
| paO2/FiO2                                                                                                                                                  | 105                    | 4,8         | 35,6       | 270,5      | 178,5-388,9        | 34                | 1,6         | 11,5       | 215,2      | 148-323,6           | -1,779   | 0,075    |
| Pres. art. Invasiva                                                                                                                                        | 148                    | 6,8         | 50,2       | 79,4       | 73,1-87,3          | 49                | 2,3         | 16,6       | 79,2       | 70,6-85,3           | -0,671   | 0,502    |
| Pres. Art. No Inv                                                                                                                                          | 201                    | 9,3         | 68,1       | 83,0       | 74,3-95,5          | 50                | 2,3         | 16,9       | 79,9       | 68,3-88,1           | -2,23    | 0,026    |
| pO2                                                                                                                                                        | 118                    | 5,5         | 40,0       | 112,4      | 60,05-179,3        | 28                | 1,3         | 9,5        | 142,0      | 110,1-187,1         | -1,812   | 0,07     |
| Temperatura                                                                                                                                                | 134                    | 6,2         | 45,4       | 36,5       | 36,04-36,9         | 31                | 1,4         | 10,5       | 36,0       | 35,4-36,9           | -1,859   | 0,063    |
| Urea                                                                                                                                                       | 219                    | 10,1        | 74,2       | 29,5       | 21,5-43            | 55                | 2,5         | 18,6       | 32,0       | 26,3-43,6           | -1,659   | 0,097    |
| “%MG % de muestra general; % M % de muestra; Md media; d.e. Desviacion estandar; MDN Mediana; RIQ Rango intercuartilico; n Número de pacientes del nivel.” |                        |             |            |            |                    |                   |             |            |            |                     |          |          |
| “OR cr Odd ratio cruda (tabla Contingencia; MH); OR aj Odd ratio ajustada (RL)”                                                                            |                        |             |            |            |                    |                   |             |            |            |                     |          |          |

| EQP3D. Excluidos Quirúrgicos Programados con estancia de 3 o más días |                        |                |                    |              |                |                    |                  |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|----------|
|                                                                       |                        | <i>N</i>       | % <i>MG</i>        | <i>Vivos</i> | %              | <i>p</i>           | <i>ORc (IC)</i>  |          |
| <i>Estratos Creatinina</i>                                            | FR nomal Cr<1.2        | 282            | 13,0               | 241          | 87,0           | 0,003              | 1                |          |
|                                                                       | FR alterada Cr 1,2 a 2 | 58             | 2,7                | 41           | 97,3           |                    | 2,43 (1,26-4,69) |          |
|                                                                       | Fracaso renal > 2      | 19             | 0,9                | 12           | 99,1           |                    | 3,42 (1,27-9,22) |          |
| <i>Estratos paO2/FiO2</i>                                             | <200                   | 79             | 3,6                | 64           | 96,4           | 0,492              | 1                |          |
|                                                                       | 200-300                | 48             | 2,2                | 36           | 97,8           |                    | 1,4 (0,6-3,36)   |          |
|                                                                       | > 300                  | 68             | 3,1                | 57           | 96,9           |                    | 0,82 (0,35-1,94) |          |
| <i>Estratos Pr. Arterial inv.</i>                                     | <60                    | 5              | 0,2                | 4            | 99,8           | 0,937              | 1                |          |
|                                                                       | >60                    | 219            | 10,1               | 172          | 89,9           |                    | 1,1 (0,12-10)    |          |
| <i>Estratos Pr Art. no inv.</i>                                       | <60                    | 19             | 0,9                | 14           | 99,1           | 0,344              | 1                |          |
|                                                                       | >60                    | 311            | 14,4               | 256          | 85,6           |                    | 0,6 (0,2-1,74)   |          |
| <i>Estratos glucemia inicial</i>                                      | Hipoglucemia (<60)     | 2              | 0,1                | 2            | 99,9           | 0,34               | 2,4 (0,22-25,7)  |          |
|                                                                       | Normoglucemia (60-110) | 64             | 3,0                | 56           | 97,0           |                    | 1                |          |
|                                                                       | Hiperglucemia (> 110)  | 293            | 13,5               | 236          | 86,5           |                    | 1,93 (0,83-4,46) |          |
| <i>Estratos glucemia promedio</i>                                     | Hipoglucemia (<60)     | 2              | 0,1                | 2            | 99,9           | 0,51               | 1,9 (0,2-20)     |          |
|                                                                       | Normoglucemia (60-110) | 64             | 3,0                | 55           | 97,0           |                    | 1                |          |
|                                                                       | Hiperglucemia (> 110)  | 293            | 13,5               | 237          | 86,5           |                    | 1,4 (0,7-3)      |          |
| <i>Estratos glucemia inicial dual</i>                                 | Anormal                | 295            | 13,6               | 238          | 86,4           | 0,199              | 1                |          |
|                                                                       | Normal                 | 64             | 3,0                | 56           | 97,0           |                    | 0,59 (0,27-1,32) |          |
| <i>Determinaciones de glucemia</i>                                    | Una                    | 210            | 9,7                | 179          | 90,3           | 0,055              | 1                |          |
|                                                                       | Más de una             | 150            | 6,9                | 116          | 93,1           |                    | 1,7 (0,98-2,9)   |          |
| <i>Sexo</i>                                                           | Hombre                 | 245            | 11,3               | 200          | 88,7           | 0,822              | 1                |          |
|                                                                       | Mujer                  | 115            | 5,3                | 95           | 94,7           |                    | 0,94 (0,52-1,67) |          |
| <i>Causa de ingreso</i>                                               | Quirúrgico             | 39             | 1,8                | 33           | 98,2           | 0,179              | 0,62 (0,24-1,61) |          |
|                                                                       | Trauma                 | 175            | 8,1                | 149          | 91,9           |                    | 0,59 (0,33-1,05) |          |
|                                                                       | Médico                 | 146            | 6,7                | 113          | 93,3           |                    | 1                |          |
| <i>Tipo de ingreso</i>                                                | Programado             | 13             | 0,6                | 13           | 99,4           | 0,085              | 1                |          |
|                                                                       | Urgente                | 347            | 16,0               | 282          | 84,0           |                    | 3,22 (0,41-25)   |          |
| <i>Estratos de edad</i>                                               | Jóvenes (< 65 años)    | 234            | 10,8               | 195          | 89,2           | 0,356              | 1                |          |
|                                                                       | Mayores (> 64 años)    | 116            | 5,4                | 92           | 94,6           |                    | 1,3 (0,74-2,3)   |          |
| <i>Estratos BMI</i>                                                   | Bajo peso (< 20)       | 17             | 0,8                | 12           | 99,2           | 0,441              | 0,51 (0,17-1,52) |          |
|                                                                       | Normal (20-30)         | 305            | 14,1               | 251          | 85,9           |                    | 1                |          |
|                                                                       | Obeso (> 30)           | 38             | 1,8                | 32           | 98,2           |                    | 1,14 (0,45-2,87) |          |
| EQP3D                                                                 | Vivos                  |                |                    | Fallecidos   |                |                    |                  |          |
|                                                                       | <i>N</i>               | <i>Mediana</i> | <i>RIQ</i> (25-75) | <i>N</i>     | <i>Mediana</i> | <i>RIQ</i> (25-75) | <i>Z</i>         | <i>P</i> |
| Edad                                                                  | 287                    | 51             | 35-70              | 63           | 59             | 40-73              | -1,80            | 0,072    |
| Peso                                                                  | 295                    | 75             | 65-80              | 65           | 75             | 61-81              | -0,38            | 0,702    |
| Altura                                                                | 295                    | 170            | 165-175            | 65           | 170            | 160-175            | -0,22            | 0,822    |
| BMI (kg/m²)                                                           | 295                    | 25,39          | 23,4-27,6          | 65           | 25,39          | 23,4-27,6          | -0,27            | 0,788    |
| S. Corporal                                                           | 295                    | 1,86           | 1,7-1,9            | 65           | 1,86           | 1,6-1,9            | -0,26            | 0,791    |
| Estancia                                                              | 295                    | 7              | 4-17               | 65           | 8              | 5-14,5             | -1,49            | 0,137    |
| Creatinina                                                            | 294                    | 0,9            | 0,7-1,1            | 65           | 1,03           | 0,79-1,4           | -2,60            | 0,009    |
| Glu.in                                                                | 294                    | 136            | 113-174            | 65           | 141            | 120-190            | -1,40            | 0,162    |
| Glucosa Prm.                                                          | 294                    | 138,75         | 114,8-170          | 65           | 143            | 121-185            | -1,60            | 0,109    |
| Hemoglobina                                                           | 293                    | 11,9           | 10,1-13,2          | 64           | 11,65          | 9,9-13,5           | -0,10            | 0,924    |
| Bicarbonato                                                           | 229                    | 23,2           | 21,06-25,8         | 55           | 22,6           | 20,3-25,3          | -0,79            | 0,427    |
| INR                                                                   | 281                    | 1,2            | 1,1-1,3            | 58           | 1,2            | 1-1,36             | -0,04            | 0,971    |
| Fr. Cardiaca                                                          | 194                    | 84,95          | 73,3-97,4          | 39           | 91,2           | 74,5-102,5         | -0,72            | 0,474    |
| FiO2                                                                  | 126                    | 57,72          | 49,4-69,4          | 29           | 61             | 50,3-84,9          | -0,96            | 0,339    |
| Fr. Respiratoria                                                      | 193                    | 16             | 14-20              | 38           | 17,2           | 14,4-20,3          | -0,97            | 0,334    |
| K                                                                     | 282                    | 3,8            | 3,4-4,1            | 64           | 3,9            | 3,51-4,19          | -1,24            | 0,216    |
| Lactato                                                               | 228                    | 1,82           | 1,07-2,8           | 54           | 2,32           | 1,09-3,6           | -1,65            | 0,100    |
| Leucocitos                                                            | 293                    | 11,27          | 8,9-15,02          | 65           | 11,8           | 9,4-15,07          | -0,69            | 0,488    |
| Na                                                                    | 293                    | 139            | 136-141,5          | 65           | 138            | 136,2-142,5        | -0,13            | 0,898    |
| NEMS                                                                  | 241                    | 30,5           | 23,4-35,7          | 51           | 34             | 29-40              | -3,27            | 0,001    |
| paO2/FiO2                                                             | 157                    | 236            | 147,8-359,1        | 38           | 237,4          | 121,9-360,5        | -0,27            | 0,789    |
| Pr. Art. INV                                                          | 176                    | 79,19          | 73,1-88,7          | 48           | 79,9           | 72,39-88,5         | -0,14            | 0,890    |
| Pr. Art No INV                                                        | 270                    | 86,32          | 75,8-98            | 60           | 87,75          | 73,67-95,8         | -0,73            | 0,467    |
| pO2                                                                   | 142                    | 124,5          | 61,1-186,6         | 31           | 128,7          | 81,5-188,5         | -0,56            | 0,578    |
| Temperatura                                                           | 187                    | 36,48          | 35,9-37            | 36           | 36,45          | 35,8-37,05         | -0,31            | 0,756    |
| Urea                                                                  | 293                    | 32             | 23-44,5            | 65           | 37             | 27,2-53            | -2,56            | 0,010    |

Original

## Obesidad de una población de escolares de Granada: evaluación de la eficacia de una intervención educativa

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### Resumen

**Objetivos:** El objeto del presente trabajo es estudiar la prevalencia de la obesidad y el sobrepeso en una población de escolares y verificar la efectividad de la intervención educativa desarrollada sobre esos alumnos en términos de mejora de los valores percentilados del índice de masa corporal.

**Material:** La población valorada está compuesta por 977 escolares de entre 9 y 17 años de edad, pertenecientes a 13 centros educativos públicos de la ciudad de Granada y de su provincia (España).

**Metodología:** Se trata de un estudio longitudinal, analítico, multicéntrico y observacional de cohortes, desarrollado en tres fases. En primer lugar, valoración del estado nutricional, mediante técnicas antropométricas (peso, talla e índice de masa corporal, seis pliegues cutáneos y cuatro perímetros corporales) así como la presión arterial. Una segunda fase en la que se desarrolló la intervención educativa sobre la alimentación y el ejercicio físico. En la fase final se evaluó la efectividad de la intervención.

**Resultados:** Se encontró una mayor prevalencia de obesidad en las chicas de entre 12 y 13 años (15,1%). En los chicos, la prevalencia de obesidad fue inferior hasta los 13 años, aunque después mostraron un creciente incremento de dicha prevalencia (12,6%). Se produjo una reducción significativa de los valores de IMC en los dos sexos, aunque más significativa entre las chicas.

**Conclusiones:** Existe un incremento alarmante en la prevalencia de sobrepeso y obesidad entre la población valorada. La reducción significativa de las puntuaciones en el IMC confirma la efectividad de la intervención educativa desarrollada.

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Palabras clave: Intervención educativa de enfermería. Sobrepeso. Obesidad. Niños. Adolescentes.

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### OBESITY IN A SCHOOL CHILDREN POPULATION FROM GRANADA: ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFICACY OF AN EDUCATIONAL INTERVENTION

#### Abstract

**Objectives:** The objective of this research was to study the prevalence of obesity and excess weight in a population of school children and adolescents, and to verify the effectiveness of an educational intervention, as reflected in the variation of their body mass index values.

**Materials:** The population sample was composed of 977 school children and adolescents from 9 to 17 years of age, belonging to 13 public elementary schools and high schools in the city and province of Granada (Spain).

**Methodology:** This longitudinal cohort study was analytical, multicentric, and observational. It was carried out in three phases. The first phase involved the evaluation of the nutritional state of the sample population by means of anthropometric measurements (weight, height, body mass index, six skin folds and four body perimeters) as well as arterial blood pressure. The second phase entailed an educational intervention focusing on good nutritional habits and physical exercise. The third and final phase evaluated the effectiveness of the intervention.

**Results:** A higher obesity prevalence (15.1%) was found in school girls between 12 and 13. In the case of boys, obesity prevalence was lower up to age 13 though afterwards, it progressively increased (12.6%). The educational intervention produced an important reduction in body mass index values in both sexes though this reduction was more significant in young females.

**Conclusions:** There is a currently an alarming increase in obesity and overweight prevalence among the population evaluated in this study. The significant reduction in body mass index values resulting from this research confirmed the effectiveness of the educational intervention to reduce excess weight.

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Key words: Nursing educational intervention. Overweight. Obesity. Children. Adolescents.

## Introducción

En la actualidad, más de mil millones de personas sufren de sobrepeso en todo el mundo, de los que trescientos millones pueden ser consideradas como obesos<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>. En Europa, 1 de cada 6 niños, o su equivalente casi el 20% tiene sobrepeso, mientras que 1 de cada 20 adolescentes (el 5%) ya es obeso<sup>5</sup>.

Los numerosos estudios realizados a partir de estudiantes de la Unión Europea muestran un importante incremento en las tasas de obesidad y sobrepeso de niños y adolescentes, sobre todo en los últimos diez años<sup>6</sup>. Destaca una prevalencia de sobrepeso y obesidad del 18%, o lo que es igual, un incremento anual de 400.000 nuevos casos<sup>7</sup>.

En España, 4 hijos de cada 10 (42,7%), con edades entre 6 y 10 años, tienen sobrepeso y 1 de ellos ya es obeso<sup>8</sup>. En el caso de los adolescentes, las tasas son algo menores, pero siguen siendo preocupantes, ya que 1 de cada 3 presenta sobrepeso y 1 de cada 20 es obeso<sup>9</sup>. Según los datos del estudio ENKID (1998-2000), la prevalencia de obesidad en España era del 13,9% de acuerdo con el percentil 97 (P97) de Hernández y cols. (2002)<sup>10</sup>. Por otra parte, la prevalencia del sobrepeso de acuerdo con el percentil 85, y según los mismos autores, se situó en el 26,3%<sup>8</sup>. En relación con el sexo, la mayor prevalencia de obesidad se detectó entre los chicos, con un 15,6%, frente al 12,0% encontrado entre las chicas. Además, se observó la existencia de un patrón de distribución geográfica respecto de la prevalencia de obesidad en las diferentes regiones españolas. El sur de la península, junto con el archipiélago canario, constituían las regiones geográficas españolas con mayor prevalencia de obesidad entre su población infantil y adolescente, frente a las comunidades del norte del país, en donde las tasas de sobrepeso y obesidad eran considerablemente más bajas<sup>8</sup>.

En el presente, la evidencia epidemiológica permite identificar el sobrepeso y la obesidad como factores de riesgo para el desarrollo posterior de patologías crónicas entre los más jóvenes, como la hipertensión arterial, diabetes mellitus tipo II<sup>11,12,13</sup>, colestasis, esteatohepatitis no alcohólica<sup>14,15</sup>, artrosis y algunos tipos de cáncer<sup>16,17</sup>. Si se tiene esto en cuenta, la obesidad se relaciona con una disminución de la calidad de vida y un aumento del gasto sanitario<sup>18</sup>. En vista de lo cual, se puede afirmar que el sobrepeso y la obesidad representan un importante problema de salud pública entre la población general, aunque de un modo especial entre el colectivo de niños y adolescentes<sup>19,20,21</sup>.

Así pues, resulta evidente la necesidad de introducir en nuestro sistema educativo programas de educación e intervención nutricional. Estos, a su vez, deben ser evaluados de forma permanente para que se ajusten lo más posible a ese proceso acelerado de cambios en las conductas alimentarias<sup>22,23</sup>.

Las evidencias disponibles hasta el momento indican que una intervención educativa de enfermería, a través del consejo dietético y la educación nutricional

correspondiente, podrían mejorar e influir positivamente en la evolución de los estados de sobrepeso y obesidad entre los más jóvenes en el ámbito escolar<sup>24,25,26</sup>.

Los objetivos de este trabajo consistieron en llevar a cabo una estimación precisa de la prevalencia de sobrepeso y obesidad entre una población de escolares compuesta por 977 niños y adolescentes de entre 9 y 17 años de edad; todos ellos pertenecientes a 13 centros educativos públicos de Granada y su provincia. Con ello, se pretendía definir una intervención educativa sobre alimentación saludable y ejercicio físico, de modo que se mejorara el estado nutricional del grupo de alumnos en situación de sobrepeso y obesidad.

## Objetivos

Los objetivos a alcanzar con el desarrollo de este estudio fueron los siguientes:

- Determinar la prevalencia de sobrepeso y obesidad en una población de escolares de entre 9 y 17 años de edad pertenecientes a 13 centros educativos de la ciudad de Granada y su provincia.
- Verificar la efectividad de la intervención educativa desarrollada sobre el grupo de chicos y chicas con sobrepeso y obesidad en la mejora de los valores percentilados del índice de masa corporal.

## Muestra

Con el fin de obtener una población de estudio representativa de toda la provincia de Granada, fue necesario efectuar un análisis previo sobre la situación demográfica actual, en cuanto a la población existente de niños y adolescentes. Para ello y como fuente de datos de nuestra provincia se utilizó el Padrón Municipal de 2008, según el cual la población existente para ese intervalo de edad y en ese período ascendía a 49.359 personas, entre chicos y chicas. Por sexos, 24.055 eran niños, esto es, el 48,7% del total de la población infantil en ese momento. En el caso de las niñas, su número ascendía a 25.304, o su equivalente, el 51,3% del total de la población objeto del estudio. A la vista de esos datos y asumiendo un error del 3%, la población de estudio se concretó en 977 sujetos, de los cuales, 524 fueron chicas y 452 varones, todos ellos con edades comprendidas entre los 9 y los 17 años. La selección de las últimas unidades fue proporcional al tamaño del municipio de residencia y al área geográfica en la que éste se encontraba. Con esta premisa, se establecieron cinco zonas geográficas y tres tipos de municipios (menos de 10.000 habitantes, entre 10.000 y 50.000 y más de 50.000). Se seleccionaron 13 centros educativos públicos distribuidos por Granada y su provincia, lo que hizo representativa la población de escolares participantes.

Se justifica la elección de esta población y de esta zona geográfica por la no inclusión de esta región en el análisis ya mencionado del estudio del ENKID. Esta circunstancia determinaba que en la actualidad se desconociera la prevalencia de sobrepeso y obesidad de los niños y adolescentes en esta región geográfica.

Como criterios de inclusión de la muestra, cabría destacar que fueron considerados candidatos a participar en el estudio todos aquellos chicos y chicas carentes de patología endocrina o física. Además, fue necesario contar con la autorización, vía consentimiento informado, por parte de los padres o tutores.

## Metodología

En relación con el diseño, se trata de un estudio de corte longitudinal, analítico, multicéntrico y observacional de cohortes, con una duración inicial para este trabajo de dos años.

El estudio se articuló en tres fases. Una primera etapa, que dio comienzo en septiembre de 2008 y se prolongó hasta el mes de junio de 2009. En ella se llevó a cabo la valoración del estado nutricional de toda la población de alumnos correspondiente a los trece centros educativos. Para ello, y mediante el uso de técnicas antropométricas, se valoraron las variables peso, talla e índice de masa corporal, según edad y sexo. Se tomaron como referencia los estándares de Cole y cols.(2000)<sup>27</sup>. También fueron valorados seis pliegues cutáneos (pliegue tricipital, bicipital, subescapular, suprailíaco, pliegue del muslo y de la pantorrilla) así como cuatro perímetros, de la cintura, de la cadera, del brazo y del muslo.

La segunda fase estuvo comprendida entre los meses de octubre de 2009 y mayo de 2010; aquí tuvo lugar una intervención educativa sobre alimentación saludable y ejercicio físico en el grupo de chicos y chicas diagnosticados de sobrepeso y obesidad durante la primera fase. En materia de alimentación se llevaron a cabo dos talleres educativos sobre alimentación saludable en cada uno de los trece centros escolares. En relación con el ejercicio físico, se propuso una serie de juegos que los alumnos deberían efectuar durante las clases de educación física. Para ello, se contó con la colaboración de los profesores y maestros de educación física de cada centro educativo.

En la tercera y última fase (desarrollada durante el mes de junio de 2010) se evaluó la eficacia de nuestra intervención educativa, en términos de mejora o no del estado nutricional de los alumnos diagnosticados de sobrepeso u obesidad durante la primera fase y seguidos durante la segunda fase. Para ello se utilizaron nuevamente las técnicas antropométricas, a través de la valoración del peso, estatura e índice de masa corporal.

## Resultados

Los resultados del estudio muestran el grave problema que el sobrepeso y la obesidad representa entre

estas edades tempranas. Se pudo observar que el grupo de chicas de edades comprendidas entre 9 y 12 años presentaba una prevalencia de sobrepeso del 23,5%, frente al 25,2% que se encontró entre los varones pertenecientes al mismo grupo de edad. En el caso de las edades comprendidas entre los 12 y los 13 años, el porcentaje de sobrepeso entre las chicas ya ascendía al 32,2%. Esta cifra contrasta con una menor incidencia de sobrepeso entre los varones de esa misma edad, que se llegó a estimar en un 22,8 por ciento.

A partir de esas edades y en adelante, la incidencia de sobrepeso disminuyó progresivamente entre las mujeres. En el caso de las chicas, con edades comprendidas entre 13 y 14 años, la prevalencia de sobrepeso bajaba hasta el 18,3%. En el caso de los varones pertenecientes a este mismo grupo de edad (13-14 años), se obtuvo una incidencia ligeramente superior, pues se alcanzaban cifras de hasta el 26,1%. Por último, para los 14 años y en adelante, tuvo lugar un incremento del porcentaje de sobrepeso, estimado en un 24,7% para las mujeres y de un 10,9% entre los varones.

En cuanto a la prevalencia de la obesidad entre los dos sexos, se observa que en las edades comprendidas entre los 9 y los 12 años, la prevalencia en el sexo femenino era del 13%, mientras que entre los varones bajaba al 6,7%. Para el período comprendido entre los 12 y los 13 años, la prevalencia de obesidad en el sexo femenino fue estimada en un 15,1%. En el caso de los hombres, y para ese mismo intervalo de edad, la prevalencia de obesidad encontrada fue considerablemente menor, esto es, del 8,8%.

En la etapa comprendidas entre los 13 y los 14 años, la prevalencia de obesidad resultó ser del 10,7% para las chicas, frente al 12,6% encontrado entre los sujetos varones. Por último, para los alumnos con edades comprendidas entre 14 y 17 años de edad, el conjunto de valores resultó ser más equilibrado, al estimarse una prevalencia del 4,5% entre las chicas y del 4,7% entre los varones.

Los resultados indicados anteriormente, en cuanto a la prevalencia de sobrepeso y obesidad según edad y sexo, se muestran representados en la tabla I y en la figura 1. Del mismo modo, no se encontraron diferencias estadísticamente significativas entre obesidad y factores como la edad o el sexo ( $\chi^2 = 2,22$ ;  $p = 0,528$ ) y el sobrepeso ( $\chi^2 = 7,37$ ;  $p = 0,061$ ).

Con relación a la variable índice de masa corporal (IMC), tal y como puede apreciarse en la figura 2, se encontraron marcadas diferencias entre los valores iniciales (previos al período de ocho meses de intervención) y los valores finales o postintervención. Distinguiendo entre sexos, en el caso de las chicas, los valores finales obtenidos para dicho índice mostraron un importante descenso, aunque describiendo un patrón de desarrollo similar en las diferentes edades. De ese modo, en el grupo final destacó un importante descenso en los valores de dicho índice durante las edades más tempranas (hasta los doce años). A partir de esa edad y en adelante, tuvo lugar un progresivo des-

**Tabla I**  
*Prevalencia de sobrepeso y obesidad por grupos de edad y sexo*

| Sexo                | Edad $\leq 12$ años<br>(n = 325) |          | Edad 12-13 años<br>(n = 260) |          | Edad 13-14 años<br>(n = 242) |          | Edad $\geq 14$ años<br>(n = 149) |          |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|----------|
|                     | Sobrepeso                        | Obesidad | Sobrepeso                    | Obesidad | Sobrepeso                    | Obesidad | Sobrepeso                        | Obesidad |
| Femenino (n = 524)  | 23,5                             | 13,0     | 32,2                         | 15,1     | 18,3                         | 10,7     | 24,7                             | 4,5      |
| Masculino (n = 452) | 25,2                             | 6,7      | 22,8                         | 8,8      | 26,1                         | 12,6     | 10,9                             | 4,7      |

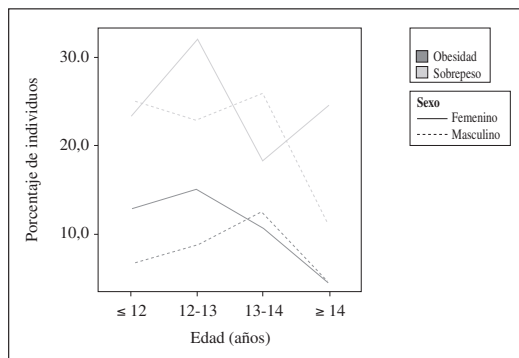


Fig. 1.—Prevalencia de sobrepeso y obesidad según edad y sexo.

censo de los valores, aunque describiendo una trayectoria similar a la observada en los valores previos a la intervención. Desde los catorce años de edad y hasta los diecisiete (edad límite valorada), los valores encontrados para dicho índice entre las chicas disminuyeron considerablemente y de manera progresiva.

Entre los varones, el patrón de modificación de dicho índice fue muy diferente. Destaca la presencia de una reducción homogénea en las diferentes edades de los valores del índice de masa corporal, aunque son mayores en los segmentos de edad correspondientes a sujetos de entre doce y trece años y en mayor medida entre aquellos sujetos de edad igual o superior a catorce años. Analizando la trayectoria que describe la curva del índice de masa corporal postintervención, destaca la presencia de un incremento extremadamente pro-

nunciado en los valores de dicho índice durante las primeras edades, esto es, en sujetos de entre nueve y doce años de edad. A partir de esta última edad, los valores de dicho índice se estabilizan, para mostrar una meseta entre los doce y los trece años. A partir de esta última edad, y en adelante, se inicia un progresivo incremento de los valores del mismo.

### Discusión/conclusión

El aumento en los últimos años de la prevalencia de sobrepeso y obesidad en nuestro país, y de un modo especial en Andalucía, representa un grave problema de salud. La prevalencia varía considerablemente de unas regiones a otras, pero oscila entre un 9% y un 14,5%<sup>28</sup>.

En nuestra población de estudio y para las edades de entre 12 y 13 años, se obtuvo una prevalencia de obesidad del 15,1%, seguida de cerca por el otro grupo de edades comprendidas entre los 9 y los 12 años, con un valor del 13%. Estos resultados son alarmantes si se tiene en cuenta que es durante las etapas más tempranas (infancia y adolescencia) cuando la obesidad se manifiesta con mayor desarrollo y prevalencia. Estos resultados muestran una tendencia al alza de la prevalencia de sobrepeso y obesidad, en relación con los datos de estudios anteriores, como los ofrecidos por el estudio ENKID, en donde el porcentaje de obesidad para ambos sexos se estimó en un 13,9%.

En relación con la evolución de la variable índice de masa corporal (IMC), se encontraron marcadas dife-

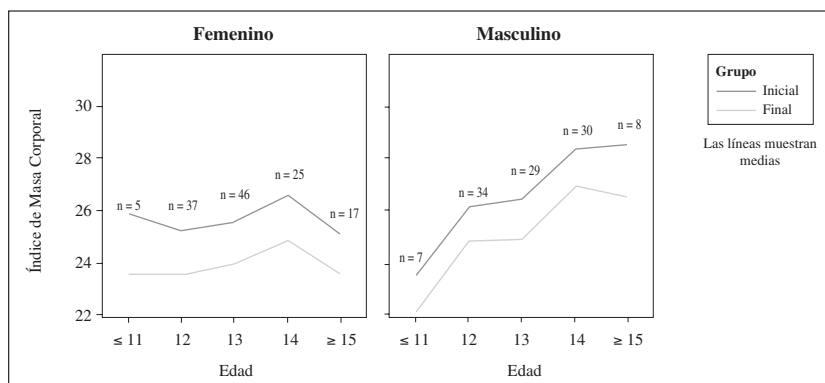


Fig. 2.—Evolución del estado nutricional de los alumnos tras la intervención.

rencias en los dos sexos y entre los valores iniciales (previos al período de ocho meses de intervención) y los valores finales o postintervención. En el caso de las chicas, los valores finales observados del índice mostraron un descenso considerable y similar entre las diferentes edades analizadas. En el grupo final (valores postintervención) destacó un importante descenso en las puntuaciones de dicho índice entre los sujetos de más corta edad. Por otra parte, el repunte de los valores descritos en chicas de entre trece y catorce años guardaba relación con el desarrollo del período puberal. Ahora bien, desde los catorce años y hasta los diecisiete (edad límite valorada), los valores observados disminuyeron considerablemente y de manera progresiva entre las chicas. Esta circunstancia tenía su explicación en una mayor adhesión por parte de este grupo de chicas a las recomendaciones que sobre alimentación saludable y ejercicio físico les fueron brindadas en la intervención.

En el caso de los varones, las modificaciones observadas en los valores de IMC fueron diferentes a las descritas entre las chicas. En el caso del intervalo de edades comprendido entre los trece años y en adelante se objetivó un progresivo incremento de sus valores coincidiendo con el inicio y posterior desarrollo del período puberal en los chicos, el cual tendería a estabilizarse a partir de los catorce años e incluso a disminuir en edades posteriores. Estos resultados confirman una vez más el dimorfismo sexual existente en el patrón de desarrollo y acumulo graso ya desde edades tempranas. Estos datos resultan coincidentes con los obtenidos por Meléndez (2002)<sup>29</sup> en otra población de escolares granadinos.

De acuerdo con estas consideraciones, cabe considerar el hecho de que si fueron los varones los que mayores tasas de obesidad mostraron, también ellos presentaron una menor ganancia de peso durante los ocho meses que comprendió la intervención educativa. No obstante, cabe señalar que ninguno de los sujetos con sobrepeso y obesidad rebasó sus cifras de peso iniciales; más bien, y en la práctica totalidad de los casos, se produjo un mantenimiento de las mismas.

A la luz de los resultados obtenidos, parece lógico valorar como positiva la intervención educativa desarrollada sobre esta población de escolares. Estos resultados suponen una importante aportación sobre la necesidad de fomentar prácticas y estilos de vida saludables, máxime cuando en la actualidad esta cuestión constituye uno de los principales aspectos del debate<sup>30,31</sup>. Existe un cierto grado de controversia sobre la eficacia o no de las intervenciones educativas en la mejora de los hábitos de vida de nuestros menores y prevenir con ello el desarrollo de trastornos crónicos, como la obesidad nutricional<sup>32</sup>.

La mejoría alcanzada en términos de disminución o mantenimiento de los valores de IMC constituye un hecho importante si se tiene en cuenta la complejidad de generar y alcanzar un grado de implicación y adhesión entre estos niños y adolescentes y el programa desarro-

llado en el estudio. De acuerdo con otros autores<sup>33,34</sup>, una terapia de intervención temprana sobre modificación de hábitos alimentarios y que vaya asociada a un incremento de la actividad física, constituye el procedimiento más efectivo para reducir los valores de peso y, por ende, del índice de masa corporal (IMC) de los niños y los adolescentes. En este sentido, conseguir que los alumnos tomen conciencia de la importancia para su salud de una alimentación saludable y mantengan un nivel de actividad física han constituido los dos mayores logros de este estudio. A la vista de nuestros resultados y de acuerdo con los de otros investigadores<sup>35,36</sup>, las conclusiones obtenidas demuestran la efectividad de la terapia conductual aplicada en nuestra intervención para modificar los hábitos alimentarios y los patrones de la actividad física, con el fin de alcanzar estilos de vida saludables.

### Agradecimientos

Queremos dar las gracias, en primer lugar, a los alumnos participantes en este estudio, ya que sin su valiosa participación no habría sido posible nuestro trabajo. Del mismo modo, damos las gracias a los padres por su autorización para que fuese posible la participación de sus hijos y, por último, a las direcciones de los centros educativos participantes, por la amabilidad y colaboración mostrada en todo momento.

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Original

## El consumo del probiótico *Lactobacillus plantarum* CECT 7315/7316 mejora el estado de salud general en personas de edad avanzada

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### Resumen

**Fundamentos:** Con la edad avanzada se producen cambios en la microflora intestinal que pueden afectar al estado de salud general. En este trabajo analizamos el efecto de *Lactobacillus plantarum* CECT 7315/7316 sobre la regulación del tránsito intestinal y el estado nutricional.

**Métodos:** Hemos realizado un estudio clínico doble-ciego, controlado por placebo y aleatorizado. Hemos evaluado la evolución de la frecuencia de defecación semanal y los niveles en sangre de proteínas totales, albúmina, colesterol y proteína C-reactiva.

**Resultados:** *Lactobacillus plantarum* CECT 7315/7316 ayuda a regular el tránsito intestinal y mejora el estado nutricional en personas mayores.

**Conclusiones:** El consumo de productos funcionales que contengan *L. plantarum* CECT 7315/7316 mejora la calidad de vida de personas de la tercera edad.

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Palabras clave: Probiótico. *Lactobacillus plantarum* CECT 7315/7316. Salud. Estado nutricional. Tránsito intestinal. Tercera edad.

### Introducción

La edad avanzada provoca una serie de trastornos, como son la decadencia del sistema inmunitario, problemas intestinales como estreñimiento, y malnutrición, que afectan a la calidad de vida de las personas que los pade-

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### CONSUMPTION OF THE PROBIOTIC *LACTOBACILLUS PLANTARUM* CECT 7315/7316 IMPROVES GENERAL HEALTH IN THE ELDERLY SUBJECTS

#### Abstract

**Introduction:** Ageing induces changes in gut microbiota that may affect the quality of life. In this work we analyze the effect of *Lactobacillus plantarum* CECT 7315/7316 on the regulation of intestinal transit and on nutritional status.

**Methods:** We carried out a double-blind, randomized and controlled by placebo clinical trial. We evaluated the evolution of the weekly defecation frequency and blood levels of total proteins, albumin, cholesterol and reactive C-protein.

**Results:** *Lactobacillus plantarum* CECT 7315/7316 helps to regulate intestinal transit and improves the nutritional status in elderly.

**Conclusions:** Consumption of functional foods containing *L. plantarum* CECT 7315/7316 improves the quality of life in elderly subjects.

(Nutr Hosp. 2011;26:642-645)

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Key words: Probiotic. *Lactobacillus plantarum* CECT 7315/7316. Health. Nutritional Status. Intestinal transit. Elderly.

cen. Muchas de estas alteraciones están asociadas a un cambio en la composición y actividad de la flora intestinal<sup>1,2</sup>. Algunos estudios indican que en las personas mayores se produce un descenso de los niveles de bifidobacterias y un incremento de clostridios y enterobacterias<sup>3</sup>. Los probióticos y prebióticos ofrecen una buena estrategia para reducir los cambios en la flora intestinal debidos a la edad y para mantener una microflora intestinal saludable, favoreciendo el mantenimiento de las funciones intestinales y reduciendo la susceptibilidad a infecciones en personas mayores<sup>4</sup>. Recientemente, Mañé y cols.<sup>5</sup> han demostrado la capacidad de las cepas probióticas *Lactobacillus plantarum* CECT 7315/CECT7316

de estimular el sistema inmunitario en ancianos. El objetivo de este trabajo es evaluar el efecto del consumo del probiótico *L. plantarum* CECT 7315/7316 sobre el estado de salud general de las personas de edad avanzada. En concreto, en este estudio se determina el efecto sobre tránsito intestinal y sobre el estado nutricional.

## Material y métodos

Se diseñó un estudio clínico doble-ciego, controlado por placebo, aleatorizado y con tres grupos en paralelo. El estudio se llevó a cabo siguiendo las normas de la Declaración de Helsinki y tras haber obtenido la aprobación de los Comités de Ética del IGTP y los centros participantes. Se reclutaron 60 individuos cuya edad estaba comprendida entre 65 y 85 años. Los voluntarios se asignaron al azar a uno de los tres grupos: grupo A (que recibieron  $5 \times 10^9$  cfu/día de *L. plantarum* CECT 7315/7316), grupo B (que recibieron  $5 \times 10^8$  cfu/día de *L. plantarum* CECT 7315/7316), y grupo C o placebo (que no recibieron probiótico). Los participantes consumieron el probiótico durante 3 meses. Cuarenta y ocho voluntarios finalizaron el estudio: 19, 14 y 15 en los grupos A, B y C, respectivamente.

Para determinar el efecto del consumo del probiótico sobre el tránsito intestinal se determinó la frecuencia de defecación semanal a tiempo 0, 1, 2 y 3 meses. Dado

que se ha definido estreñimiento como una frecuencia de defecación inferior a tres veces por semana<sup>6</sup>, se clasificaron los individuos en dos grupos: I, menos de tres defecaciones semanales y II, entre tres y siete defecaciones por semana. Para este estudio se agruparon los individuos que habían recibido probiótico en un sólo grupo (grupo probiótico). La significación estadística se determinó usando el test de McNemar.

El posible efecto sobre el estado nutricional general se determinó estudiando la evolución de los niveles en sangre de indicadores del estado nutricional como son proteínas totales, albúmina y colesterol, así como los niveles de proteína C-reactiva, que es un buen marcador de inflamación y degradación tisular. Los niveles de estos marcadores en  $t = 0$  y  $t = 3$  meses se obtuvieron en el Laboratorio de Referencia de Cataluña ([www.lrc.es](http://www.lrc.es)), siguiendo técnicas estándar. La significación estadística se determinó mediante el test de Wilcoxon.

## Resultados

El consumo del probiótico *L. plantarum* CECT 7315/7316 mejora el tránsito intestinal en ancianos. El número de individuos con estreñimiento, frecuencia de defecación inferior a 3 veces por semana, disminuyó significativamente en el grupo probiótico ( $p = 0,0412$ ) mientras que incrementó ligeramente en el grupo placebo (fig. 1).

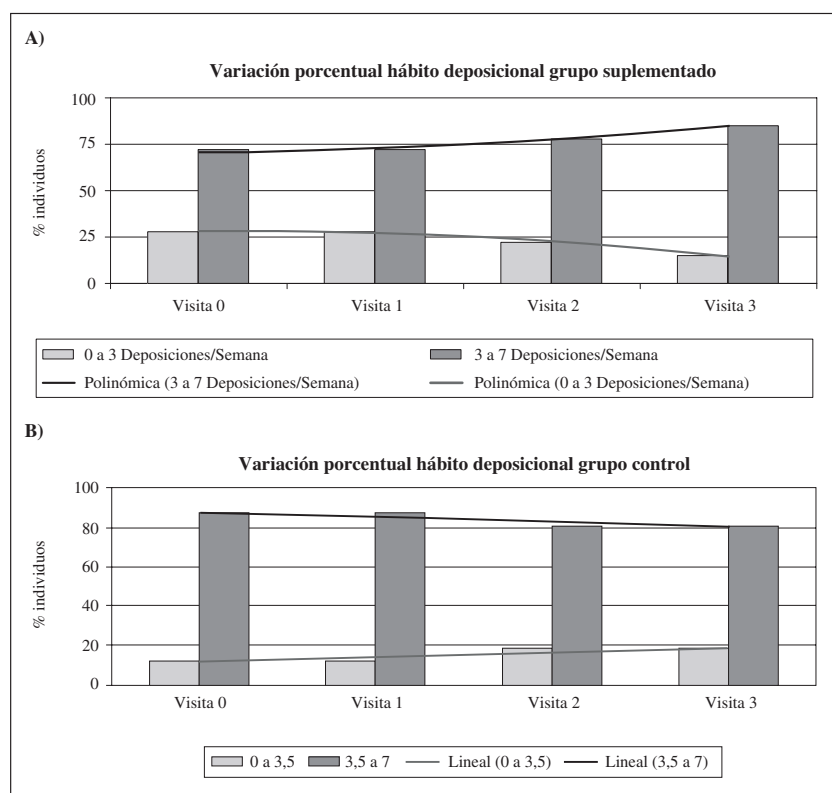


Fig. 1.—Evolución de la frecuencia de defecación semanal en el grupo probiótico (A) y en el grupo placebo (B).

**Tabla I**  
Evolución de los niveles de los marcadores  
del estado nutricional

| Marcador            | Probiótico<br>dosis alta | Probiótico<br>dosis baja | Placebo |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Proteínas totales   | —                        | ↑                        | —       |
| Albumina            | —                        | —                        | ↓       |
| Colesterol          | —                        | ↓                        | —       |
| Proteína C-reactiva | —                        | ↓                        | —       |

(—) indica que no hay diferencias significativas entre los valores de  $t = 0$  y  $t = 3$  meses.

(↑) indica que los valores de  $t = 3$  meses son significativamente mayores que los de  $t = 0$ .

(↓) indica que los valores de  $t = 3$  meses son significativamente menores que los de  $t = 0$ .

Este efecto empezó a manifestarse a partir del segundo mes de consumo del probiótico.

*Lactobacillus plantarum* CECT 7315/7316 mejora el estado nutricional general de las personas de edad avanzada. Por un lado, se determinó un aumento significativo de las proteínas totales sólo en el grupo B ( $\alpha = 0,025$ ). Los niveles de albúmina se mantuvieron estables en los dos grupos probióticos mientras que disminuyeron significativamente en el grupo placebo ( $\alpha = 0,005$ ). Por último, se detectó una disminución significativa de los niveles de colesterol y proteína C-reactiva en el grupo B ( $\alpha = 0,025$  y  $\alpha = 0,01$ , respectivamente). Todos estos resultados se muestran en la tabla I.

## Discusión

Los problemas asociados con la edad, como inmunodepresión, disfunción intestinal o malnutrición, pueden ser debidos a cambios en la flora intestinal. Estos cambios pueden inducir un incremento de putrefacción en el colon y una mayor susceptibilidad de sufrir enfermedades, infecciones o cáncer<sup>4</sup>. De hecho, según datos de la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS), la mortalidad atribuida a infecciones gastrointestinales es 400 veces mayor en ancianos que en la población adulta<sup>4</sup>. En este sentido, los probióticos pueden ejercer un efecto beneficioso para la salud mediante distintos mecanismos, ya sea contribuyendo al balance de la flora intestinal o potenciando el sistema inmunitario. Distintos estudios clínicos han demostrado el beneficio del consumo de probióticos sobre la salud en ancianos (resumidos en<sup>7</sup>). Estos efectos son dependientes de la cepa utilizada, por lo que es necesario demostrar la funcionalidad de cada cepa concreta.

En este trabajo hemos demostrado el beneficio clínicamente relevante del consumo de *L. plantarum* CECT 7315/7316 sobre la regulación del tránsito intestinal. Este efecto puede ser debido a un incremento de la

motilidad intestinal, ya que determinadas cepas de *Lactobacillus* inducen la contracción de las paredes del íleo<sup>8</sup>; o bien al restablecimiento de una flora intestinal saludable. En este sentido, *L. plantarum* CECT 7315/7316 presenta capacidad antagonista frente a posibles enteropatógenos, como *Salmonella enterica*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Clostridium botulinum*, *Yersinia enterocolitica* o *Escherichia coli* (observaciones no publicadas).

El consumo de *L. plantarum* CECT 7315/7316 mejora el estado nutricional de las personas de edad avanzada. Se ha descrito que, en ancianos, la mayor causa de mala absorción de nutrientes y vitaminas puede ser debida a un sobre-crecimiento de bacterias en el intestino delgado<sup>9</sup>. En este sentido, el efecto beneficioso de *L. plantarum* CECT 7315/7316 podría deberse a su contribución a normalizar y estabilizar la flora intestinal.

De los resultados obtenidos en este trabajo son destacables dos aspectos. Por un lado, hemos demostrado beneficios del consumo de *L. plantarum* CECT 7315/7316 sobre la regulación del tránsito intestinal y sobre el estado nutricional general en ancianos a pesar de que en este estudio han participado individuos sanos, la mayor parte de los cuales no sufrían problemas ni de estreñimiento ni de malnutrición. Así pues, es posible que, si el estudio se hubiera realizado exclusivamente con individuos con un mal funcionamiento del sistema digestivo, las diferencias encontradas entre grupo placebo y grupo tratado fueran mayores<sup>10</sup>. Por otro lado, es destacable también que el efecto beneficioso de *L. plantarum* CECT 7315/7316 sobre el estado nutricional se da exclusivamente en el grupo suplementado con la dosis baja de probiótico. Este hecho pone de manifiesto que el efecto beneficioso de un probiótico depende tanto de la cepa utilizada como de la dosis administrada.

En conclusión, *L. plantarum* CECT 7315/7316 presenta beneficios para el estado de salud general, como son la regulación del tránsito intestinal, la mejora el estado nutricional y la estimulación del sistema inmune<sup>5</sup>. Por este motivo, el consumo de productos funcionales que contengan *L. plantarum* CECT 7315/7316 mejora la calidad de vida de personas de edad avanzada.

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clínico. Jordi Espadaler participó en el análisis estadístico de los datos. Jordi Cuñé participó en el diseño del estudio, coordinó todo el estudio (confirmación de los criterios de inclusión, entrega de los productos, toma de muestras, seguimiento de incidencias). Montserrat Bosch redactó el manuscrito.

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## Caso clínico

# Síndrome de Wilkie: a propósito de un caso

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## Resumen

El Síndrome de Wilkie es una causa poco frecuente de obstrucción intestinal alta, resultante de la compresión del duodeno entre la aorta abdominal y la arteria mesentérica superior (AMS). Sus causas se pueden clasificar en cinco grupos: síndromes consuntivos, trastornos de la alimentación, postoperatorio, trauma severo y deformidades, enfermedades o traumatismos de la columna vertebral. Los síntomas incluyen náuseas, vómitos, pérdida ponderal, saciedad precoz, distensión abdominal y dolor epigástrico. Historicamente el estudio con bario y la arteriografía eran las pruebas diagnósticas utilizadas; más recientemente el angioTAC ha demostrado mayor sensibilidad. Los criterios diagnósticos son: duodeno dilatado, compresión duodenal por la AMS y ángulo aortomesentérico menor de 20 grados. Los pacientes con un cuadro agudo suelen responder al tratamiento conservador (descompresión, corrección de las alteraciones hidroelectrolíticas, apoyo nutricional); sin embargo aquellos con cuadros crónicos habitualmente requieren ser intervenidos. La duodenojejunostomía es el procedimiento de elección (tasa de éxito superior al 90%).

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Palabras clave: Síndrome de Wilkie. Síndrome de la Arteria Mesentérica Superior. Duodenojejunostomía.

## Abreviaturas

EDA: Endoscopia digestiva alta.  
IMC: Índice de masa corporal.  
NE: Nutrición enteral.  
SAMS: Síndrome de la Arteria Mesentérica Superior.  
AMS: Arteria Mesentérica Superior.  
DSM IV: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition.

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## WILKIE SYNDROME: REPORT OF A CASE

## Abstract

Wilkie syndrome is an unusual form of high gastrointestinal obstruction resulting from compression of the duodenum between the abdominal aorta and the superior mesenteric artery (SMA). The conditions that cause this syndrome can be classified into five categories: severe wasting diseases, severe injuries, diseases, deformity or trauma to the spine, dietary disorders and postoperative state. The symptoms include nausea, vomiting, distention postprandial, epigastric pain and weight loss. Barium meal and arteriography were used as diagnostic tools, now CT-angiography is being used and shown higher diagnostic sensitivity. The diagnostic criteria are: dilated duodenum, compression of the duodenum by the SMA and aortomesenteric angle <20 degrees. Patients with acute syndrome often respond to conservative treatment (decompression, correction of dehydration and electrolyte imbalance and nutrition support). Most of the patients with chronic syndrome require surgical intervention. Duodenojejunostomy is the most effective surgical option, with a success rate of 90%.

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Key words: Wilkie Syndrome. Superior Mesenteric Artery Syndrome. Duodenojejunostomy.

## Introducción

Presentamos el caso de una paciente diagnosticada de Síndrome de Wilkie, con una evolución clínica prolongada, que finalmente hubo de someterse a intervención quirúrgica. Aprovechamos para hacer una revisión de la etiología, criterios diagnósticos y manejo, tanto conservador como quirúrgico, de dicho síndrome.

## Caso clínico

Mujer de 31 años que ingresa en 2008 en el Servicio de Medicina Interna de nuestro hospital por pérdida de peso no cuantificada y vómitos de duración incierta. La paciente no refería ninguna otra sintomatología por

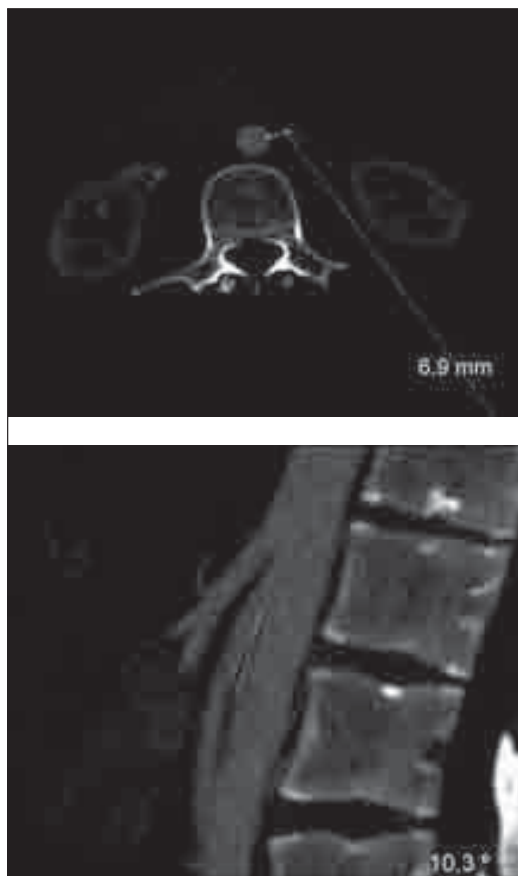


Fig. 1.—AngioTAC con medición de distancia entre AMS y Aorta y ángulo aortomesentérico.

aparatos. Durante el ingreso se realizó estudio bioquímico completo, hemograma y función tiroidea que fueron normales. Se descartó patología infecciosa, con realización de diversas serologías, determinación de parásitos en heces, etc., resultando todos los estudios negativos. También se descartó la presencia de patología digestiva, y de forma específica cuadros malabsorptivos (endoscopia digestiva alta (EDA), anticuerpos antigliadina y antiendomiso, biopsia duodenal: normales). En el estudio gastroesofagoduodenal se objetivó una dilatación de la segunda porción duodenal en relación con compresión extrínseca, sugestiva de pinza aorto-mesentérica; diagnóstico confirmado con la realización de un angioTAC de la arteria mesentérica (fig. 1). La paciente también fue valorada por Psiquiatría, descartándose la presencia de trastorno del comportamiento alimentario.

Con el diagnóstico de síndrome de Wilkie es remitida a consulta de Nutrición en Noviembre de 2009. Refería un peso habitual de 56 kg. En ese momento pesaba 43,9 kg y su índice de masa corporal (IMC) era de 16,7 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. Inicialmente se intentó manejo nutricional con modifi-

caciones dietéticas, medidas posturales y prescripción de suplementos, sin obtener mejoría; aunque en ningún momento de la evolución la paciente presentó estómago de retención ni alteraciones hidroelectrolíticas. En enero de 2010, con 42,6 kg, se le plantea la colocación de sonda de alimentación de forma provisional para intentar recuperación nutricional mediante la administración de nutrición enteral (NE). La tolerancia digestiva fue buena y no presentó síndrome de realimentación, aumentando su peso hasta los 50 kg (IMC: 19). En ese momento se intentó reintroducir alimentos naturales, reapareciendo los vómitos, por lo que se realiza nuevo estudio esofagogastroduodenal, con hallazgos similares al del diagnóstico. Ante esta situación, de acuerdo con la paciente, se consulta con el Servicio de Cirugía General y se plantea tratamiento quirúrgico. Se realiza una duodenoyeyunostomía. La tolerancia oral tras la cirugía fue inicialmente problemática en relación con hipotonía gástrica, siendo necesario el tratamiento con procinéticos. A los dos meses de la intervención la paciente estaba totalmente asintomática, con un peso de 50 kg, la tolerancia oral era buena y el estudio baritado mostraba un estómago con morfología y vaciamiento normales y buen paso de contraste por la duodenoyeyunostomía. A día de hoy la paciente ha vuelto a perder peso (45 kg). Niega la existencia de síntomas digestivos, y afirma verse delgada y desear recuperar el peso perdido; pero rechaza la toma de suplementos nutricionales, así como la realización de cualquier estudio médico y la reevaluación por el Servicio de Psiquiatría.

## Discusión

El Síndrome de Wilkie o Síndrome de la Arteria Mesentérica Superior (SAMS) es una causa poco frecuente de obstrucción intestinal alta, resultante de la compresión de la tercera porción duodenal entre la aorta abdominal y la arteria mesentérica superior (AMS) en su origen, en relación con la reducción del panículo graso retroperitoneal<sup>1</sup>. Fue descrito por Rokitski en 1842 y Wilkie publica la primera serie, de 75 pacientes, en 1927.

Es más frecuente en mujeres y adultos jóvenes y la mayoría de los casos se presentan después de una pérdida ponderal importante; aunque Biank et al. publican en 2006 una serie de 22 niños de los cuales sólo el 50% habían perdido peso antes del diagnóstico. Las causas de SAMS se pueden clasificar en cinco grupos: síndromes consuntivos (SIDA, cáncer, grandes quemados, endocrinopatías, malabsorción intestinal), trastornos de la alimentación (anorexia nerviosa), postoperatorio (cirugía ortopédica, cirugía de columna vertebral, adheriolisis por obstrucción de intestino delgado), trauma severo (traumatismo craneoencefálico, politraumatismo) y deformidades, enfermedades o traumatismos de la columna vertebral<sup>2</sup>. Recientemente se han publicado casos relacionados con la pérdida rápida de peso tras cirugía bariátrica.

**Tabla I**  
*Criterios diagnósticos de anorexia nerviosa (DSM IV)*

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rechazo a mantener el peso corporal igual o por encima del valor mínimo normal, considerando la edad y la talla: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pérdida de peso que da lugar a un peso inferior al 85% de lo esperado.</li> <li>• Fracaso en conseguir el aumento de peso normal durante el crecimiento, dando como resultado un peso inferior al 85% de lo esperado.</li> </ul> |
| Miedo intenso a ganar peso o a convertirse en obeso, incluso estando por debajo del peso normal.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Alteración en la percepción del peso o la silueta corporal, exageración de la importancia en la autoevaluación o negación del peligro que comporta el bajo peso corporal.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| En las mujeres pospuberales amenorrea (ausencia de al menos tres ciclos consecutivos).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Existen dos subtipos de anorexia nerviosa: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tipo restrictivo: el individuo no recurre regularmente a atracones y/o purgas</li> <li>• Tipo purgativo: durante el episodio de anorexia nerviosa el individuo recurre regularmente a atracones y/o purgas (vómito, uso de laxantes, uso de diuréticos, enemas).</li> </ul>                            |

En nuestra paciente no pudo llegarse a un diagnóstico etiológico inicialmente. En este momento, la pérdida de peso sin síntomas digestivos ni de otro tipo asociados, así como la negativa a la toma de suplementos nutricionales y a la realización de cualquier reevaluación médica y/o psiquiátrica hacen pensar en la existencia de un trastorno del comportamiento alimentario; aunque atendiendo a la anamnesis no cumple los criterios diagnósticos de anorexia nerviosa según el *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition (DSM IV)* (tabla I). La combinación de SAMS y anorexia nerviosa es altamente problemática. El SAMS puede precipitar y/o agravar la anorexia nerviosa, y ésta impide la recuperación nutricional necesaria para que se resuelva el SAMS<sup>3</sup>.

Los síntomas del SAMS son inespecíficos, pudiendo presentarse como intolerancia a la alimentación con náuseas y vómitos, pérdida de peso, saciedad precoz, distensión abdominal y dolor epigástrico. El dolor alivia en decúbito prono, decúbito lateral izquierdo o en posición genupectoral, maniobras que relajan la presión de la arteria mesentérica sobre el duodeno<sup>4</sup>. Los pacientes pueden quejarse de reflujo, con demostración en el estudio endoscópico de esofagitis y/o gastritis asociada a estasis. También existe una mayor prevalencia de úlceras duodenales que en la población general (hasta 45%). Los cuadros fatales son secundarios a alteraciones hidroelectrolíticas graves, perforación gástrica, bezoar obstructivo o neumatosis gástrica y/o portal. Una vez establecido el cuadro clínico, independientemente de la etiología, se autoperpetúa.

Los criterios diagnósticos de SAMS son duodeno dilatado, compresión del duodeno por la AMS y ángulo aortomesentérico menor de 20 grados<sup>5</sup>. Los estudios radiológicos son esenciales. Historicamente el estudio con bario, que permite observar la dilatación de la primera y segunda porción duodenales y la compresión de la tercera, y la arteriografía eran las pruebas diagnósticas utilizadas; pero más recientemente el angioTAC ha demostrado una mayor sensibilidad diagnóstica. En los estudios angiográficos

convencionales los pacientes con SAMS presentan un ángulo aortomesentérico de 7° a 22° (normal: 25° a 50°) y la distancia entre la aorta y la AMS es de 2 a 8 mm (normal: 10 a 28 mm)<sup>6</sup>. La severidad de los síntomas se correlaciona con la distancia aorta-AMS. La EDA ayuda a descartar lesiones intrínsecas del tubo digestivo que pudieran ocasionar la obstrucción y permite la toma de biopsias.

El tratamiento del SAMS es generalmente conservador. Los objetivos más importantes en el tratamiento inicial del paciente agudamente sintomático son: 1. Corrección de las alteraciones hidroelectrolíticas y metabólicas. 2. Descompresión/desobstrucción del tracto gastrointestinal incluyendo maniobras posturales (decúbito lateral izquierdo, posición genupectoral), y si es necesario colocación de una sonda nasogástrica. 3. Recuperación del estado nutricional. Una vez estabilizado el paciente la ingesta frecuente de pequeños volúmenes de alimentos nutricionalmente densos, junto con maniobras posturales y el uso de procinéticos puede ser eficaz. De no ser así habría que recurrir a la NE, y en caso de que ésta no fuese tolerada a la nutrición parenteral<sup>1</sup>.

Los pacientes con SAMS agudo casi siempre responden al tratamiento conservador; sin embargo aquellos con cuadros crónicos suelen requerir intervención quirúrgica tras un período de realimentación. La cirugía está indicada en pacientes con: 1. Fracaso del tratamiento conservador. 2. Enfermedad de larga evolución con pérdida ponderal progresiva y dilatación duodenal con estasis. 3. Enfermedad ulcerosa péptica complicada secundaria a estasis biliar y reflujo<sup>7</sup>.

Las intervenciones quirúrgicas propuestas para el tratamiento del SAMS incluyen el procedimiento de Strong, la gastroyeyunostomía y la duodenoyeyunostomía<sup>4</sup>. El procedimiento de Strong mantiene la integridad del tracto gastrointestinal, pero tiene una tasa de fracaso del 25%. La gastroyeyunostomía permite la descompresión gástrica, pero no alivia la compresión duodenal, por lo que pueden persistir los síntomas digestivos, y llevar a la aparición de un síndrome de asa ciega o de úlceras pépticas recurrentes. La duodenoye-

yunostomía es el procedimiento de elección, con una tasa de éxito superior al 90%.

La gastroparesia después de la corrección quirúrgica es un problema frecuente, en relación con la atonía gástrica y duodenal. Existe poca información sobre su manejo en la literatura, aunque puede intentarse el tratamiento con procinéticos<sup>8</sup>. En el caso de nuestra paciente hubo una buena respuesta clínica al tratamiento con estos fármacos, y a los dos meses de la cirugía se demostró, mediante estudio baritado, morfología y vaciamiento gástricos normales.

Como conclusión podemos decir que el Síndrome de Wilkie es una causa poco frecuente de obstrucción intestinal alta en adultos, de etiología muy variada y con presentación clínica inespecífica. Su manejo, tras la estabilización del paciente, puede ser conservador, eficaz en la mayoría de los casos agudos; o quirúrgico, necesario habitualmente en pacientes con duración prolongada del cuadro y pérdida ponderal progresiva. No debemos olvidar la posibilidad de que coexista un trastorno del comportamiento alimentario, situación que complica mucho el adecuado manejo de los pacientes.

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Cartas científicas

# Biomarkers of metabolic syndrome and its relationship with the zinc nutritional status in obese women

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**Abstract**

**Introduction:** Obesity is a chronic disease that induces risk factors for metabolic syndrome and, is associated with disturbances in the metabolism of the zinc. Therefore, the aim of this study was to investigate the existence of relationship between the biomarkers of metabolic syndrome and the zinc nutritional status in obese women.

**Method:** Seventy-three premenopausal women, aged between 20 and 50 years, were divided into two groups: case group, composed of obese (n = 37) and control group, composed of no obese (n = 36). The assessment of the body mass index and waist circumference were carried out using anthropometric measurements. The plasmatic and erythrocytary zinc were analyzed by method atomic absorption spectrophotometry ( $\lambda = 213.9 \text{ nm}$ ).

**Results:** In the study, body mass index and waist circumference were higher in obese women than control group ( $p < 0.05$ ). The mean plasmatic zinc was  $72.2 \pm 9.0 \mu\text{g/dl}$  in obese women and  $73.4 \pm 8.5 \mu\text{g/dl}$  in control group ( $p > 0.05$ ). The mean erythrocytary zinc was  $36.4 \pm 15.0 \mu\text{g/gHb}$  and  $45.4 \pm 14.3 \mu\text{g/gHb}$  in the obese and controls, respectively ( $p < 0.05$ ). Regression analysis showed that the body mass index ( $t = -2.85$ ) and waist circumference ( $t = -2.37$ ) have a negative relationship only with the erythrocytary zinc ( $R^2 = 0.32$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ).

**Conclusions:** The study shows that there are alterations in biochemical parameters of zinc in obese women, with low zinc concentrations in erythrocytes. Regression analysis demonstrates that the erythrocytary zinc is influenced by biomarkers of the metabolic syndrome, presenting an inverse relationship with the waist circumference and body mass index.

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Key words: Obesity. Plasmatic zinc. Erythrocytary zinc. Metabolic syndrome.

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## BIOMARCADORES DEL SÍNDROME METABÓLICO Y SU RELACIÓN CON EL ESTADO NUTRICIONAL DEL ZINC EN MUJERES OBESAS

**Resumen**

**Introducción:** La obesidad es una enfermedad crónica que induce factores de riesgo del síndrome metabólico y se asocia con trastornos en el metabolismo del zinc. Por lo tanto, este estudio investigó la relación entre biomarcadores del síndrome metabólico y el estado nutricional del zinc en mujeres obesas.

**Métodos:** Se incluyeron 73 mujeres premenopáusicas, de 20 a 50 años de edad, que fueron divididos en dos grupos: grupo casos (obesos, n = 37) y grupo control (no obesos, n = 36). Evaluación del índice de masa corporal y la circunferencia de la cintura se realizó con variables antropométricas. El análisis del zinc plasmático y eritrocitario se realizó de acuerdo con el método de espectrofotometría de absorción atómica en llama ( $\lambda = 213.9 \text{ nm}$ ).

**Resultados:** El zinc plasmático medio fue de  $72.2 \pm 9.0 \mu\text{g/dL}$  en las mujeres obesas y  $73.4 \pm 8.5 \mu\text{g/dL}$  en el grupo control ( $p > 0.05$ ). Los valores medios de zinc eritrocitario fueron de  $36.4 \pm 15.0 \mu\text{g/gHb}$  en mujeres obesas y  $45.4 \pm 14.3 \mu\text{g/gHb}$  en controles ( $p < 0.05$ ). En la regresión multivariable, el índice de masa corporal ( $t = -2.85$ ) y la circunferencia de la cintura ( $t = -2.37$ ) tiene una relación negativa con el zinc eritrocitario ( $R^2 = 0.32$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ).

**Conclusiones:** El estudio muestra que hay cambios en los parámetros del zinc en las mujeres obesas, con bajas concentraciones de zinc en los eritrocitos. Además, el análisis de regresión muestra que el zinc eritrocitario fue influenciado por los biomarcadores del síndrome metabólico, presentando una relación inversa con el índice de masa corporal y circunferencia de la cintura.

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Palabras clave: Obesidad. Zinc plasmático. Zinc eritrocitario. Síndrome metabólico.

## Abbreviations

IL-6: Interleukin-6.  
IL-8: Interleukin-8.  
TNF- $\alpha$ : Tumor Necrosis Factor.  
BMI: Body Mass Index.  
WHO: World Health Organization.  
EAR: Estimated Average Requirement.  
NCEP-ATP III: National Cholesterol Education Program Adult Treatment Panel III.

## Introduction

Obesity is a chronic disease considered as the most important risk factor of metabolic syndrome, because induces insulin resistance, dyslipidemia and hypertension.<sup>1,2</sup> This metabolic disorder is also associated with disturbances in the metabolism of trace minerals such as zinc.<sup>3</sup>

The literature has shown the production of certain hormones and signaling molecules in adipose tissue, which characterizes it as an endocrine organ. Most studies have identified an increased secretion of leptin, interleukin-6 (IL-6), interleukin-8 (IL-8) and tumor necrosis factor  $\alpha$  (TNF- $\alpha$ ) in this tissue. These adipocytokines have an inflammatory function, and commonly are elevated in obese patients. The low-intensity chronic inflammation present in obesity is related to insulin resistance and other factors that influence the manifestation of metabolic syndrome.<sup>2,4</sup>

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in hormonal, biochemical and nutritional disorders of obese patients. Some studies have shown that obese individuals have low concentrations of zinc in plasma, erythrocytes and serum, associated with alterations in the metabolism of the adipose tissue of these patients.<sup>5-7</sup> This mineral participates of the metabolism of hormones involved in the physiopathology of the obesity, such as insulin, and the thyroid hormones.<sup>8,9</sup>

Zinc is an essential micronutrient that plays an important metabolic function related to the metabolism of proteins, carbohydrates, lipids and nucleic acids.<sup>10</sup> Studies demonstrated that the zinc deficiency may be associated with insulin resistance, hyperglycemia, and impaired glucose tolerance. The influence of zinc on glucose metabolism may be related to its insulin-like properties.<sup>11,12</sup> Thus, zinc may play an important role in obese patients that have metabolic syndrome.

Bearing in mind how important obesity is as a chronic illness, the secretion of diverse adipocytokines in the adipose tissue, and the interaction of these metabolites in the metabolism of zinc, the determination of biomarkers of the metabolic syndrome in obese patients can help to clarify their influence on the metabolism of the zinc in obesity. Therefore, the aim of this study was to investigate the existence of relationship between the biomarkers of metabolic syndrome and the zinc nutritional status in obese women.

## Method

A transectional, case-control study involved 73 premenopausal women of 20 to 50 years of age. The participants of study were divided into two groups: a control group composed of no obese women ( $n = 36$ ) and the case group of obese women ( $n = 37$ ), who randomly sought treatment at an endocrinology clinic.

The obese women who turned up at the clinic were selected for the study if they met the following criteria: their body mass index (BMI) was higher than 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, they were not taking any vitamin-mineral supplementation and/or other medicines, and they did not have any illnesses that could interfere with zinc-related nutritional status, such as kidney disease, diabetes, insulin resistance, cancer and acute infections, and nonsmokers. The control group was selected according to the same criteria of the obese women, but had a body mass index 18.5-24.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. The project was approved by the Ethics Committee at the Federal University of Piauí, and the individuals gave written consent.

### *Assessment of Nutritional Status*

Body mass index was calculated using measures of weight in kilograms and height in meters. The classification of obesity according to BMI was carried out in line with the criteria of the World Health Organization (WHO).<sup>13</sup>

### *Evaluation of Zinc Intake*

The intake of zinc was obtained by recording alimentation over a 3-day period, and the nutritional analysis was made using NutWin software version 1.5.<sup>14</sup> The Estimated Average Requirement (EAR) reference values of zinc used were 6.8 mg/day, for females.<sup>15</sup>

### *Collection of Biological Material*

Blood samples (20ml) were taken in the morning, from 7:30 to 9:00 o'clock, after fasting for at least 12 hours. The blood was placed in different tubes: (1) glass tube containing 30% sodium citrate as anticoagulant (10 ml of blood) for zinc analysis; (2) tube without anticoagulant for determination of lipid profile (5 ml of blood); (3) tube with EDTA for fasting glucose analysis (5 ml of blood). All laboratory material used for analysis of zinc was mineral free.

### *Biochemical Parameters for Measuring Plasma and Erythrocyte Zinc Levels*

The plasma was separated from the total blood by centrifugation at 3,000 x g for 15 minutes at 4°C

(SIGMA 2K15 centrifuge). Three aliquots of each plasma sample were diluted at a ratio of 1:4 with Milli-Q® water and aspirated directly into the flame of the atomic absorption spectrophotometry.<sup>16</sup> Tryptizol® (Merck), prepared by dilution with Milli-Q® water with 3% glycerol at 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.5, and 1.0 µg/ml dilutions was used as a standard.

For the separation of the erythrocytes, the erythrocyte mass obtained from total blood was washed three times with 5 ml of 0.9% saline solution, homogenized by inversion and centrifuged at 10,000 x g for 10 minutes (Sorvall® RC-SB) at 4°C, and the supernatant was discarded. After the last centrifugation, the saline solution was aspirated and the erythrocyte mass was carefully extracted using a micropipette, placed in demineralized eppendorf tubes, and stored at -20°C, for zinc and hemoglobin analysis.<sup>17</sup> To express the results in terms of mass zinc/mass of hemoglobin (µg/gHb), a 20 µl aliquot of lysed erythrocyte was diluted in 5ml of Drabkin solution and measured according to the cyanmethaemoglobin method.<sup>18</sup>

The erythrocytes analysis was carried out using atomic absorption spectrophotometry.<sup>16</sup> Three aliquots of erythrocyte mass were diluted 40-fold in Milli-Q® water. Tritizol was used as a reference, prepared by dilution in Milli-Q® water at concentrations of 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.5, and 1.0 µg/ml.

#### Assessment of biomarkers of the Metabolic Syndrome

In the National Cholesterol Education Program Adult Treatment Panel III (NCEP-ATP III), the metabolic syndrome is represented by a combination of at least three components.<sup>19</sup>

The biochemical markers of the metabolic syndrome such the concentrations of triglycerides, HDL-cholesterol and fasting glucose were analyzed according to the enzymatic and colorimetric method. Blood pressure was measured with a digital Pulse Meter (G-Tech brand, model BP3AF1-3) after the patient had remained at rest for ten minutes.

#### Statistical Analysis

The data were processed and analyzed using the S-PLUS software for Windows, version 3.2, and Minitab Release, version 11.0 for Windows 9.0. Student's t test was applied to compare the variables studied, at a significance level of  $p < 0.05$ .

The relationship between the biomarkers of metabolic syndrome and the zinc nutritional status were evaluated by multivariate regression. The independent variables were: plasma glucose, total cholesterol, triglycerides, HDL-cholesterol, body mass index, waist circumference and blood pressure. The dependent variables were the plasmatic and erythrocytary zinc at a significant level of  $p \leq 0.05$ .

**Table I**  
Mean values and standard deviations of the weight, height, body mass index and waist circumference in obese women and control group

| Parameters               | Obese women<br>Mean ± SD | Control<br>Mean ± SD |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Weight (kg)              | 82.6* ± 11.4             | 54.4* ± 5.4          |
| Height (cm)              | 154.3 ± 0.0              | 157.6 ± 0.05         |
| BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) | 34.5* ± 3.4              | 21.7* ± 1.9          |
| WC (cm)                  | 102.4* ± 8.5             | 75.4* ± 6.3          |

BMI: Body Mass Index; WC: Waist Circumference.

\*Values significantly different between the obese women and the control group, Student t test ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Table II**  
Mean values and standard deviations of plasmatic and erythrocytary zinc in obese women and control group

| Parameters                  | Obese women<br>Mean ± SD | Control<br>Mean ± SD |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Zinc plasmatic (µg/dl)      | 72.2 ± 9.0               | 73.4 ± 8.5           |
| Zinc erythrocytary (µg/gHb) | 36.4* ± 15.0             | 45.4* ± 14.3         |

Zinc plasmatic (Reference interval: 70-110 µg/dl<sup>30</sup>).

Zinc erythrocytary (Reference interval: 40-44 µg/gHb<sup>31</sup>).

\*Values significantly different between the obese women and the control group, Student t test ( $p < 0.05$ ).

#### Results

In this study, average age of obese women and control group was  $33.7 \pm 7.9$  and  $31.2 \pm 7.8$  years, respectively ( $p > 0.05$ ). The mean of zinc intake was  $10.8 \pm 4.7$  mg/day for obese women and  $7.6 \pm 2.9$  mg/day for the control group ( $p < 0.05$ ).

In this study, were evaluated 37 obese, being that 17 patients met at least three criteria that characterize the metabolic syndrome according to NCEP-ATP III and was not verified the presence of these criteria in the control group. In the results of the biochemical parameters of metabolic syndrome were observed that both groups did not present mean values these parameters superiors at reference of the NCEP-ATP III.

Anthropometric parameters results used to measure nutritional status are shown in table I. The weight, body mass index and waist circumference were significantly higher in obese women than in control group ( $p < 0.05$ ). In table II shows the mean concentration of zinc in plasma, and in erythrocytes of the obese women and control group.

The results of the multivariate regression analysis carried out to investigate the influence of the biomarkers of metabolic syndrome on the zinc nutritional status are shown in table III. Regression analysis revealed the existence of a relationship only between components of metabolic syndrome (body mass index and waist circumference) and, zinc in erythrocytes. In mul-

**Table III**  
Analysis of the multivariate regression between the parameters of the metabolic syndrome and the concentration of zinc in erythrocytes in obese women

| Parameters        | Zn erythrocytes |       |       |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------|-------|
|                   | Beta            | t     | sig.  |
| Glucose           | -0.31           | -1.44 | 0.16  |
| Total cholesterol | 0.03            | 0.17  | 0.87  |
| Triglycerides     | 0.21            | 1.20  | 0.24  |
| HDL-cholesterol   | -0.19           | -0.08 | 0.29  |
| BMI               | -0.57           | -2.37 | 0.02* |
| WC                | -0.67           | -2.85 | 0.01* |
| Systolic BP       | 0.37            | 1.01  | 0.32  |
| Diastolic BP      | -0.56           | -1.69 | 0.10  |
| r <sup>2</sup>    |                 | 0.32  |       |
| F                 |                 | 1.70  |       |
| P                 |                 | 0.14  |       |

BMI: Body Mass Index; WC: Waist Circumference; Systolic BP: Systolic Arterial Pressure; Diastolic BP: Diastolic Arterial Pressure.  
\*Values statistically significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ).

tivariate regression, the waist circumference ( $t = -2.85$ ) and body mass index ( $t = -2.37$ ) had an inverse relationship with the zinc in erythrocytes ( $R^2 = 0.32$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ).

## Discussion

This study investigated the relationship between the biomarkers of metabolic syndrome and the biochemical parameters of zinc in obese women. The mean concentrations of zinc in the plasma showed no statistically significant difference between groups ( $p > 0.05$ ). Despite no significant difference in plasmatic zinc concentrations, the obese group's diet contained a higher quantity of this mineral ( $p < 0.05$ ). Thus, the higher zinc intake found in the diets of obese women does not seem to have influenced the plasma levels of the mineral.

It should be mentioned that the plasma is a parameter of evaluation of this trace element that has fast dynamics, and that keeps it under a homeostatic control, and may suffer several pathophysiological influences in response to various conditions such as stress, infection, catabolism, hormones and food intake.<sup>20,21</sup>

Another important aspect is that in the circulation, around 80% of zinc is in the erythrocytes and only 16% is in the plasma. Thus, since the half life of erythrocytes is 120 days, the erythrocyte becomes a parameter of nutritional status of this micronutrient for a longer period, and is therefore a more sensitive parameter.<sup>22,23</sup>

In order to better understand the metabolic behavior of zinc in obesity, some studies have used more sensitive markers, such as erythrocytes, for assessing the nutritional status of this mineral. Thus, unlike results

obtained in plasma, the mean values of zinc concentration in the erythrocytes of obese women in this study were significantly lower than in the control group ( $p < 0.05$ ). These results are consistent with those already found by Marreiro; Fisberg; Cozzolino<sup>5</sup>, in a study of obese children and adolescents and by Ozata et al.<sup>24</sup> in obese adult men.

One important factor is the body composition of the assessed patients. The waist circumference and body mass index were higher in obese women than in the control group ( $p < 0.05$ ). The obesity is characterized by accumulation of fat mass and is associated with increase of the release of several inflammatory mediators. This dysregulation in the production of pro-inflammatory adipocytokines in obese individuals leads to a state of chronic low-grade inflammation and may promote obesity-linked metabolic disorders such as syndrome metabolic<sup>25,26</sup>.

The results of multivariate regression revealed that only the erythrocytary zinc was influenced by biomarkers of the metabolic syndrome. This analysis demonstrated that the waist circumference and body mass index had negative correlation with the concentration of zinc in erythrocytes. This data is associated with the fact of the accumulation of adipose tissue increase the production of cortisol and adipocytokines, which produces a chronic inflammatory process. The inflammation induces the expression of metallothionein and zinc transporter Zip14 in hepatocytes, these proteins promotes the zinc accumulation in the liver and in adipocytes, which may have contributed to low of erythrocytary zinc concentration<sup>27-29</sup>.

## Conclusions

The study shows that there are alterations in biochemical parameters of zinc in obese women, with low zinc concentrations in erythrocytes. The results of regression analysis revealed that only the concentration of zinc in erythrocytes has influenced by components anthropometrics of the metabolic syndrome and, the body mass index and waist circumference have a negative relation with this mineral. Moreover, there is no relationship between the zinc nutritional status and the biochemical markers of the metabolic syndrome.

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Cartas científicas

## Ceruloplasmina y su importancia clínica como factor indicador del riesgo cardiovascular en una población de escolares de Granada

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### Resumen

La ceruloplasmina también conocida como ferroxidasa, pertenece a la familia de las proteínas sensibles a la inflamación, siendo su función principal la de transportar el cobre en la sangre. Si bien, además de esta función transportadora, en la actualidad, son numerosos los estudios que han intentado hacer uso de la determinación de sus concentraciones séricas, como un indicador predictivo del riesgo de padecer trastornos cardiovasculares en pacientes que presentan sobrepeso u obesidad. Los resultados obtenidos en este estudio confirman la existencia de una correlación significativa entre los niveles séricos de ceruloplasmina y el estado nutricional de los sujetos, lo que significa que para la población de escolares valorada, las concentraciones séricas de esta proteína suponen un importante factor para predecir el riesgo de padecer trastornos cardiovasculares.

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Palabras clave: Ceruloplasmina. Riesgo cardiovascular. Sobrepeso. Antropometría.

### Introducción

El incremento de peso corporal, es uno de los desafíos para la salud pública del siglo XXI, especialmente en los países desarrollados. La obesidad se ha triplicado en las últimas dos décadas. Este incremento ha llevado a la OMS a calificar el fenómeno de la obesidad como una epidemia global<sup>1</sup>. En este trabajo hemos relacionado el índice de masa corporal en niños y adolescentes y los niveles de ceruloplasmina. La ceruloplasmina (Cp) o

### CERULOPLASMIN AND ITS CLINICAL RELEVANCE AS AN INDICATOR OF CARDIOVASCULAR RISK FACTOR IN A SCHOOL POPULATION OF GRANADA

#### Abstract

Also known as ferroxidase ceruloplasmin, belongs to the family of inflammation-sensitive proteins, and its main function to transport copper in the blood. Although, in addition to this transport function, at present, there are numerous studies that have attempted to use the determination of serum concentrations as a predictive indicator of cardiovascular risk in patients who are overweight or obese. The results of this study confirm the existence of a significant correlation between serum ceruloplasmin and nutritional status of the subjects, which means that for the population of students assessed, serum levels of this protein are an important predictor the risk of cardiovascular disease.

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Key words: Ceruloplasmin. Cardiovascular risk. Overweight. Anthropometry.

ferroxidasa constituye la principal proteína plasmática transportadora de cobre en la sangre perteneciendo a la familia de las multicuprooxidases.

Sintetizada en el hígado como una cadena polipeptídica simple, la ceruloplasmina se secreta como una  $\alpha$ -2-glicoproteína a nivel plasmático. Si bien, puede ser igualmente sintetizada por células integrantes de otros tejidos como los monocitos, astrocitos y células Sertoli<sup>2</sup>. Desde un punto de vista funcional, interviene transportando el 90% del cobre existente en el plasma sanguíneo ya que el otro 10% lo transportará la albúmina.

La ceruloplasmina posee una actividad oxidasa inespecífica, participando en reacciones de oxidación de múltiples sustratos orgánicos e inorgánicos, como el ión  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ , benzidina, p-fenilendiamina, N y N-dimetilfenilendiamina entre otros. No obstante, únicamente el ión  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  se considera un sustrato biológico para esta enzima<sup>3</sup>.

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Por otra parte se ha descrito una acción moduladora en procesos como la coagulación, la angiogénesis, así como una capacidad inactivadora de aminas biogénicas y de defensa frente al estrés oxidativo<sup>4,5,6</sup>. Asimismo, forma parte de la familia de proteínas sensibles a la inflamación que incluye la  $\alpha$ -1-antitripsina, haptoglobina, orosomucoide y fibrinógeno<sup>7</sup> cuyos niveles se han visto asociados a factores de riesgo cardiovascular como hipercolesterolemia, aumento del peso corporal, diabetes e hipertensión arterial<sup>8</sup>.

Ahora bien, respecto de la obesidad, estudios previos han descrito una asociación entre los niveles plasmáticos de ceruloplasmina y el grado de obesidad existente en esos pacientes<sup>9</sup>. Teniendo en cuenta esto, cabría plantear la supuesta posibilidad y utilidad de esta proteína como instrumento para identificar aquellos pacientes que aún siendo de corta edad poseen un riesgo elevado de padecer eventos cardiovasculares<sup>10,11</sup>.

En la actualidad se desconoce el mecanismo fisiopatológico a través del cual se alteran sus niveles plasmáticos en jóvenes con sobrepeso u obesidad<sup>12,13</sup>. Sin embargo, la alteración de sus niveles plasmáticos en estos pacientes con sobrepeso u obesidad constituirá un factor indicativo del potencial efecto que el exceso de peso puede representar para el incremento de los niveles de esta proteína y con ello del riesgo de padecer accidentes cardiovasculares a edades cada vez más tempranas<sup>14</sup>. El propósito de este trabajo ha sido verificar una posible correlación entre los niveles de ceruloplasmina circulantes y el estado nutricional de los sujetos, así como comprobar su asociación con los parámetros antropométricos evaluados.

## Objetivos

Los objetivos propuestos a alcanzar en este estudio fueron los siguientes:

- Verificar una posible asociación entre los niveles séricos de ceruloplasmina y las puntuaciones en el índice de masa corporal de los sujetos.
- Comprobar la existencia de una asociación significativa entre los niveles plasmáticos de ceruloplasmina y las puntuaciones de ciertos parámetros antropométricos evaluados.

## Muestra

La muestra estuvo constituida por 26 adolescentes todos ellos de entre 12 y 16 años de edad, pertenecientes a un centro educativo de Granada (España). Como criterios de inclusión, se consideraron candidatos potenciales a participar en el estudio todos aquellos alumnos carentes de patología endocrino-metabólica y autorizados a participar por sus padres o tutores.

## Metodología

Con anterioridad al estudio de los niveles en sangre de ceruloplasmina, se realizó una valoración del estado nutricional de todos los sujetos participantes mediante antropometría. Las variables analizadas fueron el peso, la talla y con ello el índice de masa corporal. Para categorizar a los sujetos en base a su estado nutricional se tomaron como referencia los estándares de Cole y cols. (2000). Además, fueron valorados dos pliegues cutáneos (pliegue tricipital, subescapular) así como los perímetros de la cintura y de la cadera. De este modo se procedió a la clasificación de los sujetos en dos grupos de 13 participantes cada uno. Un primer grupo constituido por 13 adolescentes cuyos valores de índice de masa corporal eran adecuados a su edad y sexo y un segundo grupo de otros 13 adolescentes los cuales mostraban valores de índice de masa corporal elevados para su edad y sexo. Una vez establecidos los dos grupos, se procedió a la valoración de los niveles séricos de ceruloplasmina. Para su valoración, fue necesario realizar una extracción de 5 ml de sangre venosa a todos y cada uno de los alumnos participantes. A continuación, se procedía al centrifugado de la muestra a 3.000 rpm durante 30 minutos para obtener el suero el cual era inmediatamente congelado a -20° centígrados. Con esta muestra se realizó la analítica de ceruloplasmina en ambos grupos.

## Resultados

Los resultados obtenidos en este estudio muestran una asociación significativa entre el estado nutricional de los sujetos y los niveles circulantes de ceruloplasmina. Los valores del coeficiente de correlación de Pearson entre las puntuaciones del índice de masa corporal (IMC) y de Ceruloplasmina, en todos los casos resultaron ser estadísticamente significativos ( $p < 0,001$ ). En base a ello, podemos afirmar que existe una asociación positiva entre el estado nutricional de los sujetos medido mediante las puntuaciones del IMC y los valores de ceruloplasmina hallados en cada uno de los sujetos. Estos resultados se muestran representados en la figura 1.

Respecto de los niveles plasmáticos de ceruloplasmina y las variables antropométricas evaluadas, el aná-

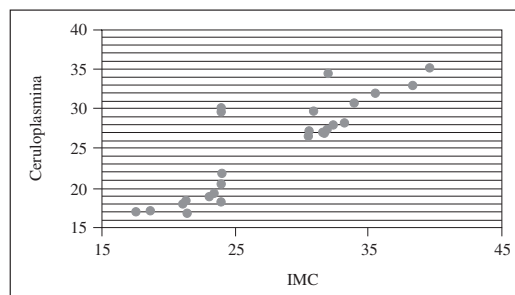


Fig. 1.—IMC y su correlación con los valores séricos de ceruloplasmina.

**Tabla I**  
Correlaciones y nivel de significación de los niveles séricos de ceruloplasmina con las variables antropométricas evaluadas

| Variables antropométricas | Coefficientes | Ceruloplasmina |
|---------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Peso                      | R             | 0,898**        |
|                           | p             | 0,000          |
| Talla                     | R             | 0,195          |
|                           | p             | 0,340          |
| Perímetro de la cintura   | R             | 0,721**        |
|                           | p             | 0,000          |
| Perímetro de la cadera    | R             | 0,670**        |
|                           | p             | 0,000          |
| Pliegue tricipital        | R             | 0,612**        |
|                           | p             | 0,001          |
| Pliegue subescapular      | R             | 0,761**        |
|                           | p             | 0,000          |

\*Significativa con  $p < 0,05$ ; \*\*Significativa con  $p < 0,01$ .

lisis de la correlación de Pearson, ha arrojado resultados estadísticamente significativos en todos los casos, excepto para la variable estatura. Además el sentido positivo de la asociación muestra que conforme aumentan los valores de Ceruloplasmina también lo hacen los valores antropométricos. Estos resultados se muestran más claramente en la tabla I y en la figura 2 con los diagramas de dispersión.

## Discusión/conclusión

Los resultados de este estudio, muestran una estrecha asociación entre los valores séricos de ceruloplasmina y los del índice de masa corporal de los sujetos, es decir, las concentraciones séricas circulantes de esta biomolécula se incrementan en modo paralelo a dicho índice.

En este sentido de acuerdo con Engström y colaboradores (2004) y Wärnberg y cols. (2006), para la población de adolescentes estudiada, la valoración de las concentraciones de ceruloplasmina supone un importante indicador para estimar el riesgo cardiovascular que éstos poseen.

Ahora bien, la existencia de resultados contradictorios procedentes de estudios previos como el desarrollado por Zulet y colaboradores (2007), determina la necesidad de continuar profundizando sobre la naturaleza, función e implicaciones orgánicas de esta biomolécula. Si bien, consideramos que estos resultados contribuirán de forma positiva al mejor conocimiento de las implicaciones y capacidad predictiva de riesgo cardiovascular de la ceruloplasmina.

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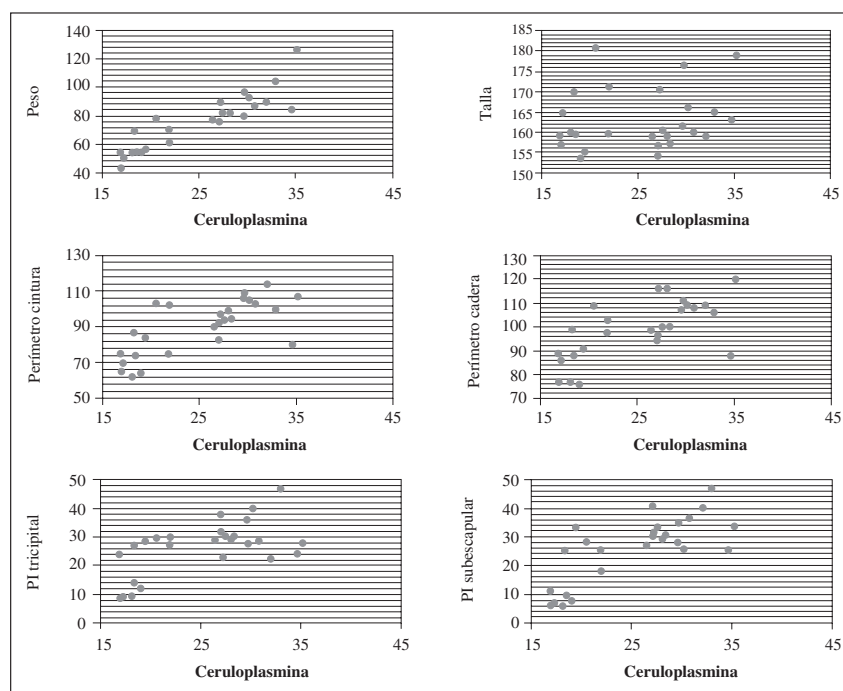


Fig. 2.—Ceruloplasmina y su correlación con parámetros antropométricos.

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