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March 2015, Issue 12

Breakfast Type and

Frequency Influences Glycemic Response

Cholesterol is Not a Nutrient of Concern for Overconsumption

What we're

Research

This edition of the Nutrition Research Update highlights new research on a very controversial topic of late, breakfast. Dr. Heather Leidy and graduate student, Ammar Alwattar, from the University of Missouri discuss highlights of their recent publication comparing postprandial glucose responses in breakfast skippers versus breakfast consumers following high or normal protein breakfasts. Results were surprisingly different than their initial hypothesis, adding further complexity to understanding the role of the first meal of the day.

We are committed to featuring new and exciting research findings in the Nutrition Research Update on topics relevant to optimal health and disease prevention, and hope the findings of the research presented here will continue to facilitate further research and development in health and nutrition. If any questions or comments regarding the present content, or suggestions for future feature articles, please feel free to contact us at info@eggnutrition.org.

Regards,

Tia M. Rains, PhD Senior Director of Nutrition Research and Communications Egg Nutrition Center

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The Egg Nutrition Center (ENC) administers an annual research program with over \$2 million dollars provided by America's egg farmers through the USDA and the American Egg Board. Additional information is available at the ENC website.



SPECIAL FEATURE

Breakfast Type and Frequency Influences Glycemic Response Over the past 50 years, there has been an increase in the

prevalence of skipping breakfast which has mirrored the rise in obesity $(\underline{1})$. In fact, as many as 30% of young people skip breakfast every day and up to 60% skip breakfast 3-4 times/week (2-4). Although skipping breakfast is associated with obesity, it is also correlated with poor glucose control and an increased risk for developing type 2 diabetes (5-7). However, it is currently unclear whether the addition of breakfast...read full article.

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SPECIAL FEATURE

Breakfast Type and Frequency Influences Glycemic Response

By: Heather J. Leidy, PhD Assistant Professor Department of Nutrition &

Exercise Physiology

School of Medicine

Ammar Alwattar, MS Graduate Student Department of Nutrition &

Exercise Physiology University of Missouri





Over the past 50 years, there has been an increase in the prevalence of skipping breakfast which has mirrored the rise in obesity (1). In fact, as many as 30% of young people skip breakfast every day and up to 60% skip breakfast 3-4 times/week $(\underline{2}-\underline{4})$. Although skipping breakfast is associated with obesity, it is also correlated with poor glucose control and an increased risk for developing type 2 diabetes (5-7). However, it is currently unclear whether the addition of breakfast improves glycemic control in those who habitually skip the morning meal. Further, it's unknown if the type of breakfast consumed plays a role, although some data suggest that the consumption of increased dietary protein improves glycemic control (8-14). We recently published a study that aimed to examine the effects of

consuming normal-protein vs. higher-protein breakfasts on daily glucose and insulin responses in overweight adolescents who habitually skip breakfast. In addition, although the prevalence of breakfast skipping is quite high, many young people also consume high carbohydrate/high sugar foods which may also negatively impact glycemic control. Thus, we also examined the effects of consuming normal-protein vs. higher-protein breakfasts in those who habitually consume a high-carbohydrate breakfast.

Thirty-five late-adolescent young women participated in the study. The habitual breakfast skippers either continued to skip breakfast or consumed a 350 kcal normal-protein breakfast containing 12 g protein/59 g carbohydrates/8 g fat or an isocaloric higher-protein breakfast containing 32 g protein (primarily as lean beef and eggs)/38 g carbohydrates/8 g fat for 3 days. The habitual breakfast consumers consumed the same meals as above. On day 4 of each pattern, an 8-hr testing day was completed. The respective breakfast and a 500 kcal high-carbohydrate (17 g protein/83 g carbohydrates/11 g fat) lunch meal were provided, and blood was collected to assess glucose and insulin responses throughout the day.

improve the glycemic response throughout the day. In fact, the higherprotein breakfast actually led to greater glucose responses throughout the day, particularly after the high-carbohydrate lunch, compared to skipping breakfast, whereas the normal-protein breakfast did not. Alternately, in the habitual breakfast consumers, the higher-protein breakfast led to greater reductions in daily glucose vs. the normalprotein breakfast. When comparing these responses between the groups, the breakfast skippers experienced elevated glucose concentrations throughout the day following the higher-protein breakfast, whereas the breakfast consumers experienced blunted glucose concentrations following the higher-protein breakfast. These data illustrate unique differences in the glycemic response to

In the habitual breakfast skippers, the addition of breakfast did not

breakfast consumption. One possible reason for these differences may be due to the inability to optimally metabolize or utilize a large quantity of protein at breakfast in those who do not typically eat the morning meal, whereas those who are accustomed to eating breakfast appear to appropriately metabolize and utilize the larger protein load. This project, under the direction of Dr. Heather Leidy, Department of Nutrition and Exercise Physiology at the University of Missouri, was Mr.

protein at breakfast, which was influenced by the frequency of habitual

Ammar Alwattar's Masters' thesis which he completed and successfully defended in April, 2014. When asked about the study findings Mr. Alwattar stated, "Initially, I was expecting both the habitual breakfast skippers and habitual breakfast consumers to have lower total glucose and insulin responses when they consumed the higher protein breakfast compared to the normal protein breakfast. I was a bit surprised that the habitual breakfast skippers responded better to the normal protein breakfast than the higher protein breakfast. However, the habitual breakfast consumers responded better to the higher protein breakfast, as I suspected." Dr. Leidy and Mr. Alwattar also indicated that, "The take home message from this study is to make an effort to consume breakfast. If you are a habitual breakfast skipper, then eating a typical breakfast may be helpful (at first). If you are a habitual breakfast consumer (or perhaps transitioning away from skipping breakfast), then a higher protein breakfast may be more beneficial. Ultimately, breakfast consumption should help lower your glucose response at the next meal which has long-term health implications concerning the prevention of elevated post-prandial glucose excursions and the onset of type 2 References: ¹ Siega-Riz, A.M., B.M. Popkin, and T. Carson, *Trends in breakfast consumption*

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The Committee's report, in contrast to earlier guidance, makes no specific cholesterol recommendation and states that cholesterol is not a nutrient of concern for overconsumption – a stance that is consistent with recent recommendations of other expert groups like the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology. Saturated fat remains a nutrient to consume in limited quantities, as do sodium and added sugars. Moreover, the DGAC outlined several dietary patterns that have been shown to reduce chronic disease risk, including the Mediterranean Diet, vegetarian diet, and healthy United States-style diet. Such findings are particularly relevant for eggs, an affordable, accessible, nutrient-rich source of high-quality protein that fit within these aforementioned dietary patterns.

Whether these are recommendations are adopted as the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans remains to be determined. The final report is expected later in 2015.

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