



# Balanced Diet for a Disease-Free Life – How to Eat Healthy at Home & at Work ?

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# Overview of Course (45')



**I: Short Warm-up Quiz**

**II: Importance of Healthy Diet – Situation in LU?**

**III: A Deeper Look Into Diet & Disease**

**IV: Practical Aspects Regarding Diet – at Home & at Work**

**V: Dietary Supplements – do I Need those ?**

**VI: Short Summary**

# I - Warm-up Quiz

How many adult persons in LU are having obesity (BMI>30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) ?

- a) 10%
- b) 23%
- c) 16%
- d) 28%

What is the contribution of diet to healthy living (long lifespan) ?

- a) ~10%
- b) ~25%
- c) ~50%

How many fruits & vegetables should you eat ?

- a) one apple a day
- b) 2 portions/d
- c) 3 portions/d
- d) 5 portions/d

Vegetarians...

- a) less often die of cardiovascular disease
- b) have lower BMI (vs. omnivores)
- c) have nevertheless same all-cause mortality than omnivores



## II – Importance of Healthy Diet

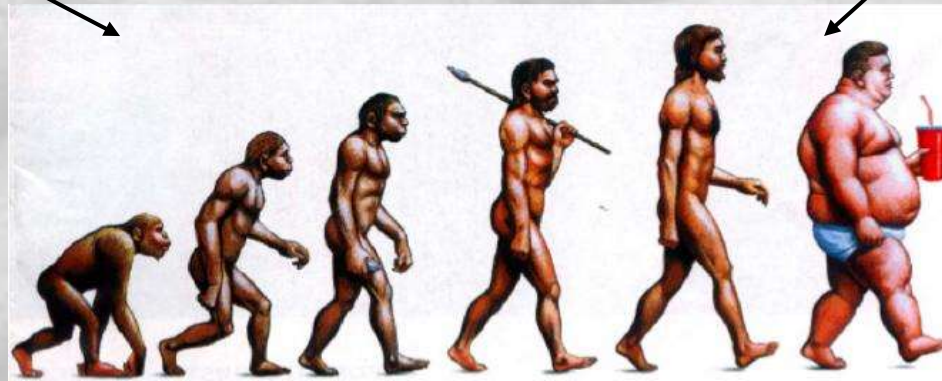
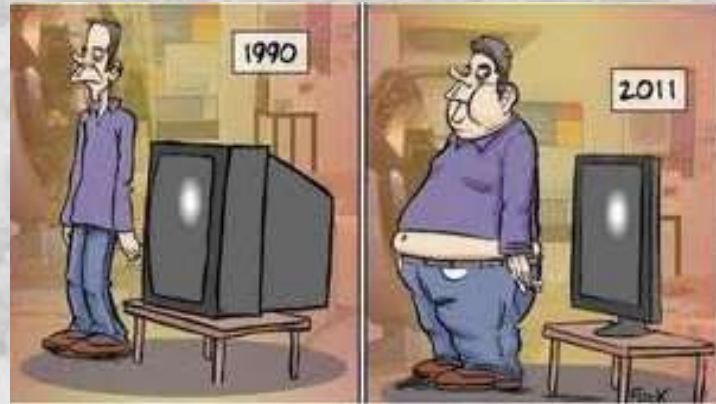


**“Let Food be thy Medicine and Medicine be thy Food”**

Hippocrates, 400 BC

# II – Importance of Healthy Diet

## Development toward Couch-Potato Existence ?



**Genetic changes ?**

0.3% per mio. y



# Are we doomed ???



# II – Importance of Healthy Diet

## WHO & other Expert Commissions

WHO: insufficient fruit/vegetable consumption:

**31% ischemic heart disease**  
**19% gastro-intestinal cancer**  
**11% stroke**



### Globally:

- **Na:** 3 mio. deaths, 70 mio. DALYs,
- **Wholegrain:** 3 mio. deaths 82 mio. DALYs
- **Fruit:** 2 mio. deaths, 65 mio. DALYs

(IHD: 180 mio. DALYs,WHO)



# II – Importance of Healthy Diet

## Overweight & Obesity



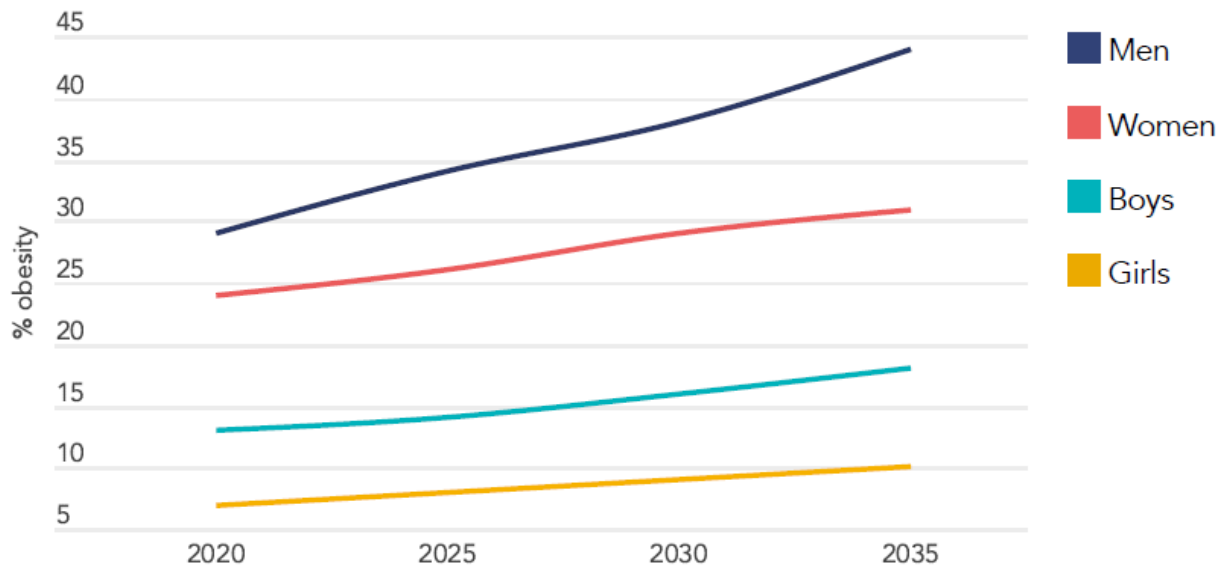
# Luxembourg

ADULTS WITH OBESITY 2035

**37%**

VERY HIGH

### PROJECTED TRENDS IN THE PREVALENCE OF OBESITY (BMI $\geq 30\text{kg/m}^2$ )



ANNUAL INCREASE IN ADULT OBESITY 2020–2035

**2.3%**

HIGH

OVERWEIGHT IMPACT ON NATIONAL GDP 2035

**1.5%**

HIGH

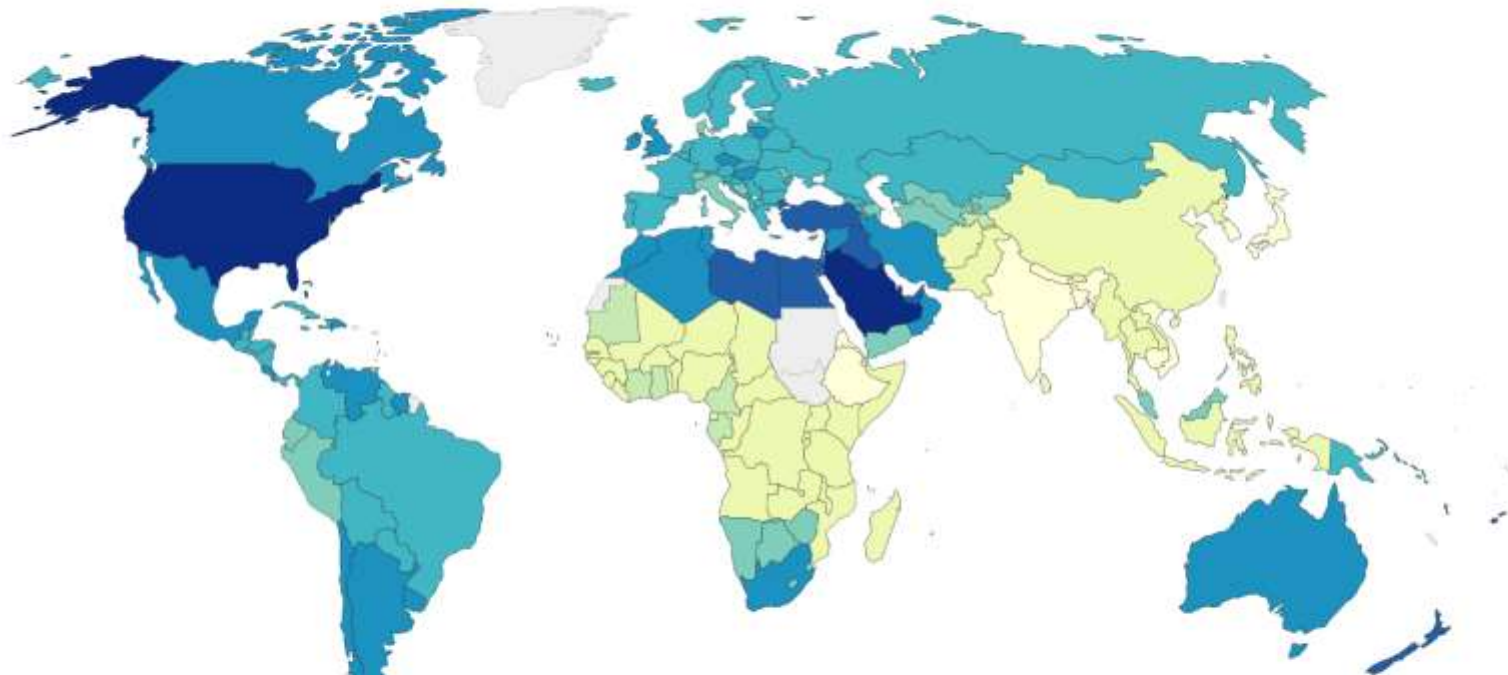


# II – Importance of Healthy Diet

## Not only a problem of Developed Countries:

### Share of adults that are obese, 2016

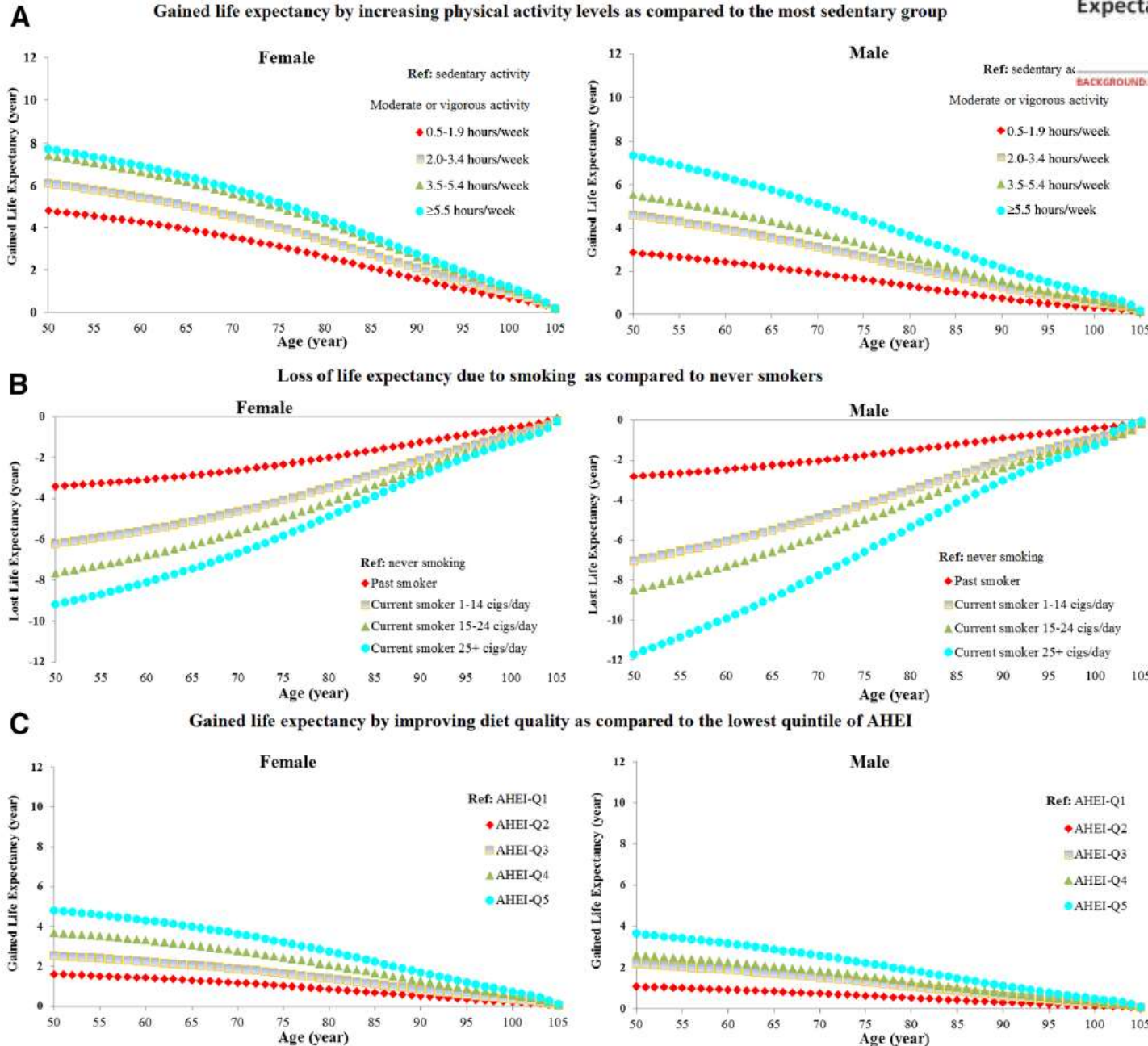
Obesity is defined as having a body-mass index (BMI) equal to or greater than 30. BMI is a person's weight in kilograms divided by his or her height in metres squared.



First time: **more overweight than underweight** (2,300 mio. vs. 850 mio., 2015)




# Never too late to change life-style !



**Max. gain/losses:**

**+ 7-8 y with PA**



**- 9 - 12 y if you smoke**

**+ 4-5 y with healthy diet !**



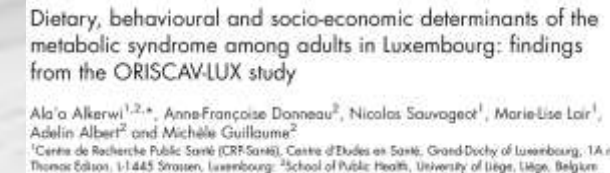
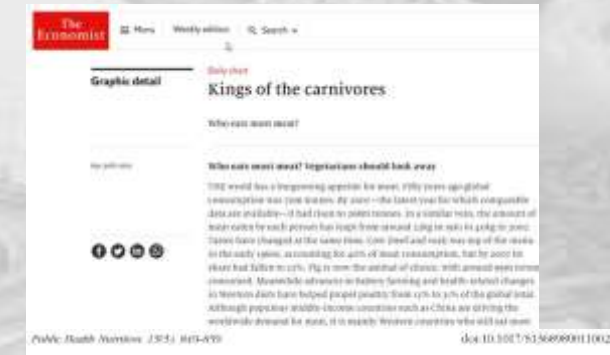
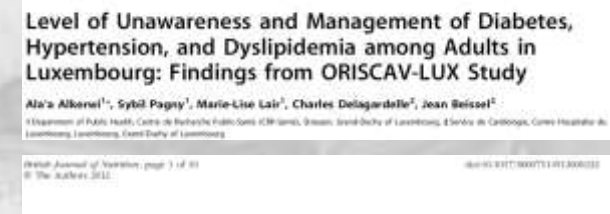
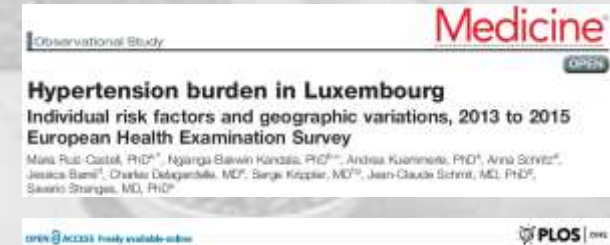
# II – Importance of Healthy Diet

## Some findings from the Oriscav Lux Studies

### In Luxembourg:

- Prediabetes (26%)
- Overweight (37%)
- Obesity (21%)
- Hypertension (31%)
- Dyslipidaemia (>2/3)
- MetS: ~25%

- Highest meat consumers ww. (2007) – 137 kg/y !
- Ca. 60%: fiber intake <25/38 g/d
- Salt: >85%: >2 g/d Na
- 40%: < 5/d fruits/vegetables
- Simple sugars: >97% over 10% energy intake



## II – Importance of Healthy Diet

What we are doing:



# III – A Deeper Look into Diet & Disease

Which Macronutrients ?



Trend in the 1990' s: Low fat foods



Trend at ca. >2000: Low carb. foods



Tomorrows trend: Low protein ?



**Eat nothing (but pills) ??**

"The Paradiso factory produces light mineral water and soft drinks"



**Which dietary recommendations to trust ?**

# III – A Deeper Look into Diet & Disease

Which dietary recommendations to trust ?



1 swallow = summer ??



Be careful !

**New evidence-pyramide:**



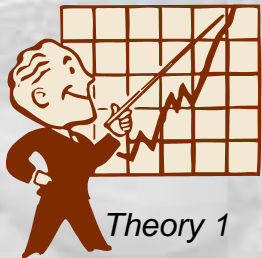
Murad et al. , EvBasMed, 2016



**Industry-independent  
competent organizations &  
national guidelines**

# III – A Deeper Look into Diet & Disease

The search for the scapegoat...



**“It is the fats” !!**

- High caloric value : 9.3 kcal/g vs. 4.1 kcal/g (CH, proteins).
- Saturated fats (animal) in tendency healthier as unsaturated.
- Many saturated fats also contain cholesterol.

# III – A Deeper Look into Diet & Disease

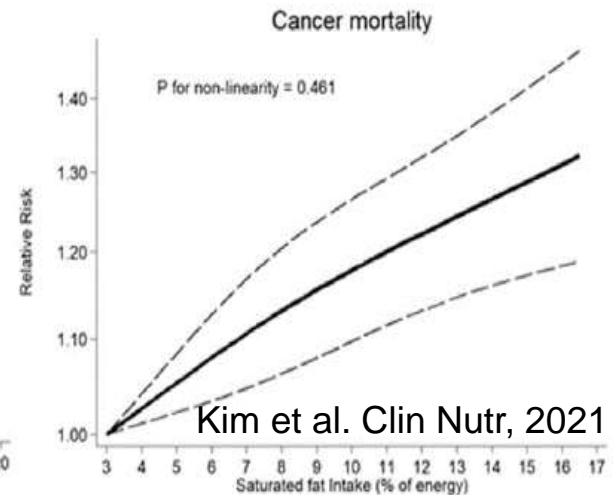
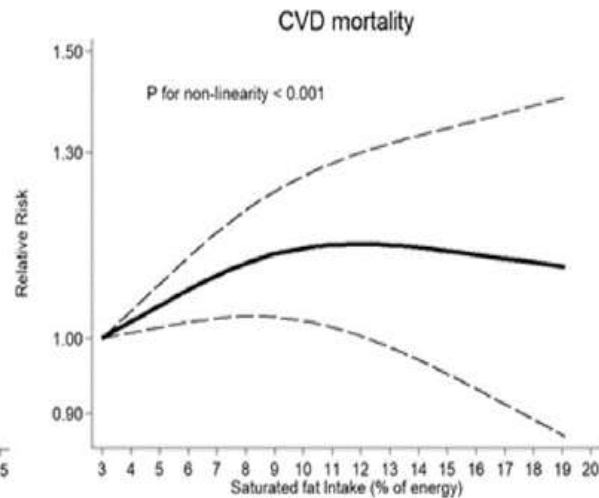
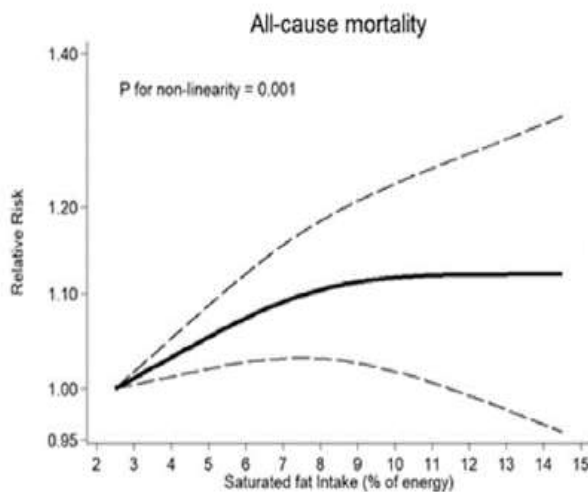
## Saturated Fats & Health

19 prospective cohort - studies, n= 1,013,273 participants 195,515 deaths

	Highest versus lowest		% of energy increment from fat		
	No. of studies	RR (95% CI)	% of energy	No. of studies	RR (95% CI)
All-cause mortality					
Total fat	8	0.89 (0.81–0.99)	5	6	0.99 (0.98–1.00)
Saturated fat	11	1.03 (0.94–1.13)	5	10	1.02 (1.00–1.05)

**No sign. neg. effects : high vs. low intakes**

**→ But: high vs. low fraction of energy intake % (dietary patterns).**



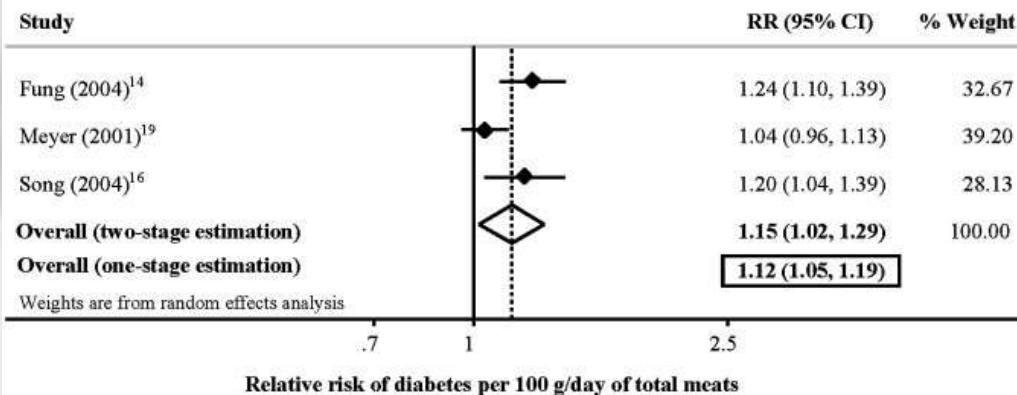
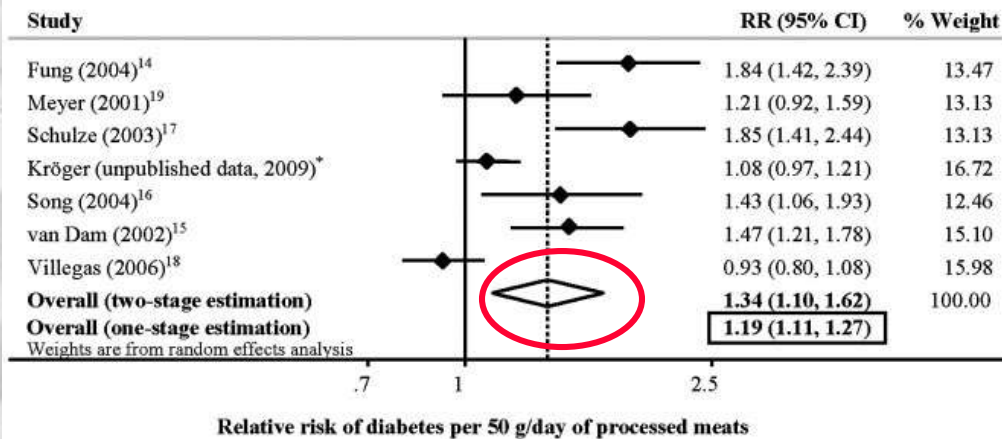
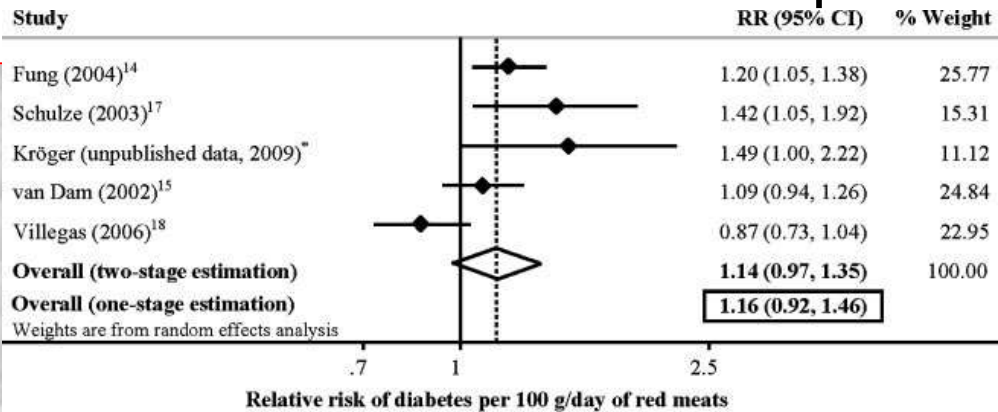
Kim et al. Clin Nutr, 2021

**Inverse Relation: total mortality, CVD, cancer: **borderline for mortality****



# III – A Deeper Look into Diet & Disease

## Meat products ?



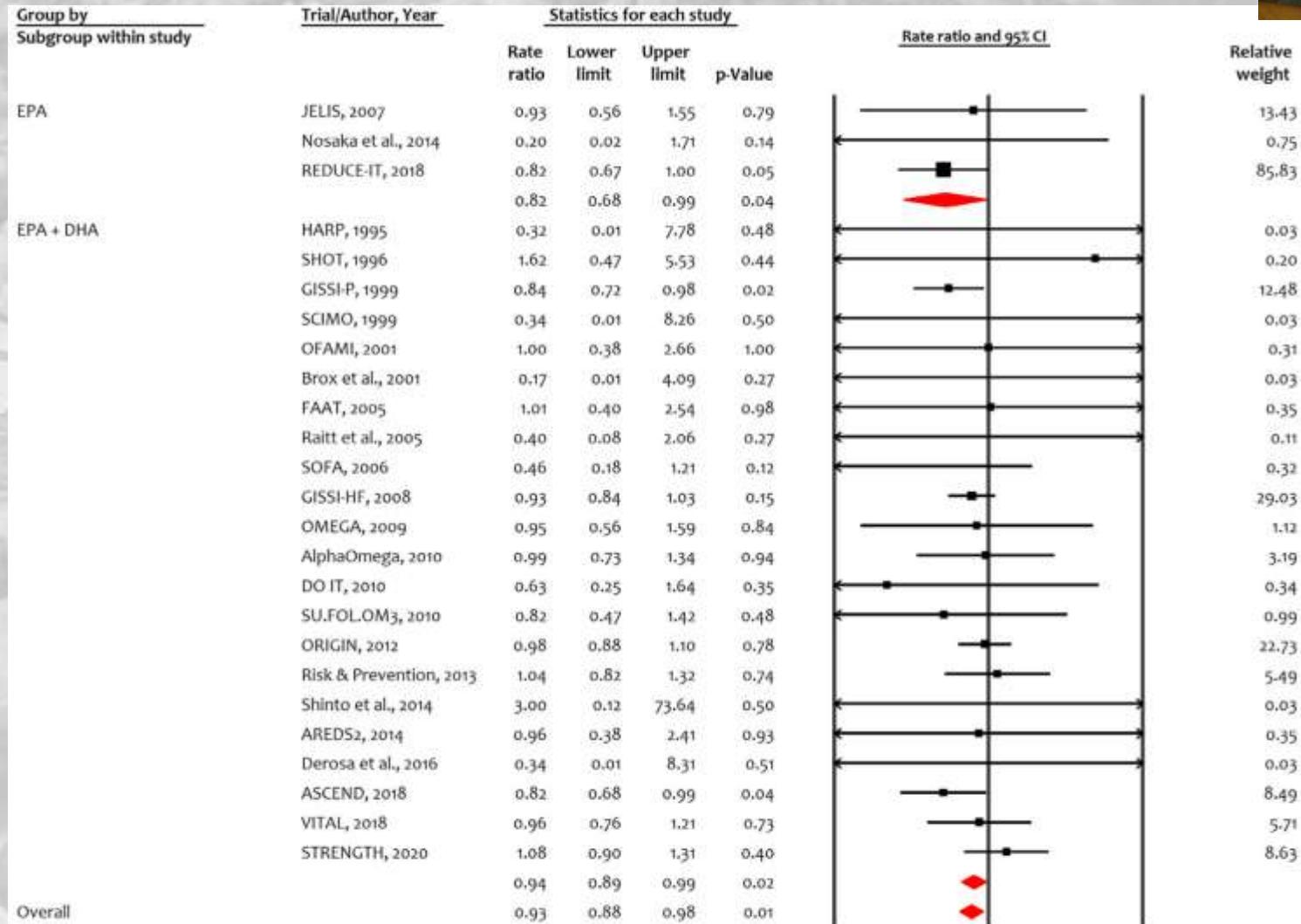
Meta-analysis: consumption of processed meat (sausage, ham...) & red meat (unprocessed)



# III – A Deeper Look into Diet & Disease

## And “healthy fats” ?

RCT meta-Analysis & CVD mortality, 38 studies, n=150.000



7% reduced risk

Conclusion:  
Light reduction of risk for  $\omega$ -3 FS & CVD & total mortality

Strong convincing effects ??

If it is not the fat, what then ?

P = 0%  
P for interaction = 0.

Favors Omega-3 FA      Favors Control



# III – A Deeper Look into Diet & Disease

(Table)sugar causing obesity ?

Consumption of sweetened beverages: +135% ↑ (1977 - 2001)

Nielsen SJ, Popkin BM. Am J Prev Med 2004



## Obesity and high fructose corn syrup

The number of Americans who are obese has quadrupled in recent years, a study shows. At the same time, high fructose corn syrup consumption has risen at parallel rates.

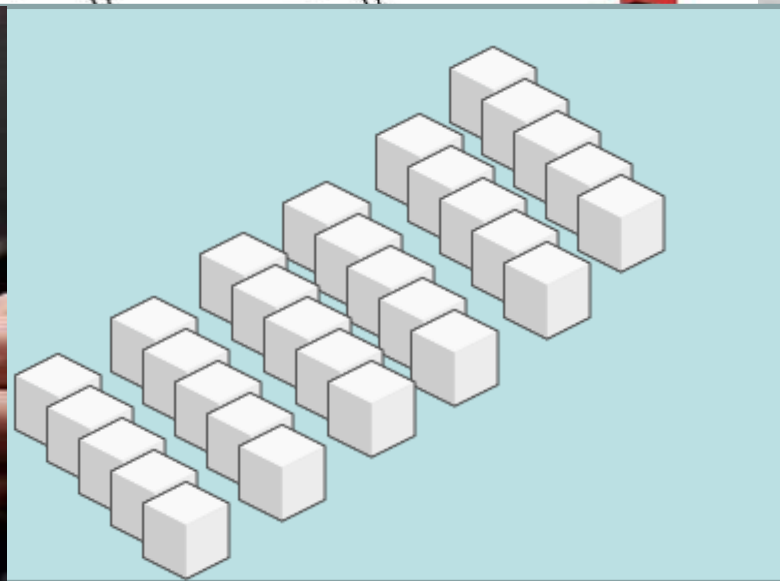


Fructose especially critical :

- Blood lipids ↑ (via)
- Inflammation ↑
- Satiety ↓
- (V)LDL ↑

Sugar intake (DE): 88

Correlation between type II diabetes incre



# III – A Deeper Look into Diet & Disease

## GI & GL – “Umbrella Meta-Analysis”

18 MA: prospective cohort-studies: GI & GL: **Blood-sugar increase**

- Pos. association between GI & T2D risk, CVD, some types of cancer (colorectal, breast, bladder), & GL risk CVD, T2D & stroke.

Outcome	Number of primary studies	Number of cases	Comparison	Summary relative risk (95%CI)	Quality of evidence (GRADE)
Gallbladder disease	2	7581	High vs low	1.26 (1.11, 1.40)	Low
Bladder cancer	2	1315	High vs low	1.26 (1.08, 1.46)	Low
Type 2 diabetes	15	34,841	Per 10-unit	1.18 (1.07, 1.29)	Low
Coronary heart disease	10	7137	High vs low	1.14 (1.05, 1.24)	Low
Colorectal cancer	12	14,108	High vs low	1.08 (1.01, 1.16)	Low
Breast cancer	11	25,917	High vs low	1.06 (1.01, 1.11)	Low
Stroke	7	3046	High vs low	1.07 (0.97, 1.19)	Low
Prostate cancer	5	15,949	High vs low	0.98 (0.94, 1.03)	Low
Endometrial cancer	7	4011	High vs low	1.00 (0.91, 1.10)	Low
Pancreatic cancer	8	3097	High vs low	1.02 (0.90, 1.16)	Low
Gastric cancer	3	869	High vs low	0.92 (0.57, 1.50)	Very low
Liver cancer	4	984	High vs low	1.04 (0.83, 1.32)	Very low
Renal cell carcinoma	2	1315	High vs low	0.99 (0.81, 1.17)	Very low
All-cause mortality	5	10,768	High vs low	1.10 (0.94, 1.30)	Very low

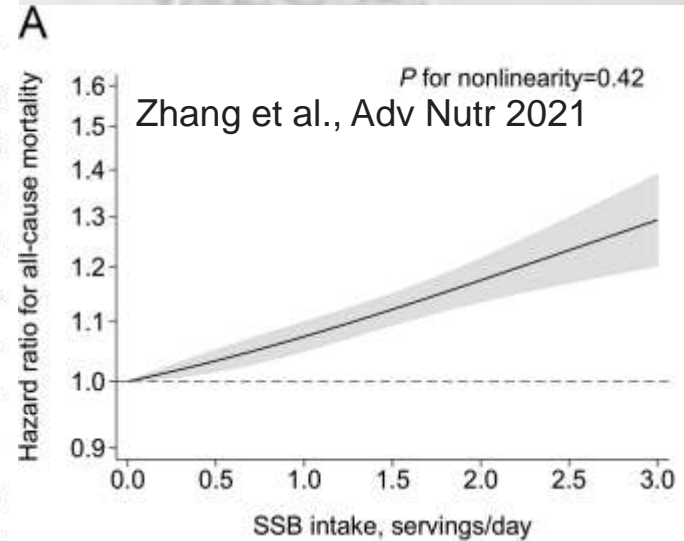
Individual diseases: up to 25% risk reduction

# III – A Deeper Look into Diet & Disease

## “Sugar source – sweetened beverages”

MA: 15 studies: 11 cohorts, n=965,851 participants: total mortality

Cohort	Participants	Deaths	HR (95% CI)	Weight, %
<b>All-cause mortality</b>				
Cancer and Leukemia Group B 89803	1011	305	1.15 (0.95, 1.40)	3.47
European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition	451,743	41,963	1.06 (1.02, 1.09)	16.88
Health Professionals Follow-Up Study	37,716	13,004	1.07 (1.03, 1.10)	17.05
Leisure World Cohort Study	13,624	11,386	1.00 (0.81, 1.23)	3.09
Northern Swedish Health and Disease Study	24,475	2881	1.06 (0.95, 1.19)	7.67
Nurses' Health Study	80,647	23,432	1.08 (1.05, 1.10)	18.09
Reasons for Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke study	13,440	1000	1.06 (0.96, 1.16)	9.29
Singapore Chinese Health Study	52,584	10,029	0.91 (0.80, 1.03)	6.48
UK Biobank	161,415	2311	1.34 (1.20, 1.50)	7.61
Vitamins and Lifestyle study	69,582	4187	1.33 (1.13, 1.56)	4.85
Women's Health Initiative Study	59,614	4437	0.95 (0.82, 1.09)	5.53
<b>Total (I<sup>2</sup>=70.5%, P=0.002)</b>	<b>965,851</b>	<b>114,935</b>	<b>1.08 (1.04, 1.12)</b>	<b>100.00</b>



Steady increase from small amounts onward !  
**→No safe dose !**

Per extra beverage (355 mL): mortality↑ (HR: 1.08; 95% CI: 1.04, 1.12)

could not be compared. A level of sugars intake at which the risk of dental caries/chronic metabolic diseases is not increased could not be identified over the range of observed intakes, and thus, a UL or a safe level of intake could not be set. Based on available data and related uncertainties, the intake of added and free sugars should be as low as possible in the context of a nutritionally adequate diet. Decreasing the intake of added and free sugars would decrease the intake of total sugars to a similar extent. This opinion can assist EU Member States in setting national goals/recommendations.

EFSA  
 Opinion:

# III – A Deeper Look into Diet & Disease

## Non-caloric sweeteners instead of sugars ?

A sweet tasting, food approved compound, that does not contain significant calories:

Aspartam (Phenylalanin)  
Acesulfam K  
Cyclamat  
Saccharin  
Stevia...

**Do they reduce calories ?  
Healthier ??**



## Increased ingestion of sweeteners: Does it increase appetite ?

Rats: yoghurt with sugar or acesulfamK/saccharin Swithers et al. 2009

After 2 Weeks: Significant weight increase !

- Disturbance of glucose metabolism ?
- Altered gut microbiota ?
- Stimulation of appetite via unknown mechanisms ?



Humans: Long term consequences uncertain,  
benefit questionable, energy balance: +/-  
Meta-analyses: no clear direction



# IV – Practical Tips & Tricks Regarding Diet

How to make it healthy through a day – at home & work ?

- CAREER COLUMN Nature
- 16 March 2022
- Nine 'brain food' tips for “researchers”

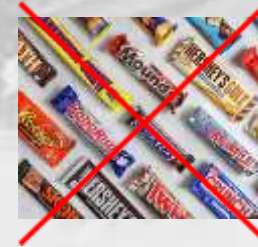
## 1. Find time to snack healthily

### Short food breaks:

keep your blood-sugar level reasonably high without surging

→ prevents hunger & over-consumption

→ reduce SB !





# IV – Practical Tips & Tricks Regarding Diet

## 1. Find time to snack healthily



**Fruits for the office – negotiate !  
Replace vending machines  
Form a food – council !**



**Even  
better:  
Filtered tap  
water !**



# IV – Practical Tips & Tricks Regarding Diet

## 3. Put food on your agenda & enjoy

- Schedule regular mealtime in your diary
- Go with your biorythm ! Follow your gut !
- Avoid eating too late (in afternoon/evening)
- Eat consciously, take time

Timeslot	Start	End	Length	Session Name
1	8:30 AM	8:50 AM	20	Welcome break
2	8:50 AM	10:00 AM	70	Speaker 1
3	10:00 AM	10:20 AM	20	AM Break
4	10:20 AM	11:10 AM	50	Speaker 2
5	11:10 AM	12:05 PM	55	Panel
6	12:05 PM	1:05 PM	60	Lunch
7	1:05 PM	2:25 PM	80	Speaker 3
8	2:25 PM	2:45 PM	20	PM Break
9	2:45 PM	3:35 PM	50	Speaker 4
10	3:35 PM	4:20 PM	45	Speaker 5
11	4:20 PM	4:30 PM	10	Closing Remarks
Total			8.00	Total Time

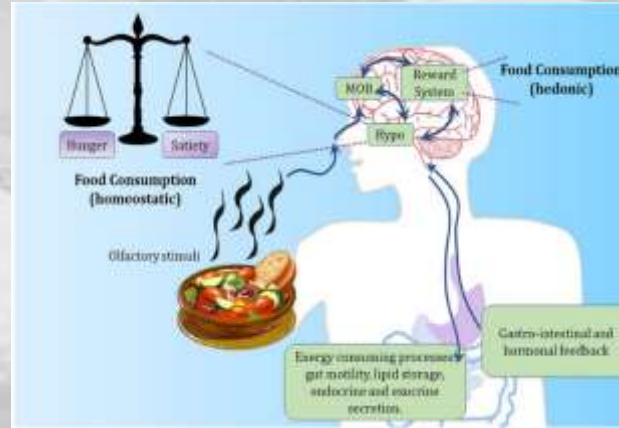


**Eat slowly to allow body feedback:**



# IV – Practical Tips & Tricks Regarding Diet

## 4. Plan your meals – think about it



**Increase your intake of: low-calorie items, e.g.,  
but diversify:**



**High satiety  
High nutrient density**

# IV – Practical Tips & Tricks Regarding Diet

Fat free dressing or not ?

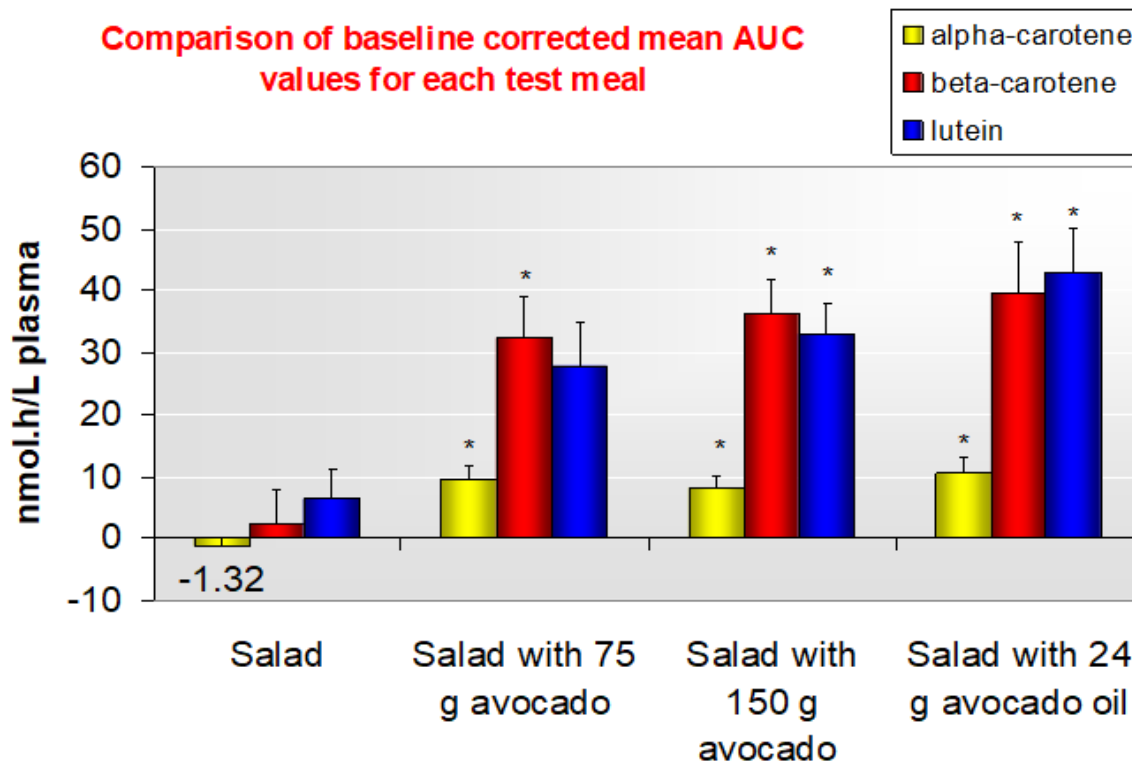
Carotenoid Absorption from Salad and Salsa by Humans Is Enhanced by the Addition of Avocado or Avocado Oil<sup>1,2</sup>

Nuray Z. Unlu, Torsten Bohn, Steven K. Clinton,\* and Steven J. Schwartz<sup>3</sup>

Department of Food Science and Technology and <sup>3</sup>Internal Medicine, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210



Comparison of baseline corrected mean AUC values for each test meal



- A few g fat (5-10 g) needed/meal
- Improved micellization & chylomicron response

# IV – Practical Tips & Tricks Regarding Diet

## 5. Avoid the insulin rollercoaster



### (Ultra-)Processed foods:

- too salty
- too much sugar
- few nutrients
- too many additives

- contributing to chronic disease
- cognitive performance↓
- low satiety value
- insulin secretion↑ → soon hungry again

- Anti-inflammatory (SCFA↑)
- Cholesterol-lowering
- Slow increase blood-sugar
- Microbiome



# IV – Practical Tips & Tricks Regarding Diet

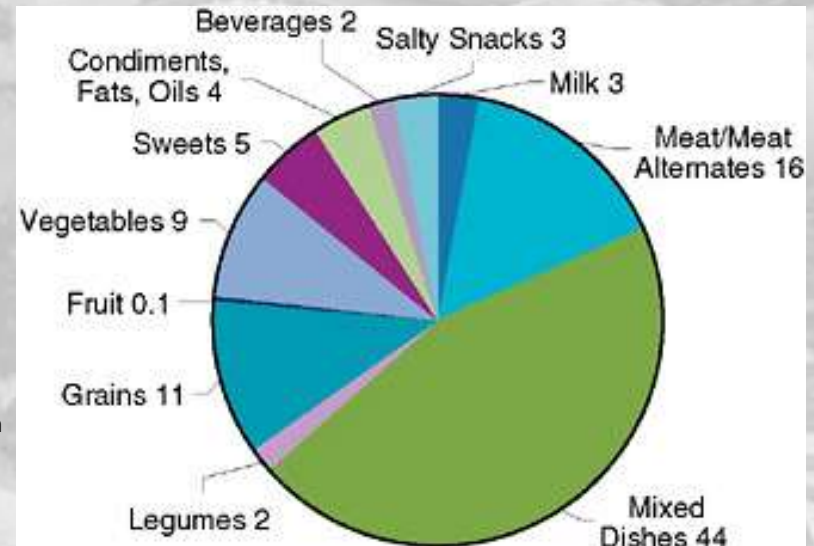
## 6. Scrap the salt

- major killer worldwide
  - blood pressure, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases.
- try pepper, curcuma, nutmeg or other spices to add flavour. Some health beneficial (curcuma...)



Blood pressure, CVD

According to most studies (Intersalt...):  
Intake twice of what is recommended



IOM: Strategies to Reduce Sodium Intake in the United States, 2010

# IV – Practical Tips & Tricks Regarding Diet

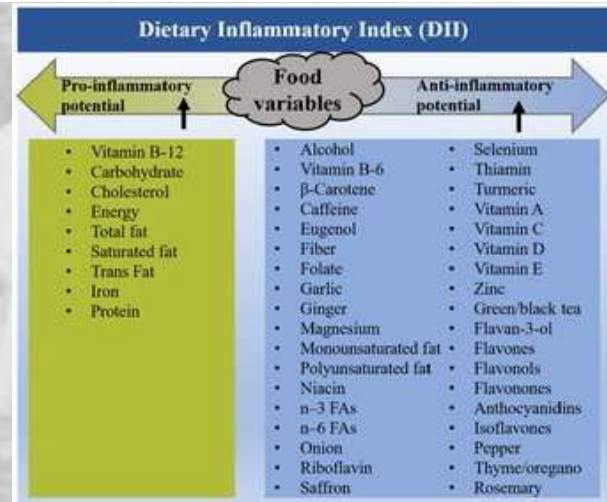
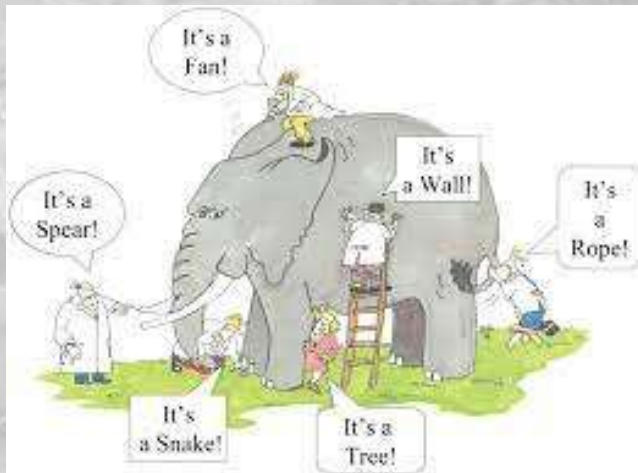
## 6. Scrap the salt





# IV – Practical Tips & Tricks Regarding Diet

Other aspects – joints, arthritis – dietary indices



ORIGINAL PAPER  
Rheumatology

CLINICAL PRACTICE WILEY

**Association of Dietary Inflammatory Index (DII) with disease activity and inflammatory cytokines in the patients with rheumatoid arthritis**

Arash Tandarost<sup>1</sup> | Sorayya Kheirouri<sup>1</sup> | Jalal Moludi<sup>2</sup> | Seyedmostafa Seyedmardani<sup>3</sup>

**nutrients**

MDPI

Systematic Review

**Effect of Anti-Inflammatory Diets on Pain in Rheumatoid Arthritis: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis**

Katja A. Schönenberger<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Anne-Catherine Schüpfer<sup>1</sup>, Viktoria L. Gloy<sup>3</sup>, Paul Hasler<sup>4</sup>, Zeno Stanga<sup>1</sup>, Nina Kaegi-Braun<sup>5</sup> and Emilie Reber<sup>1,6</sup>

Mean DII score: higher in RA patients vs. controls ( $0.66 \pm 0.23$  vs.  $-0.58 \pm 0.19$ ). Patients with highest DII: sign. higher hs-CRP & TNF & clinical markers, disease activity score (DAS-28) & tender joints.

7 RCTs, 326 participants. Anti-inflammatory diets: significantly lower pain than ordinary diets ( $-9.22$  mm; 95% CI  $-14.15$ ;  $-4.29$ )

# IV – Practical Tips & Tricks Regarding Diet

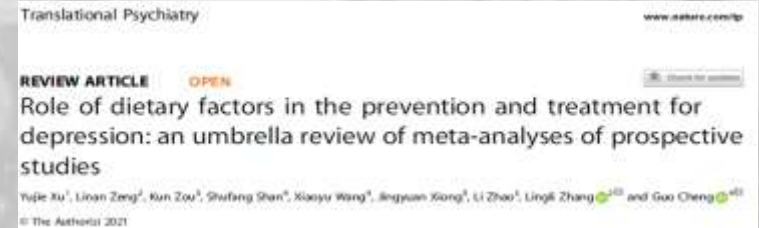
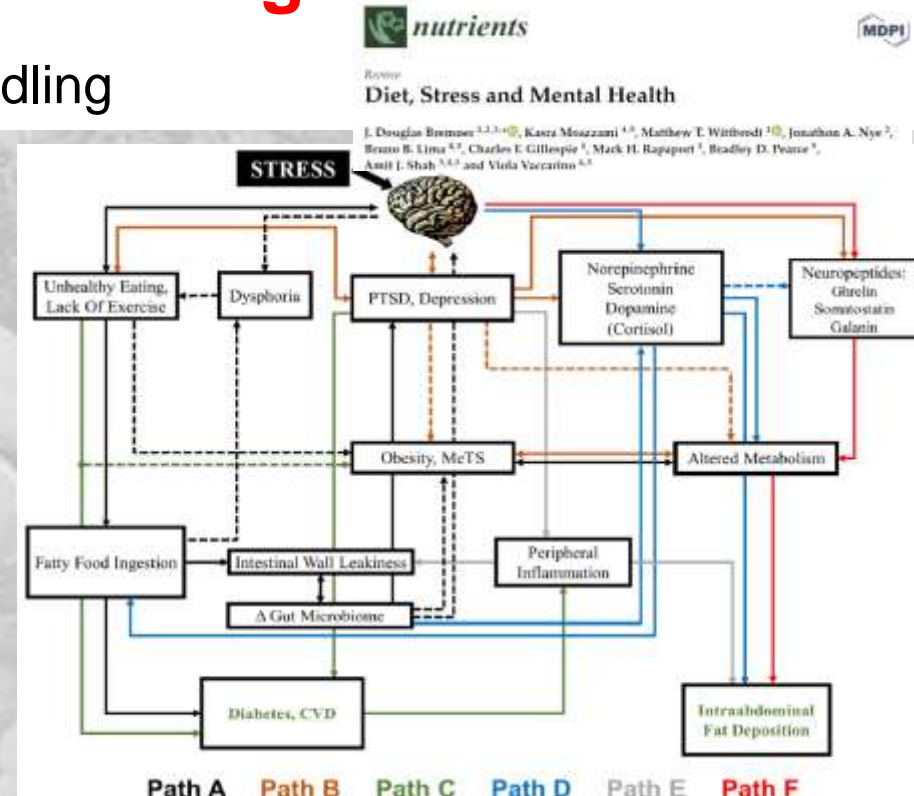
## Other aspects – stress handling



- PUFAS – anti-inflammatory
- Healthy gut microbiota (diversity): fiber
- Antioxidants
- Satiety, balanced diet

### Inverse: depression incidence:

healthy diet (RR): 0.74 (0.48–0.99)  
 fish (RR: 0.88 (0.79–0.97)  
 coffee (RR: 0.89 (0.84–0.94)  
 dietary zinc (RR: 0.66 (0.50–0.82),  
 light-mod. alcohol (<40 g/d, RR: 0.77 (0.74–0.83)



### Positive association:

SSB (RR: 1.05 (1.01–1.09)  
For depression treatment:  
 probiotics (SMD): -0.31 (-0.56; -0.07)  
 omega-3 PUFA (SMD: -0.28 (-0.47; -0.09)  
 acetyl-L-carnitine (SMD: -1.10 (-1.65; -0.56)

# V – Food Supplements – Helpful or Harmful

Do I need those ?



Source: Spektrum der Wissenschaft spezial - Uebergewicht



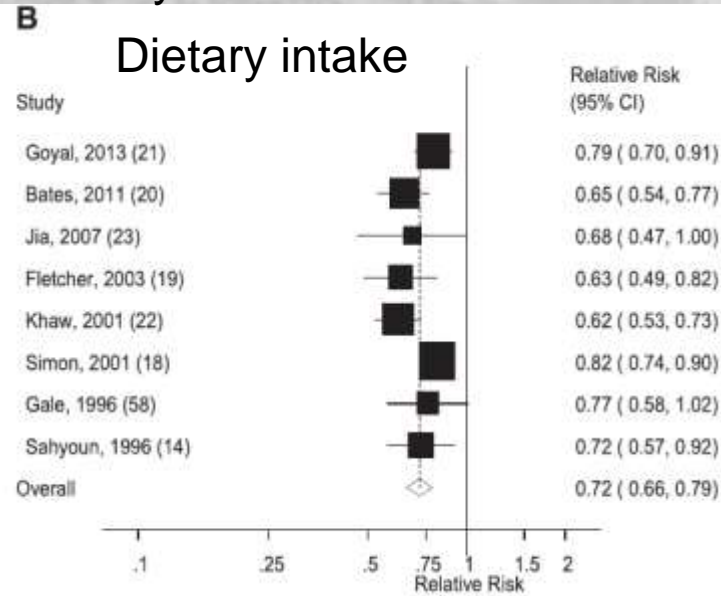
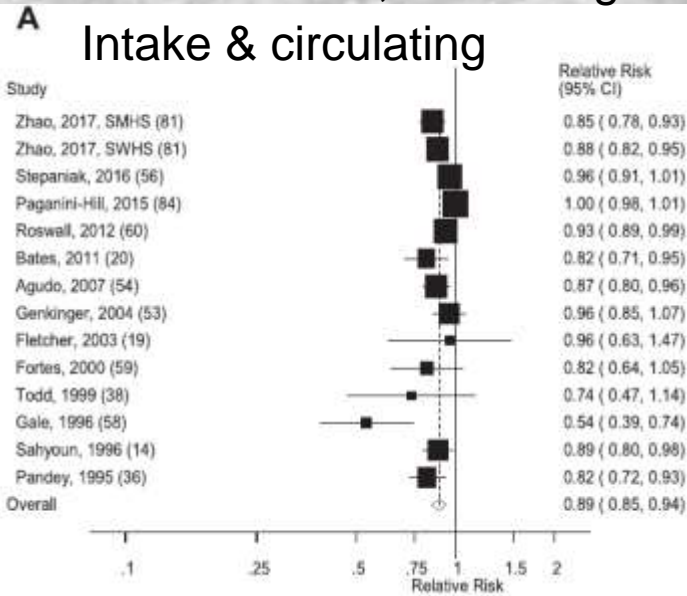
Harvard School of Public Health: 1 multivitamin tablet/d

DGE: Iodine (salt) & folic acid (pregnant women)

# V – Food Suppelements – Helpful or Harmful

## Meta-Analysis: Individual antioxidants & total mortality

69 Cohort studies, circulating levels & dietary intake of antioxidants & total mortality:



Vit. C

Beta-Car.

Intake of antioxidants from diet: clearly related to lower mortality

# V – Food Supplements – Helpful or Harmful

## Meta-Analysis: Individual antioxidants and total mortality

**Beta-carotene** Clinical Intervention Trials (Supplements): n=232.000.

**Table 5.** Intervention Effects of Different Antioxidant Supplements vs Placebo or No Intervention on Mortality

Experimental Antioxidant Supplements	References	No. of Trials	No. of Participants	Random-Effects Model Meta-analysis: Relative Risk (95% Confidence Interval)	Heterogeneity I <sup>2</sup> , %
Beta carotene given singly	37, 44, 50, 60, 62, 83	6	40977	1.06 (1.01-1.11)	5.4
Beta carotene given in combination with other antioxidant supplements	39, 41-44, 54, 59, 62-65, 68, 71-73, 79, 81, 83, 85, 86, 91, 94	22	139572	1.01 (0.94-1.08)	55.6
Beta carotene given singly or in combination with other antioxidant supplements	37, 39, 41-44, 50, 54, 59, 60, 62-65, 68, 71-73, 79, 81, 83, 85, 86, 91, 94	25	172811	1.01 (0.96-1.08)	52.2
Beta carotene given singly or in combination with other antioxidant supplements after exclusion of high-bias risk and selenium trials	37, 44, 50, 60, 62-64, 71, 73, 83, 85, 94	12	132610	1.07 (1.02-1.11)	36.8

Bjelakovic, 2007, JAMA 297, 842-57  
Schwingshackl. AdNutr, 2018, 27ff.

### What do you see ?

No effect of beta-carotene !

On the contrary: increased risk ?!

Similar : Finnish smoking study !

Similar: vitamin C, vitaminE

### Problem:

All due to the 2 large smoking studies:

If removed, no negative effect.

# V – Food Supplements – Helpful or Harmful

## Any guidance – EFSA Health-Claims !

### Which health claims have been accepted - examples



“ Water-soluble tomato concentrate and platelet aggregation ”

“ Calcium and Vitamin D and Bone Density for Women ”

“ Vitamin C increases non-her

As claims are often barely understandable, an additional explanation may be added.

“ EPA and DHA – positive relation

### Which health claims have been rejected - examples



Not a single one on probiotics (LC1...- only B12 related)

Taurin and performance (red bull...)

Black Tea and mental

Glucosamin and reduction of cartil

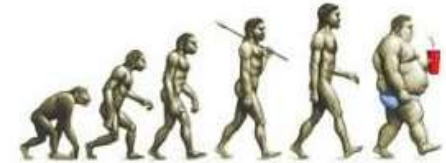
Soy and reduced risk of

- Lack of evidence/negative evidence
- Wrong or absurd concentrations
- No food but medication
- Unmeasurable outcome (gut health ?)

# VI - Overall Summary &



Increase in chronic (civilization) diseases: CVD, T2D, often related to obesity ↔ diet, lifestyle



Macronutrients: too many simple sugars + low dietary fiber  
Micronutrients: too much salt !



Processed foods: low satiety, low nutrient density

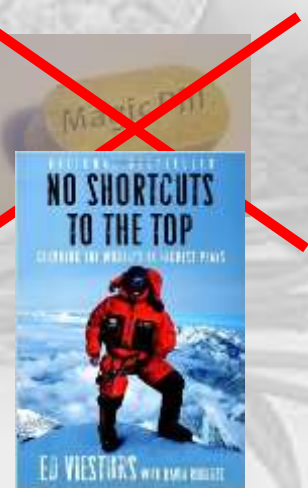
Avoid: too much, too late: Chrononutrition !



Enough: water, fresh food items, healthy fats, well distributed over the day, snacks can be ok,

Individual doses of vitamins, phytochemicals (supplements): no proven health benefit

No replacement for a healthy, balanced diet



# Food with most severe side effect ?

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# Merci!!





# III –Ernährungsformen/Diäten

## Und Bio-Produkte/”organic foods” ?

### Wie viele von Ihnen konsumieren Bio-Produkte ??

- +
  - Weniger Pestizid-Zufuhr
  - Einige Studien: mehr Mineralstoffe
  - Einige Studien: Mehr sekundäre Pflanzenstoffe, ungesättigte Fettsäuren
- - Risiko: mehr Mykotoxine: gering (Kontrollen)
  - Risiko: Umweltkontaminanten aus Boden (Hennen, Luft)
  - Teils falsche Etikettierung
  - Höherer Preis

### Systematic Review:



“The current evidence base does not allow a definitive statement on the health benefits of organic dietary intake. However, a growing number of important findings are being reported from observational research linking demonstrable health benefits with organic food consumption..”



**Kein direkt nachweisbarer Effekt !!**



# II – Importance of Healthy Diet

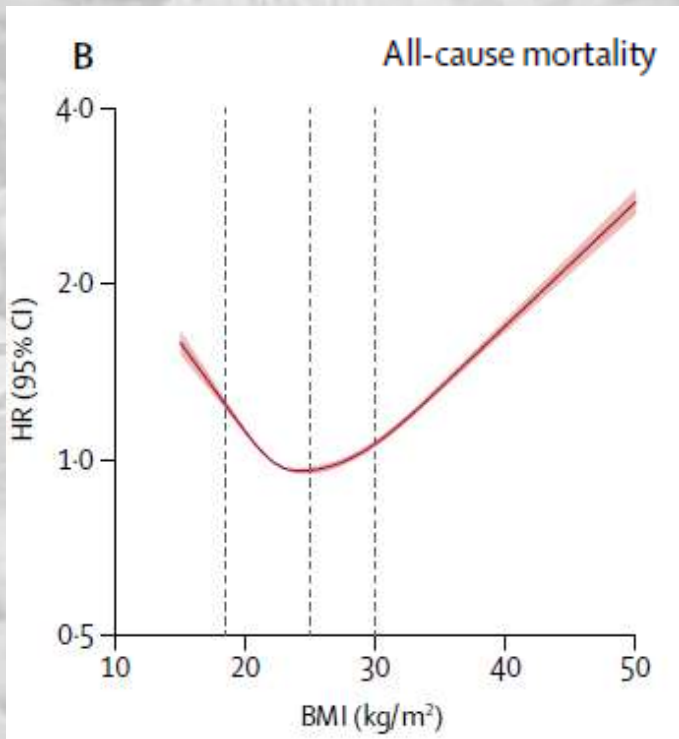
## Some consequences

Association of BMI with overall and cause-specific mortality: a population-based cohort study of 3.6 million adults in the UK

oa Institute of Medicine, Juhel An, Teresa Isha, David A Jones, Ian Douglas, Liara Sarraf

Summary  
Background BMI is known to be strongly associated with all-cause mortality, but few studies have been large enough to reliably examine associations between BMI and a comprehensive range of cause-specific mortality outcomes.

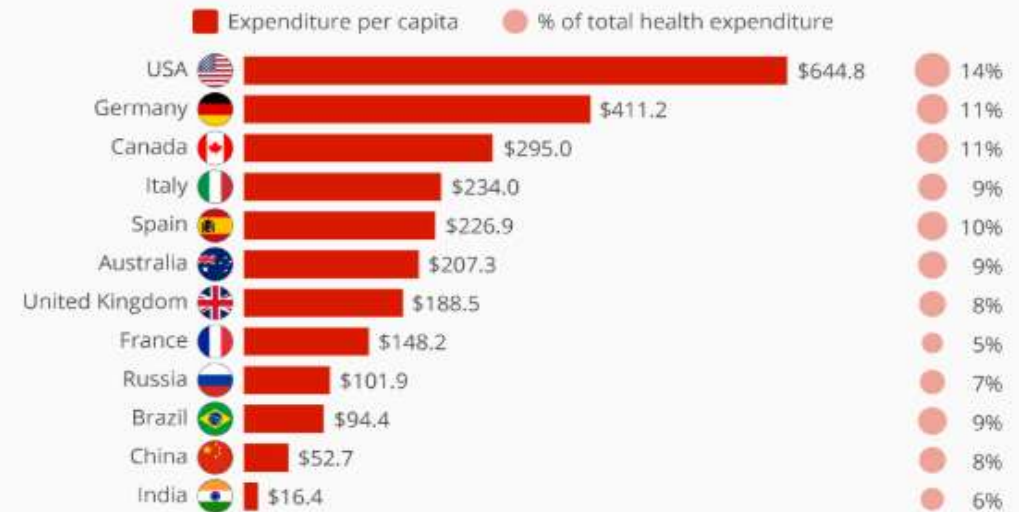
### Shortened life-expectancy



USA: excess weight \$1.72 trillion (2016): 9.3% nationwide GDP (Milken Institute Study).  
OECD: 4.4 %

### Where Obesity Places The Biggest Burden On Healthcare

Average annual health expenditure per capita due to obesity from 2020-2050\*



\* U.S. dollars - purchasing power parity  
@StatistaCharts Source: OECD

statista

### Co-morbidities:

- Type 2 diabetes
- Metabolic syndrome
- Cardiovascular disease
- Cancer...

OVERWEIGHT  
IMPACT ON  
NATIONAL GDP  
2035

1.5%

HIGH

At present:

1.4%

# A word on myself...



**+EFSA**  
**+Nutri-Score**  
**+University LU**  
**+Editor IJVNR**



# II – Importance of Healthy Diet

## Some consequences

Public Health Nutrition: 20(3), 515-523 doi:10.1017/S1368980016002846

The economic burden of inadequate consumption of vegetables and fruit in Canada

John Paul Ekwaru<sup>1</sup>, Arto Ohinmaa<sup>1,\*</sup>, Sarah Loehr<sup>1</sup>, Solmaz Setayeshgar<sup>1</sup>, Nguyen Xuan Thanh<sup>2</sup> and Paul J Veugelers<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Public Health, University of Alberta, 3-50 University Terrace, 8303 – 112 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6G 2T4; <sup>2</sup>Institute of Health Economics, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

PLOS ONE

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Meeting food recommendations in Canada: The cost of not doing so

Jessica R. L. Lieffers<sup>2</sup>, John Paul Ekwaru, Arto Ohinmaa, Paul J. Veugelers\*

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\* paul.veugelers@ualberta.ca

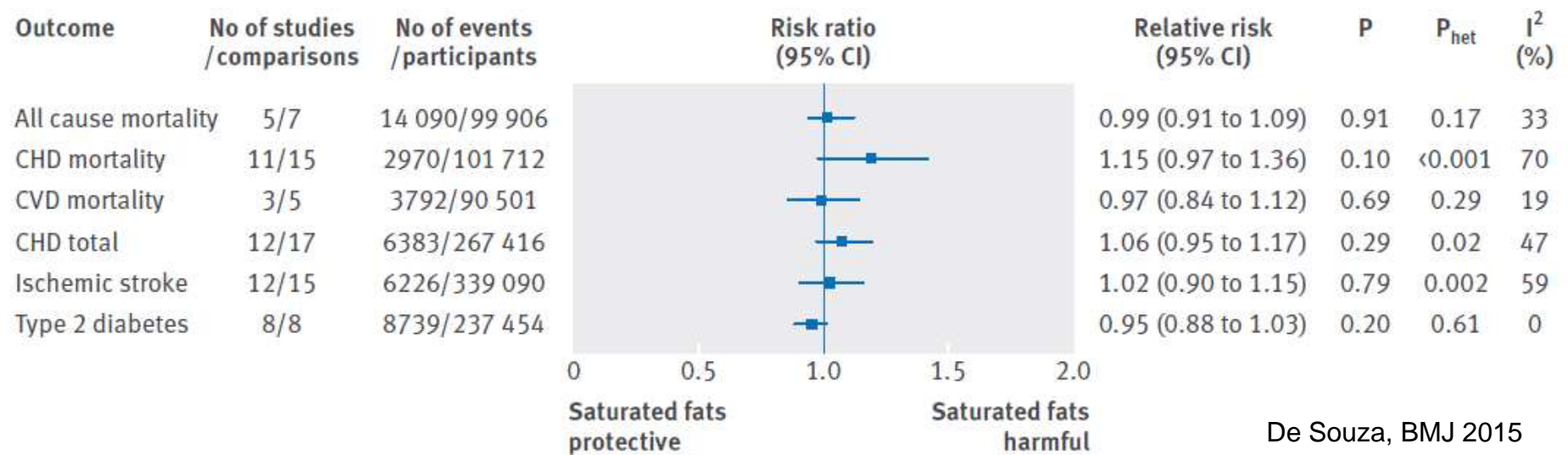
**Costs of low fruit/vegetable consumption in Canada: 3.3 billion Can \$/y**  
**Luxembourg: 60 million Euro** (*Ekwaru et al. Publ Health Nutr 2016*)

**Costs of not following recommendations for 8 major food groups in Canada: 13.8 billion Can \$/y**  
**Luxembourg: 250 million Euro** (Lieffers, PlosOne, 2018)

# III – A Deeper Look into Diet & Disease

## Saturated Fats & Health

Former meta-analysis: 1–32 y prospective studies, follow-up:



**No sign. effects !!**  
**Similar to other studies**



# III – A Deeper Look into Diet & Disease

## Sugar & Diabetes

### Glycemic Index, Glycemic Load

↔ Diabetes:

A measure of blood sugar increase after a meal

Meta-Study, observational, 37 prospective cohort studies, n= 40129

GI RR: 1.40 (1.23, 1.59)

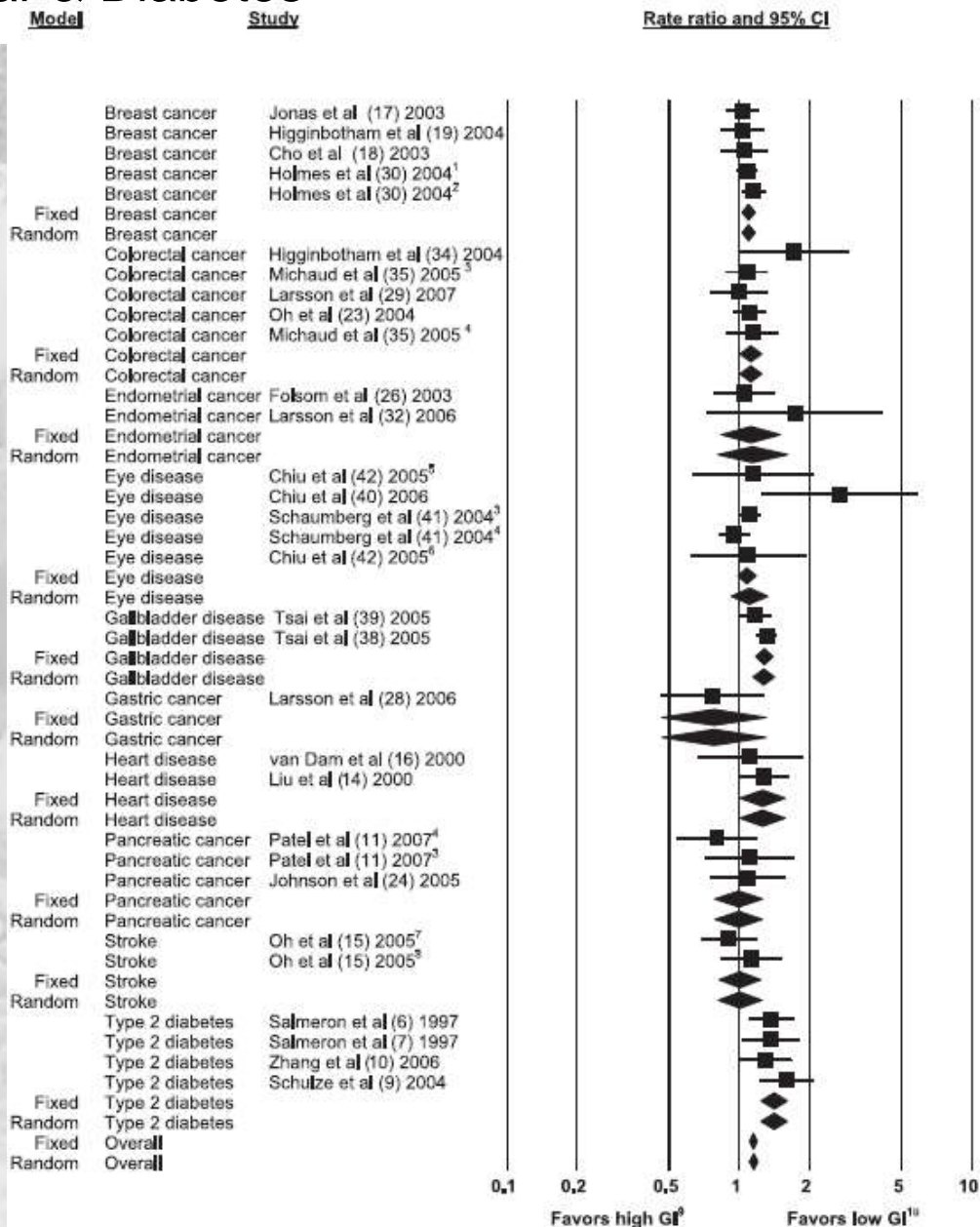
GL RR: 1.27 (1.12, 1.45)

More diabetes due to consumption of sugar-containing products ?

Or do people consuming more sugar have unhealthy diets ?

Barclay et al. 2008, AJCN, 87, 627-33

Even for cancer:  
Long, EJCN, 2021



# III – A Deeper Look into Diet & Disease

## Sals – CVD – prospective studies

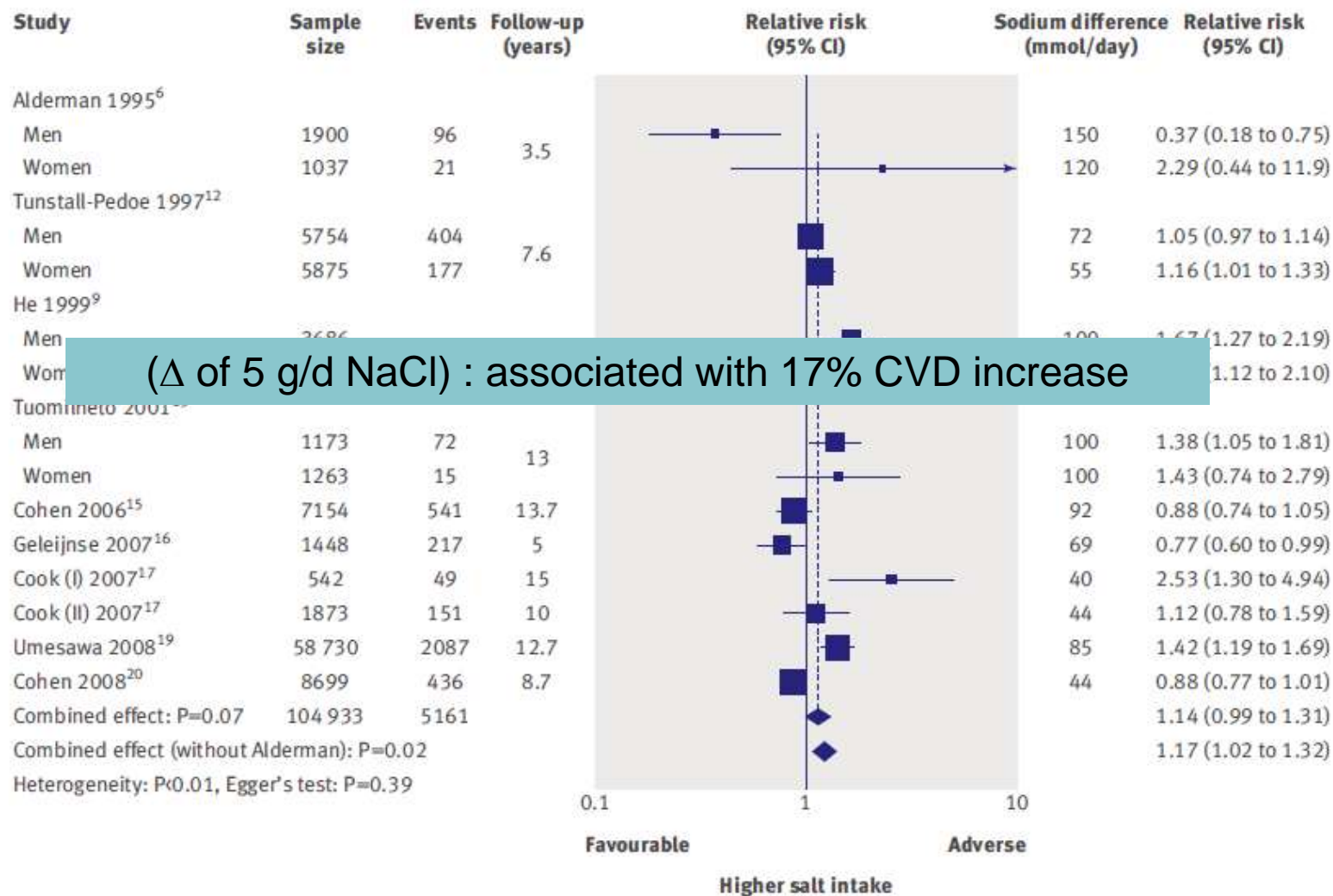


Fig 2 | Risk of incident cardiovascular disease associated with higher compared with lower salt intake in 14 population cohorts from nine published prospective studies including 104 132 participants and 5161 events. Pooled analysis after the exclusion of the study by Alderman et al<sup>6</sup> (men and women), including 102 086 participants and 5044 events

# IV – Practical tips & tricks regarding Diet

Main meals – skipping breakfast ?? → Chrononutrition

## 1. The time that you eat (early, late)

Morning better than eating too much too late!



## 2. The time period that you eat (or rather not)

THE 16:8 DIET							
	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6	DAY 7
MIDNIGHT	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST
4 AM	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST
8 AM	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST
12 PM	First meal	First meal	First meal	First meal	First meal	First meal	First meal
4 PM	Last meal by 8PM	Last meal by 8PM	Last meal by 8PM	Last meal by 8PM	Last meal by 8PM	Last meal by 8PM	Last meal by 8PM
8 PM	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST
MIDNIGHT	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST	FAST

THE 5:2 DIET						
DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6	DAY 7
Eat normally	Women: 500 calories Men: 600 calories	Eat normally	Eat normally	Women: 500 calories Men: 600 calories	Eat normally	Eat normally

«Intermittent fasting»  
«Time restricted eating»  
«Eating window»

Some breaks without food may be good, but not if you eat too late !

## 3. The frequency of your meals (main meals vs. snacking)



Less clear  
→ more important what vs.  
when you eat !

# II – Importance of Healthy Diet

Contribution of Diet to Health (Lifespan) ? – **how to measure ?**

➔ **Ca. 25%** of the variation in lifespan (identical) twins: attributable to genetic factors. 3/4 due to non-shared environmental factors !

## And the remaining 75% ?

Moderate physical activity: **+ 1.4 y** to life-expectancy

High levels of physical activity: **+ 3.6 y** to life-expectancy

Even if you start at age 50...

*Archives of Internal Medicine 2005;165:2355-2360*

**Diet:** Studies suggest that:

Through healthy diet max. of **3-10 y** additional lifetime may be gained

Of the lifestyle factors, the following are important:

**Non-smoking > nutrition = exercise**

Or: ca. 25% of lifespan variation explained by nutrition ?

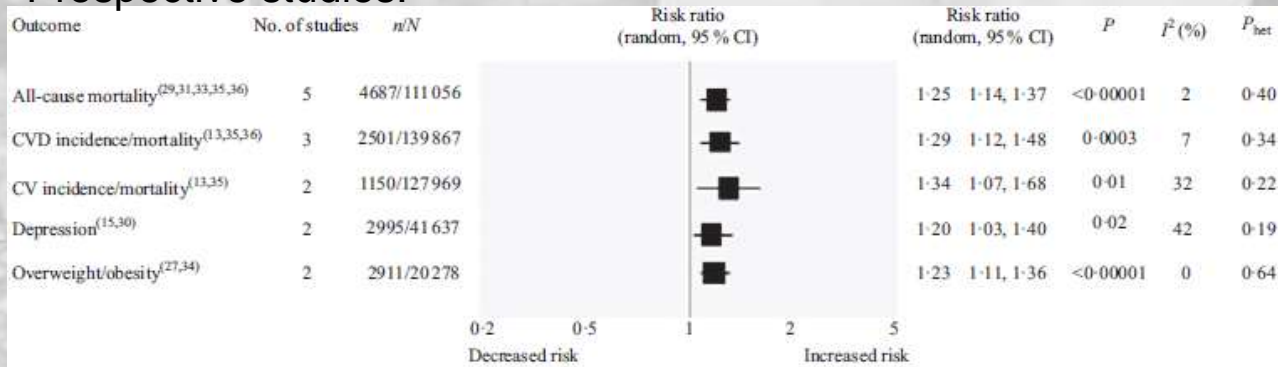


# III – A Deeper Look into Diet & Disease

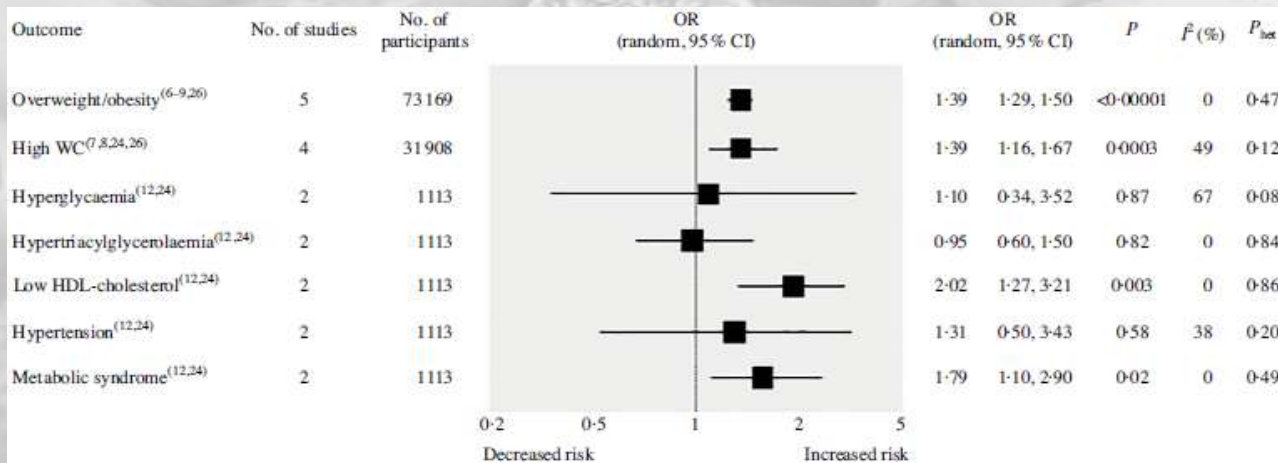
## And (ultra-)processed foods ?

MA: 23 studies (10 cross-sectional, 13 prospective cohort-studies, 3.5-15 y follow-up, Pagali et al. BJN, 2021)

### Prospective studies:



### Cross-sectional studies:



Higher total mortality & CVD

Salt ?

Calories ?

Dieter fiber ?

Structure, satiety ?

Vitamins, minerals?

# III – A Deeper Look into Diet & Disease

Also carbohydrates: dietary fiber (pectins, inulin, res. starch...)

- Anti-inflammatory (SCFA↑)
- Cholesterol-lowering
- Slow increase blood-sugar
- Microbiome



Umbrella-review of MA (Veronese, AJCN, 2018):  
18 MA, 298 prospective observational studies:

Outcome (reference)	Population	Study design included in MA	Level of comparison	Studies, <i>n</i>	Participants, <i>n</i>	Cases, <i>n</i>	Type of effect size metric	Effect size (95% CI)
<b>Prospective studies</b>								
CVD mortality (40)	General	Prospective	Highest vs. lowest category	10	806,561	52,582	RR	0.818 (0.778, 0.861)
All-cause mortality (38)	Mixed	Prospective	Highest vs. lowest category	19	982,393	67,019	RR	0.835 (0.797, 0.875)
CVD (41)	Mixed	Prospective	Continuous (increase of 7 g/d)	22	2,165,830	25,461	RR	0.913 (0.893, 0.932)
Type 2 diabetes (35)	Not reported	Prospective	Highest vs. lowest category	12	359,167	14,065	RR	0.812 (0.730, 0.903)
Stroke (33)	Not reported	Prospective	Highest vs. lowest category	14	325,707	9676	RR	0.828 (0.740, 0.926)
Coronary artery disease (31)	Not reported	Prospective	Highest vs. lowest category	25	461,187	8591	RR	0.932 (0.906, 0.958)
Cancer mortality (45)	General	Prospective	Highest vs. lowest	3	920,055	22,954	RR	0.867 (0.770, 0.981)

Similar to other studies: strong pos. effects of dietary fiber !  
(despite some diverging effects of various dietary fibers)

# V – Food Supplements – Helpful or Harmful

## Example - Polyphenols, Antioxidants

Polyphenols: strong antioxidants in vitro. Should act as antioxidants in vivo.

Or not ...???

### 1. Before bioactivity, there must be bioavailability...

Many polyphenols are:

- poorly absorbed
- heavily metabolise
- rapidly excreted

In short: **low bioavailability !!**

### 2. The entire picture is important. There are other “players” determining antioxidant capacity in the body:

Enzymes: SOD, GPX, catalase...

Endogenous antioxidants: Glutathion, uric acid, albumin...

Other exogenous antioxidants: Vit. C, Vit. E, Carotenoids...

Some are even health detrimental: carotenoids, smokers !

# V – Food Supplements – Helpful or Harmful

## Meta-Analysis: Individual antioxidants & total mortality

### Vit. C:

Clinical intervention trials – pure vitamin C (n=170,000)

Vitamin C given singly	48, 62, 80	3	826	0.88 (0.32-2.42)	0
Vitamin C given in combination with other antioxidant supplements	36, 38, 39, 41-45, 51, 52, 54, 57, 59, 62-65, 68, 71-73, 75, 76, 79-81, 84, 86, 91, 92, 98, 100, 101	33	69997	0.97 (0.88-1.07)	22.1
Vitamin C given singly or in combination with other antioxidant supplements	36, 38, 39, 41-45, 48, 51, 52, 54, 57, 59, 62-65, 68, 71-73, 75, 76, 79-81, 84, 86, 91, 92, 98, 100, 101	34	70456	0.97 (0.88-1.06)	19.4
Vitamin C given singly or in combination with other antioxidant supplements after exclusion of high-bias risk and selenium trials	44, 45, 62-64, 71, 73, 75, 76, 80, 92, 98, 100	13	29275	1.06 (0.94-1.20)	10.3

Bjelakovic, 2007, JAMA 297, 842-57  
Schwingshackl. AdNutr, 2018, 27ff.

### What do you see ?

No effect of vitamin C

Similar effects of many other individual compounds:

- No or very limited effects,
- Or only in certain risk-groups or those with a poor nutritional status.