# SINCENSINGLA SINCENSINA SINCEN



UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

Diet style

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# DISEASE MODIFYING TREATMENTS?



## PREVENTION

# Conuteracts the risk factors and the transition from MCI to AD

# The prevention

## Prevention of sporadic Alzheimer's disease: lessons learned from clinical trials and future directions

#### Sandrine Andrieu\*, Nicola Coley\*, Simon Lovestone, Paul S Aisen, Bruno Vellas

The projected effects of preventive interventions with even quite modest effects at the individual level are impressive, dramatically reducing the future burden of dementia. For example, an intervention that delays disease onset and progression by 1 year, or a reduction in the prevalence of several modifiable lifestyle risk factors of 10% per decade, could potentially reduce the number of Alzheimer's disease dementia cases worldwide in 2050 by around 9 million.<sup>36</sup>

Andrieu et al, 2015

Potential for primary prevention of Alzheimer's disease: an analysis of population-based data

Sam Norton, Fiona E Matthews, Deborah E Barnes, Kristine Yaffe, Carol Brayne



Figure: Projected percentages of Alzheimer's disease cases that could be prevented, with 10% or 20% reductions per decade in each risk factor Norton S et al, 2014

# Epidemiology of AD (nature or nurture?)

	Population >60	Crude estimated	Number of p	eople with demen	Proportionate increases (%)		
GBD region	years of age (millions 2010)	prevalence (%, 2010)	2010	2030	2050	2010-2030	2010-2050
Asia	406.6	3.9 6.2	15.9	33.0	60.9	107.0	282.0
Europe	160.2	6.2	10.0	14.0	18.7	40.0	87.0
The Americas	120.7	6.5	7.8	14.8	27.1	89.0	246.0
Africa	71.1	2.6	1.9	3.9	8.7	111.0	370.0
World	758.5	4.7	35.6	65.7	115.4	85.0	225.0

	1990		2010			
	Alzheimer's disease	Dementia	Alzheimer's disease	Dementia		
55-59 years	0-0014 (0-0000-0-8378)	0.0047 (0.0000-0.6702)	0.0023 (0.0000-0.7227)	0.0068 (0.0000-0.5451)		
60–64 years	0-0033 (0-0000-0-6410)	0.0094 (0.0000-0.5266)	0·0055 (0·0000-0·4982)	0.0135 (0.0000-0.3830)		
65-69 years	0-0076 (0-0000-0-5304)	0.0180 (0.0000-0.4438)	0.0127 (0.0000-0.3612)	0.0258 (0.0000-0.2816)		
70-74 years	0-0164 (0-0000-0-4946)	0-0332 (0-0000-0-4170)	0.0273 (0.0000-0.3178)	0.0476 (0.0000-0.2460)		
75-79 years	0-0330 (0-0000-0-5040)	0.0592 (0.0000-0.4323)	0.0552 (0.0000-0.3391)	0.0850 (0.0000-0.2639)		
80–84 years	0-0625 (0-0000-0-5337)	0-1019 (0-0000-0-4782)	0.1044 (0.0000-0.3862)	0.1463 (0.0000-0.3137)		
85-89 years	0.1109 (0.0000-0.5785)	0.1694 (0.0000-0.5564)	0.1854 (0.0000-0.4500)	0.2432 (0.927-0.3937)		
90-94 years	0-1847 (0-0000-0-6549)	0-2720 (0-0000-0-6840)	0-3086 (0-0595-0-5578)	0-3903 (0-2416-0-5389)		
95-99 years	0-2884 (0-0000-0-7974)	0-4214 (0-0000-0-8892)	0·4819 (0·1904-0·7735)	0.6047 (0.3967-0.8128)		
Data are prevaler	nce (95% CI).					

# Nature and nurture: the case of Romania









# AD Incidence in Romania between 1980 and 2006:

Stable levels untill 1994, than significant increase



WHY?

G. Cornutiu, Neurodegenerative Dis., 2011

## Industrial foods availability

(rich in refined sugars, unhealty fats and calories)













# Mediterranean Pyramid

 1993 – International Conference on the Diet of the Mediterranean



Ann Neurol. 2006 June ; 59(6): 912-921. doi:10.1002/ana.20854.

#### Mediterranean Diet and Risk for Alzheimer's Disease

Nikolaos Scarmeas, MD<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Yaakov Stern, PhD<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Ming-Xin Tang, PhD<sup>1,4</sup>, Richard Mayeux, MD<sup>1,2,3</sup>, and Jose A. Luchsinger, MD<sup>1,5</sup>

### Association between high adherence to the Mediterranean Diet and lower risk for AD mediated by

the composite effect of some of its beneficial components, such as higher intake of fish, fruits, and vegetables rich in antioxidants such as vitamin C, vitamin E, and flavonoids and higher intake of unsaturated fatty acids

None of the individual components was a significant AD predictor. An overall dietary pattern,

with possible additive and interactive (antagonistic or synergistic) effects among nutritional components,

is likely to have a greater effect on health than a single nutrient.

Ann Neurol. 2006 June ; 59(6): 912-921. doi:10.1002/ana.20854.

#### Mediterranean Diet and Risk for Alzheimer's Disease

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Arch Neurol. 2006 December ; 63(12): 1709–1717. doi:10.1001/archneur.63.12.noc60109.

#### Mediterranean Diet, Alzheimer Disease, and Vascular Mediation

Dr. Nikolaos Scarmeas, MD, Dr. Yaakov Stern, PhD, Dr. Richard Mayeux, MD, and Dr. Jose A. Luchsinger, MD

JAMA. 2009 August 12; 302(6): 627-637. doi:10.1001/jama.2009.1144.

#### Physical Activity, Diet, and Risk of Alzheimer Disease

Nikolaos Scarmeas, MD, Jose A. Luchsinger, MD, Nicole Schupf, PhD, Adam M. Brickman, PhD, Stephanie Cosentino, PhD, Ming X. Tang, PhD, and Yaakov Stern, PhD

# In MCI patients: the mediterranean diet halfs the risk of AD development (follow up: 4,3 years)

# Mediterranean Diet, Stroke, Cognitive Impairment, and Depression: A Meta-Analysis

Theodora Psaltopoulou, PhD,<sup>1</sup> Theodoros N. Sergentanis, MD,<sup>1</sup> Demosthenes B. Panagiotakos, PhD,<sup>2</sup> Ioannis N. Sergentanis, MD,<sup>1,3</sup> Rena Kosti, PhD,<sup>1</sup> and Nikolaos Scarmeas, MD, MSc, PhD<sup>4,5</sup>

**Objective:** This meta-analysis aims to quantitatively synthesize all studies that examine the association between adherence to a Mediterranean diet and risk of stroke, depression, cognitive impairment, and Parkinson disease. **Methods:** Potentially eligible publications were those providing effect estimates of relative risk (RR) for the association between Mediterranean diet and the aforementioned outcomes. Studies were sought in PubMed up to October 31, 2012. Maximally adjusted effect estimates were extracted; separate analyses were performed for high and moderate adherence.

**Results:** Twenty-two eligible studies were included (11 covered stroke, 9 covered depression, and 8 covered cognitive impairment; only 1 pertained to Parkinson's disease). High adherence to Mediterranean diet was consistently associated with reduced risk for stroke (RR = 0.71, 95% confidence interval [CI] = 0.57–0.89), depression (RR = 0.68, 95% CI = 0.54–0.86), and cognitive impairment (RR = 0.60, 95% CI = 0.43–0.83). Moderate adherence was similarly associated with reduced risk for depression and cognitive impairment, whereas the protective trend concerning stroke was only marginal. Subgroup analyses highlighted the protective actions of high adherence in terms of reduced risk for ischemic stroke, mild cognitive impairment, dementia, and particularly Alzheimer disease. Metaregression analysis indicated that the protective effects of Mediterranean diet in stroke prevention seemed more sizeable among males. Concerning depression, the protective effects of high adherence seemed independent of age, whereas the favorable actions of moderate adherence seemed to fade away with more advanced age. Interpretation: Adherence to a Mediterranean diet may contribute to the prevention of a series of brain diseases; this may be of special value given the aging of Western societies.

ANN NEUROL 2013;74:580-591

#### Association of Mediterranean diet with Mild Cognitive Impairment and Alzheimer's disease: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Balwinder Singh, MD<sup>a,d</sup>, Ajay K. Parsaik, MD<sup>a</sup>, Michelle M. Mielke, PhD<sup>b</sup>, Patricia J. Erwin<sup>c</sup>, David S. Knopman, MD<sup>a</sup>, Ronald C. Petersen, MD, PhD<sup>a,b</sup>, and Rosebud O. Roberts, MB, ChB<sup>a,b</sup>

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<sup>c</sup>Mayo Medical Libraries, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA

<sup>d</sup>Department of Clinical Neuroscience, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Fargo, North Dakota, USA

#### Abstract

**Background/Objective**—To conduct a systematic review of all studies to determine whether there is an association between the Mediterranean diet (MeDi) and cognitive impairment.

**Methods**—We conducted a comprehensive search of the major databases and hand-searched proceedings of major neurology, psychiatry, and dementia conferences through November 2012. Prospective cohort studies examining the MeDi with longitudinal follow-up of at least 1 year and reporting cognitive outcomes (mild cognitive impairment [MCI] or Alzheimer's disease [AD]) were included. The effect size was estimated as hazard-ratio (HR) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs) using the random-effects model. Heterogeneity was assessed using Cochran's Q-test and I<sup>2</sup>-statistic.

**Results**—Out of the 664 studies screened, five studies met eligibility criteria. Higher adherence to the MeDi was associated with reduced risk of MCI and AD. The subjects in the highest MeDi tertile had 33% less risk (adjusted HR=0.67; 95% CI, 0.55–0.81; P<0.0001) of cognitive impairment (MCI or AD) as compared to the lowest MeDi score tertile. Among cognitively normal individuals, higher adherence to the MeDi was associated with a reduced risk of MCI (HR=0.73; 95% CI, 0.56–0.96; P=0.02) and AD (HR=0.64; 95% CI, 0.46–0.89; P=0.007). There was no significant heterogeneity in the analyses.

# Preventive way of life Pyramid? (Beyond medirranean diet)



# **Diet under an evolutionary pint of view? The Paleo diet!** (a fashionable diet: myth or reality?)

Low glicemicc index foods, no grains, no legumes, no diary, wild fruits

Grass-feed beef  $\rightarrow$  lean (but rich in omega-3)



Meat from factory farming  $\rightarrow$  rich in non-healthy fats (saturated and mono-insaturateded fatty acids)



E. Bufill et al., Journal of Anthropological Sciences 2013



**FIGURE 1** Hypothetical scheme of fat, fatty acid (n-6, n-3, *trans* and total) intake (as percentage of energy from fat) and intake of vitamins E and C (mg/d). Data were extrapolated from cross-sectional analyses of contemporary hunter-gatherer populations and from longitudinal observations and their putative changes during the preceding 100 y (12).

Population	(n-6):(n-3)	Reference
Paleolithic	0.79	8
Greece before 1960	1.00-2.00	9
Current United States	16.74	8
Current United Kingdom and northern Europe	15.00	10
Current Japan	4.00	11

# Industrialized societies diet:

- an increase in energy intake and decrease in energy expenditure
  - an increase in saturated fat, (n-6) fatty acids and *trans* fatty acids and a decrease in (n-3) fatty acid intake
- a decrease in fiber intake
- an increase in cereal grains
- a decrease in fruit and vegetable intake
- a decrease in protein, antioxidant and calcium intake

Simopoulos et al, 2001

## Alzheimer's disease: an evolutionary approach

- Fat storage: an evolutionary evolutinary advantage!
- And now? evolutinary mismatch diseases (Obesity AD, type2 diab, etc.)

AD Prevalence > 65 aa:

- in Nigeria 1.15%

- in USA 6.7%



Brain energy expenditure:

- mammalians	2-8%
- Monkeys	11-13%
- humans	20-25%



E. Bufill et al., Journal of Anthropological Sciences, 2013

## Alzheimer's disease

A modern disease?

# The type 3 diabetes



Alois Alzheimer (1863-1915)



Gaetano Perusini (*1879-1915*)

1906: first case described (Auguste Deter, 51 yrs)





## What about apes?





β-amyloid deposits, aggregated forms of intracellular hyperphosphorylated tau protein and neurofibrillary tangles in captive chimpanzee

Obese chimpanzee with high bloood levels of colesterol

Caleb E. Finch & Steven N. Austa, AGE 2012 Bufill et al. Journal of Anthropological Sciences 2013

# **Disease-modifying strategies**

## How to counteract the risk factors?

Behavioral approach:

- diet

- specific food supplements



# Nutrients in AD



Alzheimer's تئ Dementia

Review Article

Alzheimer's & Dementia 10 (2014) 485-502

# Plasma nutrient status of patients with Alzheimer's disease: Systematic review and meta-analysis

Sofia Lopes da Silva<sup>a,b</sup>, Bruno Vellas<sup>c</sup>, Saskia Elemans<sup>a</sup>, José Luchsinger<sup>d</sup>, Patrick Kamphuis<sup>a,b</sup>, Kristine Yaffe<sup>e</sup>, John Sijben<sup>a,\*</sup>, Martine Groenendijk<sup>a</sup>, Theo Stijnen<sup>f</sup>

	n	mean	sd	n	mean	sd				mean	weight
study	control	control	control	AD	AD	AD				difference (95% CI)	(%)
Bourdel-Marchasson '01	23	2.5	0.8	20	1.9	0.7		-		-0.59 (-1.04, -0.14)	8.1
Baldeiras '08	37	1.8	0.5	42	1.8	0.5			-	-0.07 (-0.28, 0.14)	13.6
Connor '97	8	1.7	1.1	11	1.3	0.9		-		-0.42 (-1.36, 0.52)	2.9
Engelhart '05	437	1.6	0.4	65	1.5	0.4		-		-0.11 (-0.22, -0.00)	15.9
Glaso '04	17	2.1	0.4	20	1.9	0.6			-	-0.20 (-0.52, 0.12)	10.7
Jimenez-Jimenez '97	37	1.9	0.6	44	1.6	0.4		-+		-0.31 (-0.53, -0.09)	13.5
Polidori '04	55	2.7	0.3	63	2.0	0.4	-	-		-0.70 (-0.82, -0.58)	15.6
Polidori '02	40	22	0.5	35	2.0	0.3				-0.20 (-0.38, -0.02)	14.2
Zaman '92	20	2.1	0.9	10	1.6	0.8				-0.57 (-1.18, 0.04)	5.5
Unadjusted Overall (REML, I-squared=87%, P < .001)								$\diamond$		-0.32 (-0.49, -0.14)	
Age adjusted Overall (REML meta-regression P < .001)								$\diamond$		-0.41 (-0.64, -0.17)	
						- ,				1	
						-1.5-	1.25-17	5525 <b>0</b>	.25 .5 .1	75	
							AD Io	wer	AD higher		

Lower plasma levels of vitamin A in patients as compared with elderly controls (-20%, *P*<0.001)

# Low intake of nutrients is associated with cognitive decline

Low intake of some nutrients: associated with a loss of cognitive function and increased risk of AD



Barberger-Gateau et al. (2002) BMJ; Engelhart et al. (2002) JAMA

Dietary precursor control of neural membrane synthesis

# The Kennedy pathway for biosynthesis neuronal membrane





Preclinical studies indicate that such an effect can be induced by co-administration of ratelimiting precursors for membrane phosphatide synthesis, such as:

the nucleotide uridine, omega-3 polyunsat. fatty acids, choline

# Efficacy of Souvenaid in Mild Alzheimer's Disease: Results from a Randomized, Controlled Trial

Journal of Alzheimer's Disease 31 (2012) 225–236 DOI 10.3233/JAD-2012-121189 IOS Press

Philip Scheltens<sup>a,\*</sup>, Jos W.R. Twisk<sup>b</sup>, Rafael Blesa<sup>c</sup>, Elio Scarpini<sup>d</sup>, Christine Anke Bongers<sup>f</sup>, John Harrison<sup>g,h</sup>, Sophie H.N. Swinkels<sup>f</sup>, Cornelis J. Stam<sup>i</sup>, Richard J. Wurtman<sup>j</sup>, Rico L. Wieggers<sup>f</sup>, Bruno Vellas<sup>k</sup> and Patrick J.G.H. K

Memory domain





# A summary of evidences from literature

In a recent review 16 micronutrients resulted to have appropriate scientific evidence in terms of preventing elderly disorders: beta-alanine, calcium, creatine, fluorides, leucine, magnesium, omega-3, potassium, zinc, folic acid, vitamin B6 and B12, vitamin C, D, E and K2

Iolascon G, et al. J Nutr Health Aging. 2017

# **Ongoing nutritional studies**

Preventive trials in elderly/at risk people

- 8 trials to test the efficacy of n-3 long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs)-
- 5 trials with vitamin D
- 1 on caloric restriction

# In the future? Insects!



International Journal of Biological Sciences 2011; 7(3):301-307

Short Research Communication

## Transgenic Rice Expressing Amyloid β-peptide for Oral Immunization

Taiji Yoshida<sup>1, ⊠</sup>, Eiichi Kimura<sup>1</sup>, Setsuo Koike<sup>1</sup>, Jun Nojima<sup>2</sup>, Eugene Futai<sup>2</sup>, Noboru Sasagawa<sup>2</sup>, Yuichiro Watanabe<sup>2</sup>, and Shoichi Ishiura<sup>2</sup>



The future: engeneered sushi to treat AD? Ketogenesis and Dementia



Figure 1. Suggested mechanisms for the therapeutic action of ketogenic diets in pathologies for which there exists strong (a) and emerging (b) evidence.

# The Ketogenic Food Pyramid



**Omnivore vs Vegan** 

# Ketogenesis and Cognition

Dietary ketosis enhances memory in mild cognitive impairment

Robert Krikorian<sup>a,\*</sup>, Marcelle D. Shidler<sup>a</sup>, Krista Dangelo<sup>b</sup>, Sarah C. Couch<sup>b</sup>, Stephen C. Benoit<sup>a</sup>, Deborah J. Clegg<sup>c</sup>



R. Krikorian et al. / Neurobiology of Aging 33 (2012) 425.e19-425.e27



Pharmacogenetic analysis of the effects of polymorphisms in *APOE*, *IDE* and *IL1B* on a ketone body based therapeutic on cognition in mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease; a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study

Henderson and Poirier



NEUROBIOLOGY OF AGING

Neurobiology of Aging 25 (2004) 311-314

www.elsevier.com/locate/neuaging

Brief communication

## Effects of β-hydroxybutyrate on cognition in memory-impaired adults

Mark A. Reger<sup>a,b</sup>, Samuel T. Henderson<sup>c</sup>, Cathy Hale<sup>d</sup>, Brenna Cholerton<sup>a,b</sup>, Laura D. Baker<sup>a,b</sup>, G.S. Watson<sup>a,b</sup>, Karen Hyde<sup>a</sup>, Darla Chapman<sup>a</sup>, Suzanne Craft<sup>a,b,\*</sup>

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Received 24 September 2002; received in revised form 30 January 2003; accepted 27 March 2003





Fig. 1. ADAS-cog mean change with MCT treatment; benefits of treatment depended on  $\varepsilon 4$  status (\*P = 0.039). Note: negative scores indicate improvement on the ADAS-cog.

Fig. 2. Relationship between  $\beta$ -OHB levels at the time of cognitive testing and the change in paragraph recall following MCT treatment; r = 0.50, P = 0.02.



Commentary

Pilot feasibility and safety study examining the effect of medium chain triglyceride supplementation in subjects with mild cognitive impairment: A randomized controlled trial



Candida J. Rebello<sup>a,b</sup>, Jeffrey N. Keller<sup>a</sup>, Ann G. Liu<sup>a</sup>, William D. Johnson<sup>a</sup>, Frank L. Greenway<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Louisiana State University System, 6400 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, United States <sup>b</sup> School of Nutrition and Food Sciences, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, United States

Results: Intake of MCT oil increased serum ketone bodies and improved memory, while intake of placebo did not show improvement in any of the cognitive measures tested.

Conclusions: Consumption of 56 g/day of MCTs for 24 weeks increases serum ketone concentrations and appears to be a candidate for larger randomized control trials in the future that quantify the modulation of cognitive function through supplementation with ketone precursors, in patients with MCI.

#### Study of the ketogenic agent AC-1202 (that increases BHB levels in blood) in mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicenter trial [Henderson et al., 2009]



Mean change in ADAS-Cog scores from Baseline in the ITT population w/LOCF and stratified by APOE4 carriage status. Y axis is change from Baseline. X axis is time in days. Red circles and lines represent subjects taking AC-1202. Blue squares and lines represent subjects taking Placebo. Error bars represent standard error of the mean. Asterisks (\*) indicate a significant (p-value < 0.05) difference in mean change from Baseline between AC-1202 and Placebo. A) Intention to treat subjects (N = 77AC, N = 63PL) administered AC-1202 demonstrate a significant difference from Placebo at Day 45. B) Genotyped subjects lacking the APOE4 allele (APOE4(-)) (N = 29AC, N = 26PL) and administered AC-1202 demonstrate a significant difference from Placebo at Days 45 and 90. C) Genotyped subjects carrying the APOE4 allele (APOE4(+)) (N = 38AC, N = 31PL) do not differ from Placebo at any time point.





CNR

S

DELLA COGNIZIONE



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Christa M. Studzinski , William A. MacKay , Tina L. Beckett , Samuel T. Henderson , M. Paul Murphy , Patrick G. Su...

Induction of ketosis may improve mitochondrial function and decrease steady-state amyloid-β precursor protein (APP) levels in the aged dog

Brain Research, Volume 1226, 2008, 209 - 217



Fig. 2 Mitochondrial respiration. The treatment animals had larger rates of state III respiration in the parietal lobes, as compared to controls (t-test, P = 0.025). The treatment animals also had an increa...

#### In a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease, Ketogenic diet reduces amyloid beta 40 and 42 peptides

2 1.8 1.6 1.4 ng/g total protein 1.2 1 0.8 0.6 0.4 0.2 0 SD KD SD KD AB40 AB40 AB42 AB42

[Van der Auwera et al., 2005]

Ketogenic diet reduces A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42. A $\beta$  levels as ng/g of brain tissue. Standard diet (SD) group shown in blue, ketogenic diet (KD) group shown in red, error bars represent standard error of the mean. SD chow A $\beta$ 40 1.72 ± 0.12 ng/g vs. KD chow A $\beta$ 40 1.28 ± 0.09 ng/g, p= 0.012. SD chow A $\beta$ 42 0.88 ± 0.05 ng/g vs. KD chow A $\beta$ 42 0.71 ± 0.0.4 ng/g, p = 0.016.

## **β-Hydroxybutyrate protects neurons in models of Alzheimer's disease** [Kashiwaya et al., 2000]



The effects on cultured rat hippocampal cells of  $A\beta_{1-42}$ , ketones, or the combination. (*A*) The 6-day control cultures of 18-day embryonic rat hippocampal tissue; (*B*) after 14 h exposure to 5  $\mu$ M  $A\beta_{1-42}$ , (*C*) after exposure to both  $A\beta_{1-42}$  and 4 mM d- $\beta$ -hydroxybutyrate, and (*D*) the effects of ketone bodies alone. Addition of  $A\beta_{1-42}$  resulted in a decrease in neuronal number and number of neurites (*B* versus *A*). Addition of ketones to cells exposed to  $A\beta_{1-42}$  showed no decrease in neuron or neurite number, indicating that ketones act as neuroprotective agents against the toxicity of  $A\beta_{1-42}$  on cultured hippocampal neurons (*C* versus *B*).

### A ketone ester diet exhibits anxiolytic and cognition-sparing properties, and lessens amyloid and tau pathologies in a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease [Kashiwaya et al., 2013]

AB Immunoreactivity CHO KET 250.0 CHO cells 200.0 KET -ippocampus Hippocampus 150.0 Isono in the second seco Shinking 50.0 No. pTau Immunoreactivity KET CHO cell CHO 160.0 O KET 140.0 120.0 100.0 lippocampu Imm 80.0 No. of pTau 60.0 40.0 abiculur 20.0

Α

в

Ketone ester feeding reduces intracellular accumulations of amyloid  $\beta$  $(A\beta)$  and phosphorylated tau (pTau) in the subiculum, CA1 and CA3 area of hippocampus, amygdala, and cerebral cortex of 3xTgAD mice. (A) A $\beta$  immunoreactivity in brain sections from mice in the carbohydrate-enriched (CHO; left) and ketone ester (KET; right) diet groups. The upper panels are low magnification images of the regions of the hippocampus and the lower panels are high magnification images of the regions of the subiculum, CA1, cerebral cortex, and amygdala. The graph on the right shows the results of counts of  $A\beta$ immunoreactive cells in the indicated brain regions. (B) pTau immunoreactivity in brain sections from mice in the CHO (left) and KET (right) diet groups. The upper panels are low magnification images of the regions of the hippocampus and the lower panels are high magnification images of the regions of the subiculum, CA1, cerebral cortex, and amygdala respectively. The graph on the right shows the results of counts of pTau immunoreactive cells in the indicated brain regions. Scale bars: lower magnification images, 200  $\mu$ m; high magnification images, 100  $\mu$ m. Values are the mean  $\pm$  SEM (n = 6–9 mice per group). \*p < 0.05 and \*\*p < 0.001 by the Student t test.

## Ketone bodies and Mitochondria





#### **Mechanisms of Ketogenic Diet Action**

Jong M. Rho

Susan A. Masino Neuroscience Program and Psychology Department, Trinity College, Hartford, CT (USA)



Figure 2. The metabolic inter-relationships between brain metabolism of glutamate, ketone bodies and glucose

## GABAergic effect of ketone bodies

- Gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) H<sub>2</sub>N
- Gamma-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB) HO\_\_\_\_\_OH
- Sodium Oxybate
- Beta-hydroxybutyric acid (BHB)



### Anticonvulsant Mechanisms of the Ketogenic Diet

\*Kristopher J. Bough and †Jong M. Rho



**FIG. 1.** Metabolic pathways highlighting the production of ketone bodies fatty acids during fasting or treatment with the ketogenic diet (KD). Estimated fasting- or KD-induced concentrations of beta-hydroxybutyrate, acetoacetate, and acetone in blood are listed (large boxes). Measures of beta-hydroxybutyrate levels in blood are most commonly used as the clinical indicator of successful KD treatment. From Likhodii and Burnham (2004).



## KD and Mitochondria



Electron Transport & Oxidative Phosphorylation

## Suppression of Oxidative Stress by β-Hydroxybutyrate, an Endogenous Histone Deacetylase Inhibitor

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#### Fig. 4.

Protective effect of  $\beta$ OHB treatment against oxidative stress. (**A**) Amounts of catalase, MnSOD, or FOXO3A measured by protein immunoblotting in kidney tissue from 16-weekold mice implanted with an osmotic pump delivering PBS or  $\beta$ OHB (as in Fig. 2; n = 3); mean  $\pm$  SE, \*P < 0.05 by *t* test between PBS and  $\beta$ OHB conditions. (**B**) Protein carbonylation in kidney samples from mice implanted with an osmotic pump delivering PBS or  $\beta$ OHB (as in Fig. 2; n = 3) and treated with paraquat (50 mg/kg) or vehicle for 2 hours. Car-bonylation was measured by immunoblotting with anti-DNP. All samples were run on a single gel; after imaging, lanes were rearranged for presentation. (**C**) Quantification of protein carbonylation in (B). Mean  $\pm$  SE, \*P < 0.05 by *t* test between PBS and  $\beta$ OHB conditions. (**D**) Sections of kidney obtained from the same mice as in (B) were stained with anti-4-HNE and quantified (see fig. S16 for primary picture). Mean  $\pm$  SE, \*P < 0.05 by *t* test between PBS and  $\beta$ OHB conditions. (**E**). Lipid peroxides were quantified in mice kidneys (LPO assay kit, Cayman, Ann Arbor, MI). Mean  $\pm$  SE, \*P < 0.05 by *t* test between PBS and  $\beta$ OHB conditions.



# The ketone metabolite $\beta$ -hydroxybutyrate blocks NLRP3 inflammasome-mediated inflammatory disease

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## The Neuropharmacology of the Ketogenic Diet

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#### Effects on Energy Metabolism

During consumption of the ketogenic diet, ketone bodies replace glucose as a source of energy for the brain. These ketone bodies may be a more efficient source of energy per unit oxygen than glucose [76]. In addition, the ketogenic diet causes a coordinated upregulation of mitochondrial genes and genes involved in energy metabolism, and appear to stimulate the biogenesis of mitochondria as assessed by electron microscopy [39]. Together, the availability of a more efficient fuel and an increase in the number of mitochondria provide an increase in cellular energy production capacity and reserves. It seems plausible that the greater energy reserve would enhance the capacity of neurons to withstand metabolic challenges and could account for the ability of the diet to confer neuroprotection in models of neurodegenerative diseases or stroke [5]. It also has been proposed that effects of the ketogenic diet on brain energetics contribute to the seizure protection conferred by the diet [37,42], although there is little experimental support for this concept.



Acqua (2 lit. die)



Supplemento proteico (10-15 gr X2-4)





- 1.2-1.4 gr/Kg di proteine die
- <50 gr di carboidrati die
- 10-20 gr di grassi die
- integrazione minerale (K<sup>+</sup>, Mg<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, Se<sup>+</sup>) e vitaminica