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ULTRA-PROCESSED FOODS

THE SCIENCE AND THE POLICY

Guest speaker:
Professor Michael Gibney MAgrSc, MA, PhD



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Ultra-processed foods: The science and the policy

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Declaration of interests

Paid and non-paid consultancy to industry, government and NGOs

My opinions on ultra-processed foods are my own and my work in this field is 100% free of industry links



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Treat all processed foods like cigarettes

By Joanna Blythman



Junk food is making us ill – it's time for governments to take decisive action to protect public health, says Good Food contributing editor Joanna Blythman.



Ultra-processed foods linked to increased cancer risk

By Jen Christensen, CNN
Updated 1924 GMT (0324 HKT) February 28, 2018



FOOD-DRINK · Published March 31, 2016 · Last Update March 8, 2017

These 'Ultra-Processed' Foods Are Ruining Our Diet, Say Researchers

Fashion Food Recipes Love & sex Health & fitness Home & garden Women Men Family Travel Money

Nutrition What is Britain eating? The ultra-processed truth about 10 of our bestselling foods



Ultra-processed food and drink products in Latin America: Trends, impact on obesity, policy implications



DIETARY GUIDELINES FOR THE BRAZILIAN POPULATION



foods are chosen, it is important to consult the labels on the foods to opt for those with a lower content of salt or sugar.

ULTRA-PROCESSED FOODS

Avoid ultra-processed foods

Because of their ingredients, ultra-processed foods—such as packaged snacks, soft drinks, and instant noodles—are nutritionally unbalanced. As a result of their formulation and presentation, they tend to be consumed in excess, and displace natural or minimally processed foods. Their means of production, distribution, marketing, and consumption damage culture, social life, and the environment.



Ultra-processed foods include biscuits, packaged snacks, soft drinks, and instant noodles

The fundamental point of the NOVA Classification of ultra processed foods (UPF)

*“The **most important factor** now, when considering food, nutrition and public health, is **not nutrients**, and is **not foods**, so much as what is done to foodstuffs and the nutrients originally contained in them, before they are purchased and consumed. That is to say, **the issue is food processing** – or, to be more precise, the nature, extent and purpose of processing, and what happens to food and to us as a result of processing”*



The truth about nutrients and disease

Dietary lipids, LDL/HDL ratio & CVD
Na, K & Hypertension
Carotenoids and ARMD
Folic acid & NTD
Ca, Vitamin D and Osteoporosis
EPA, DHA & cognition
Perinatal diet and adult NCD
Nitrosamines and colon cancer
Iodine and childhood IQ
Sugar & dental caries
Glutamine and carcinogenesis



The derivation of **food** based dietary guidelines



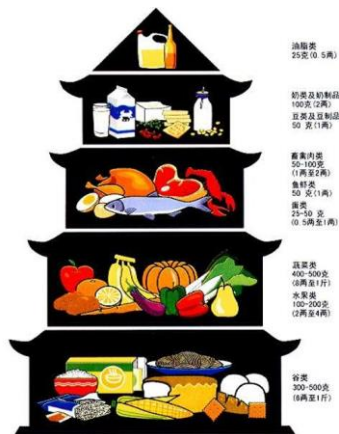
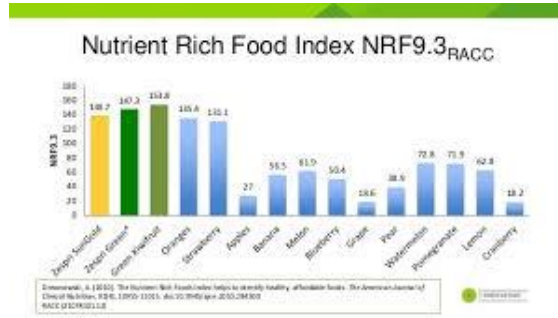
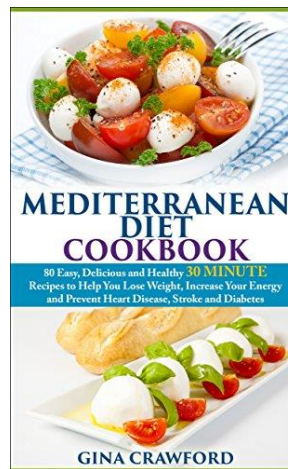
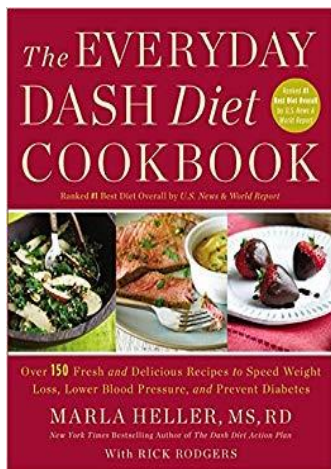
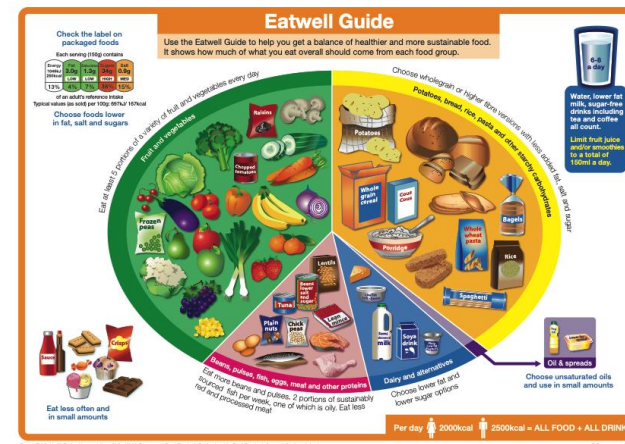
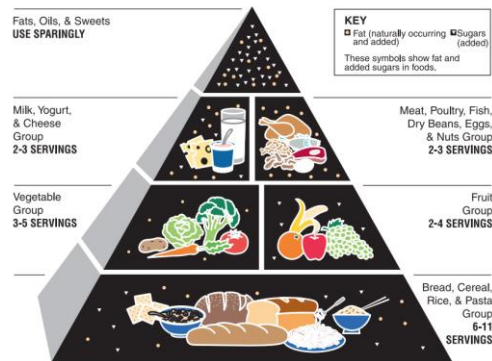


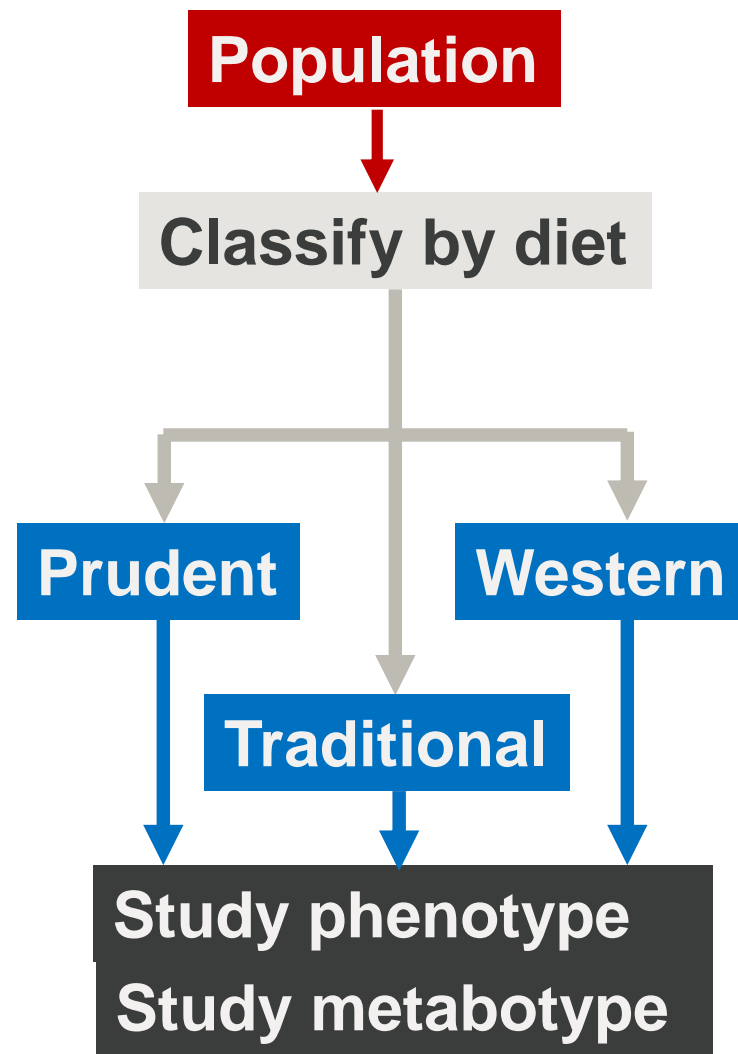
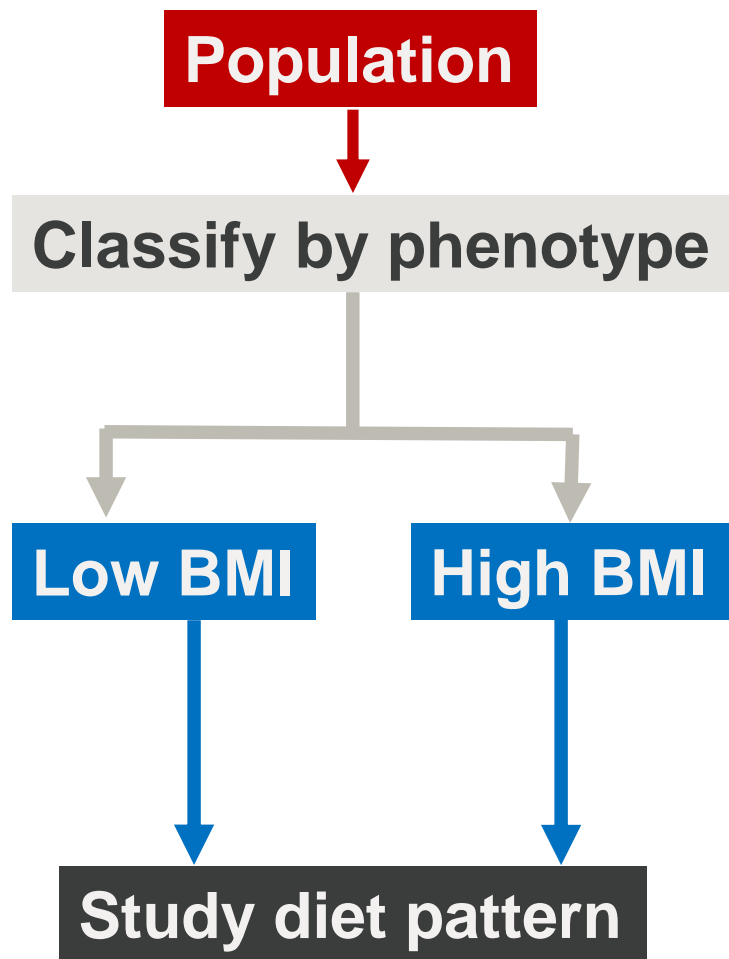
Figure 1
Food Guide Pyramid

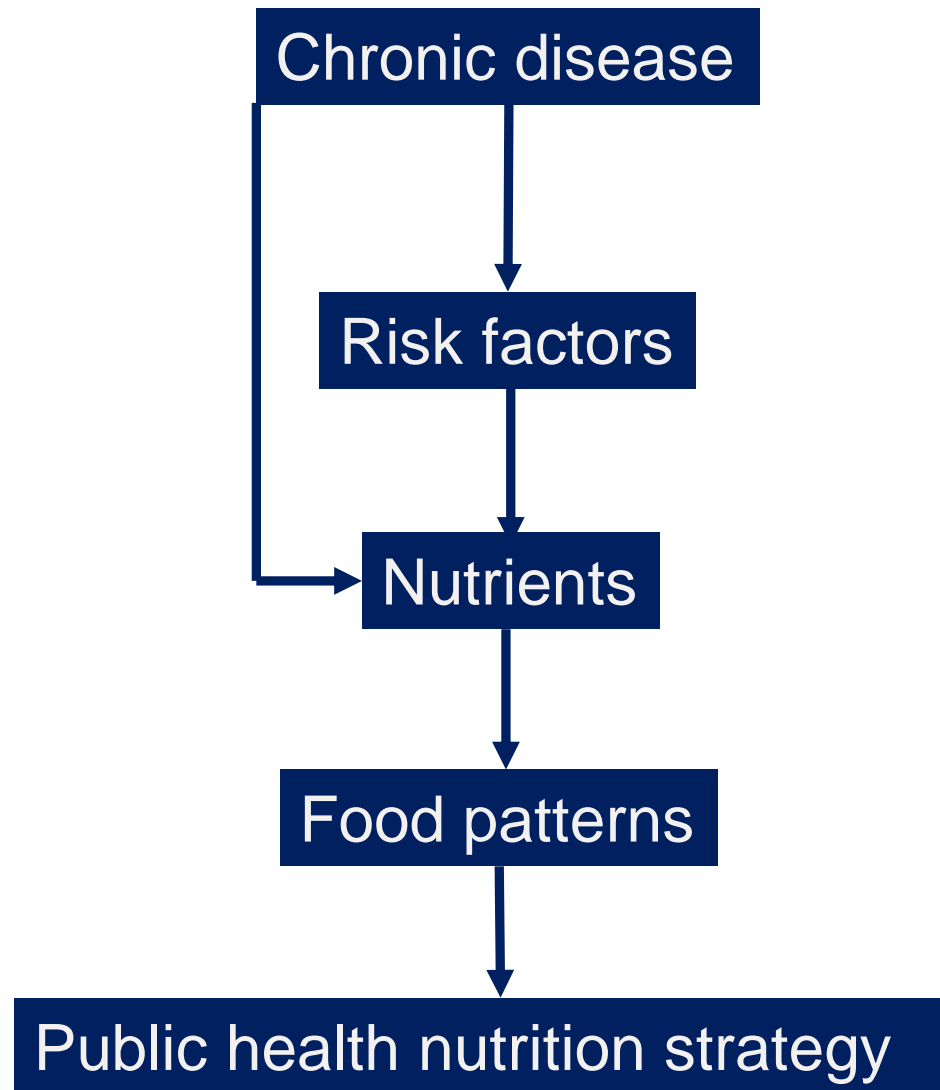


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Studying sub-group dietary patterns





Defining processed food

United States Department of Agriculture
European Prospective Investigation of Diet and Cancer
International Food Information Council





ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Contribution of highly industrially processed foods to the nutrient intakes and patterns of middle-aged populations in the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition study

Results: Highly processed foods **were an important source of the nutrients considered. Only two nutrients, b-carotene and vitamin C had a contribution from highly processed foods below 50%** whereas for the other nutrients, the contribution varied **from 50 to 91%**



[J Nutr](#). 2012 Nov; 142(11): 2065S–2072S.

Published online 2012 Sep 18. doi: [\[10.3945/jn.112.164442\]](https://doi.org/10.3945/jn.112.164442)

PMCID: PMC3593301

PMID: [22990468](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22990468/)

Contributions of Processed Foods to Dietary Intake in the US from 2003–2008: A Report of the Food and Nutrition Science Solutions Joint Task Force of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, American Society for Nutrition, Institute of Food Technologists, and International Food Information Council^{1,2,3,4}

[Heather A. Eicher-Miller](#),^{5,*} [Victor L. Fulgoni, III](#),⁶ and [Debra R. Keast](#)⁷



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[J Nutr.](#) 2012 Nov; 142(11): 2065S–2072S.

Published online 2012 Sep 18. doi: [\[10.3945/jn.112.164442\]](https://doi.org/10.3945/jn.112.164442)

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Contributions of Processed Foods to Dietary Intake in the US from 2003–2008: A Report of the Food and Nutrition Science Solutions Joint Task Force of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, American Society for Nutrition, Institute of Food Technologists, and International Food Information Council^{1,2,3,4}

[Heather A. Eicher-Miller](#),^{5,*} [Victor L. Fulgoni, III](#),⁶ and [Debra R. Keast](#)⁷

The processing level was a **minor determinant** of individual foods' **nutrient contribution** to the diet and, therefore, should **not be a primary factor** when selecting a **balanced** diet.



The NOVA classification of ultra-processed foods



Group 1: Unprocessed foods: **18% of energy intake**

Group 2: Culinary ingredients: **2% of energy intake**

Group 3: Processed foods: **20% of energy intake**

Group 4: Ultra processed foods: **60% of energy intake**

Ultra-processed products



Examples of typical ultra-processed products are:

Carbonated drinks

Sweet or savoury packaged snacks

Ice-cream

Chocolate, candies (confectionery)

Mass-produced packaged breads and buns

Margarines and spreads

Cookies (biscuits), pastries, cakes, and cake

Breakfast 'cereals', 'cereal' and 'energy' bars

Energy' drinks

Milk drinks

Fruit' yoghurts and 'fruit' drinks; cocoa drinks

Meat and chicken extracts and 'instant' sauces

Infant formulas, follow-on milks, other baby products

Pre-prepared pies and pasta and pizza dishes

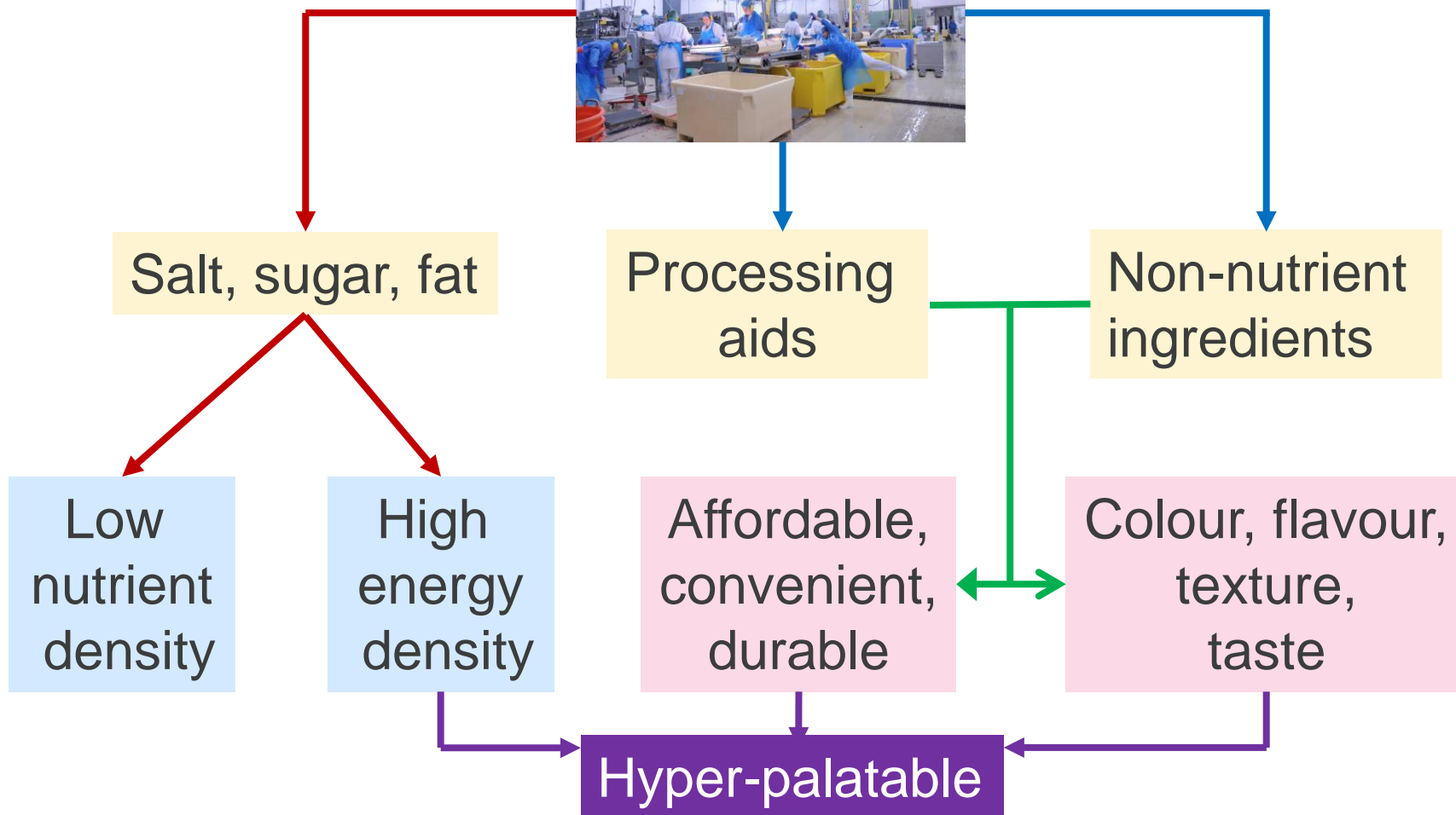
Poultry and fish 'nuggets' and 'sticks'

Sausages, burgers, hot dogs,

Instant soups, noodles and desserts.

Ultra-processed products





JAMA Pediatrics March 2017 Volume 171, Number 3

VIEWPOINT

Processed Food—An Experiment That Failed

**Robert H. Lustig, MD,
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Those of us who have participated in science know that 9 of every 10 experiments are failures. Now imagine that the last 50 years has been a grand clinical research experiment, with the American population as unwitting participants, conducted by 10 principal investigators—Coca-Cola, Pepsico, Kraft, Unilever, General Mills, Nestlé, Mars, Kellogg, Proctor & Gamble, and Johnson & Johnson. In 1965, these corporations posed the hypothesis that processed food is better than real food. To determine if the experiment was a success or a failure, we have to examine the outcome variables. In this case, there are 4: food consumption, health/disease, environment, and cash flow, divided into companies, consumers, and society.

Processed food is defined by 7 food engineering criteria; it is mass produced, is consistent batch to batch, is consistent country to country, uses specialized ingredients from specialized companies, consists of prefrozen macronutrients, stays emulsified, and has long shelf life or freezer life.¹

Furthermore, 11 nutritional properties distinguish processed food.² (1) Too little fiber. When fiber (soluble and insoluble) is consumed within food, it forms a gelatinous barrier along the intestinal wall. This delays the intestine's ability to absorb nutrients, instead feeding the gut microbiome. Attenuation of the glucose rise results in insulin reduction. Attenuation of fructose absorption reduces liver fat accumulation. (2) and (3) Too few ω -3 and too many ω -6 fatty acids. ω -3s are precursors to docahexaenoic and eicosapentanoic acids (anti-inflammatory). Conversely, ω -6s are precursors of arachidonic acid (proinflammatory). Our ratio of ω -6 to ω -3 fatty acids should be approximately 1:1. Currently, our ratio is about 25:1, favoring a proinflammatory state, which can drive oxidative stress and cell damage. (4) Too few micronutrients. Antioxidants, such as vitamins C and E, quench oxygen radicals in peroxisomes to prevent cellular damage, while others, such as carotenoids and α -lipoic acid, prevent lipid peroxidation. (5) Too many

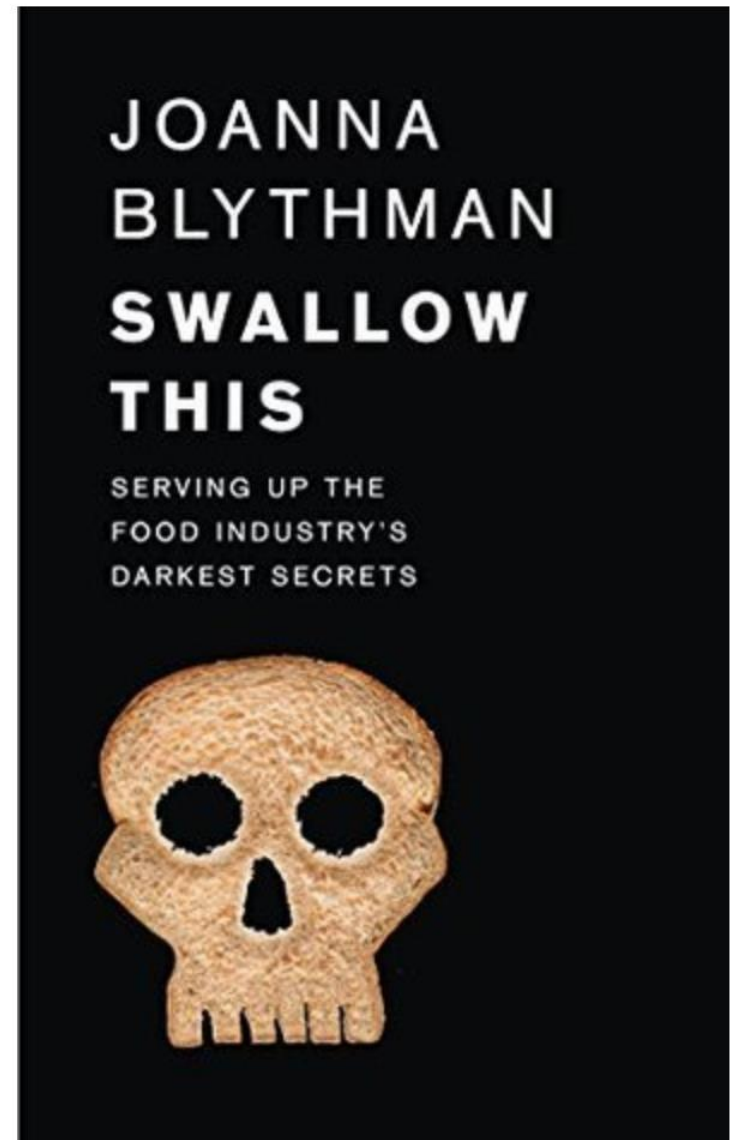


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- ❖ *Mass produced*
- ❖ *Consistent batch to batch*
- ❖ *Consistent country by country*
- ❖ *Uses specialised ingredients from specialised companies*
- ❖ *Consists of pre-frozen macronutrients*
- ❖ *Stays emulsified*
- ❖ *Long shelf life or freezer life*



Probing the role of ultra-processed foods on nutrient intake

Part 1: US added sugar intake data

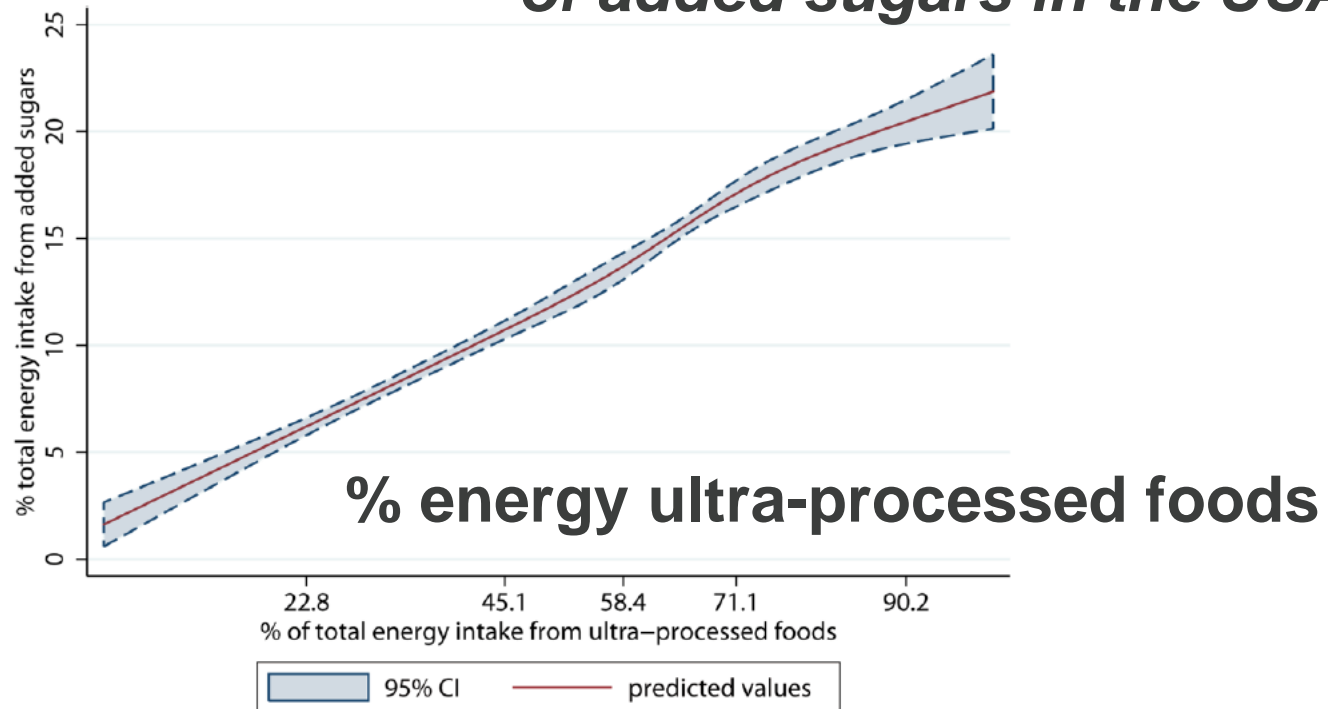


BMJ Open Ultra-processed foods and added sugars in the US diet: evidence from a nationally representative cross-sectional study

Euridice Martinez Steele,^{1,2} Larissa Galastrì Baraldi,^{1,2}
 Maria Laura da Costa Louzada,^{1,2} Jean-Claude Moubarac,²
 Dariush Mozaffarian,³ Carlos Augusto Monteiro^{1,2}

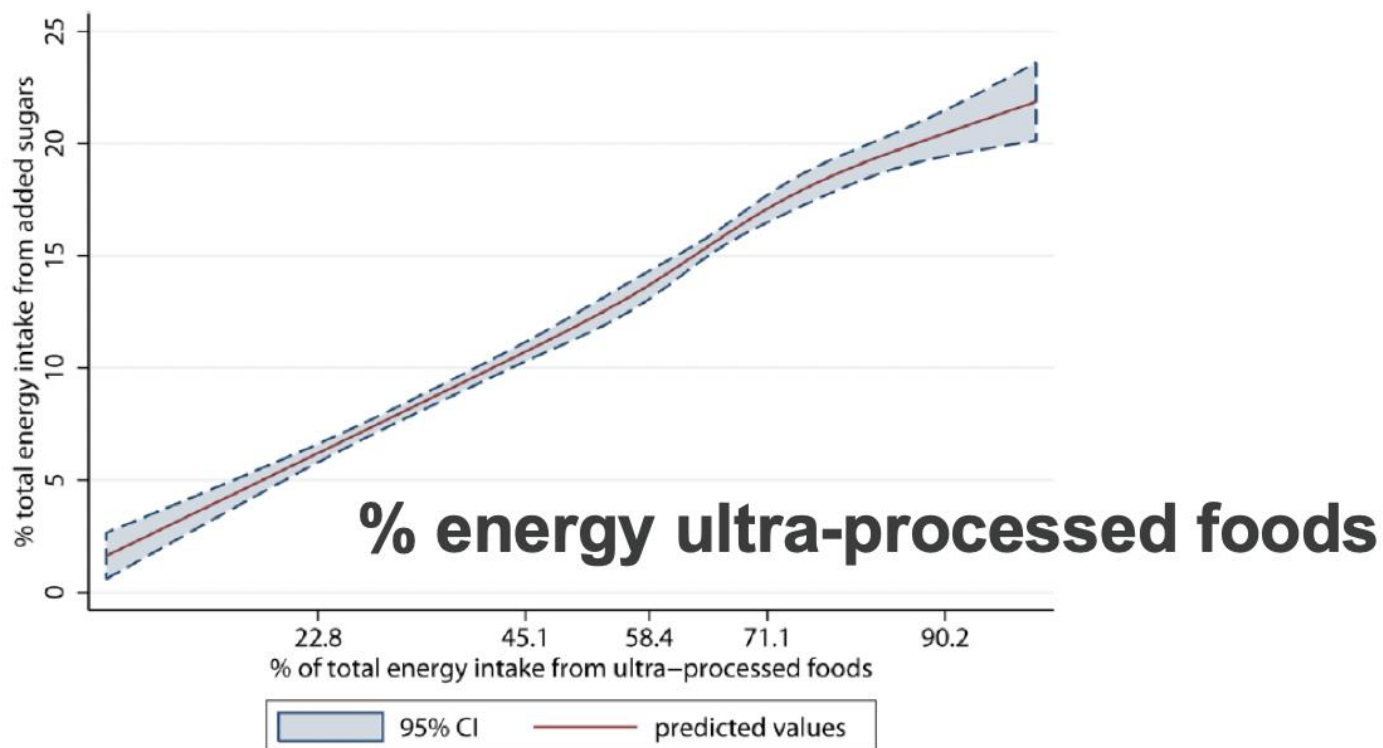
“Decreasing the consumption of ultra-processed foods could be an effective way of reducing the excessive intake of added sugars in the USA”

% energy added sugars



**All ultra-processed foods
90% of added sugar intake**

**% energy
added
sugars**



| Food | % contribution to added sugars | Food | % contribution to added sugars |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| All ultra-processed foods 90% of added sugar intake | | | |
| These are the 16 food groups listed as sources of added sugars from ultra-processed foods | | | |
| SSBs | 17.1 | Milk-based drinks | 4.6 |
| Fruit drinks | 13.9 | Sauces, dressings | 2.8 |
| Cakes, cookies, pies | 11.2 | RTE Pizza | 1.4 |
| Breads | 7.6 | Salty snacks | 0.7 |
| Desserts | 7.3 | Frozen meals | 0.7 |
| Sweet snacks | 7.1 | Sandwiches, buns etc. | 0.6 |
| RTE cereals | 6.4 | Instant & canned soups | 0.1 |
| Ice cream & ice pops | 5.9 | Others | 1.2 |





Article

Sources of Added Sugars in Young Children, Adolescents, and Adults with Low and High Intakes of Added Sugars

Regan L. Bailey ^{1,*} , Victor L. Fulgoni, III ², Alexandra E. Cowan ³ and P. Courtney Gainé ⁴

¹ Department of Nutrition Science, Purdue University, Stone Hall, Room 143A, 700 West State Street, West Lafayette, IN 47906, USA

² Nutrition Impact LLC, 9725 D Drive North, Battle Creek, MI 49014, USA; vic3rd@aol.com

³ Department of Nutrition Science, Purdue University, Room 143, 700 West State Street, West Lafayette, IN 47906, USA; cowan9@purdue.edu

⁴ The Sugar Association, Inc., 1300 I Street NW Suite 1001, Washington, DC 20005, USA; gaine@sugar.org

5. Conclusions

Public health efforts to reduce intake of added sugars should put the greatest emphasis on decreasing the amount of sweetened beverages consumed first and foremost, followed by sweet bakery products. Depending on age, specific messaging about intakes of candy and other desserts is warranted. Food manufacturers should also be encouraged to decrease the added sugars content






Data on adults

Article

Sources of Added Sugars in Young Children, Adolescents, and Adults with Low and High Intakes of Added Sugars

Regan L. Bailey ^{1,*} , Victor L. Fulgoni, III ², Alexandra E. Cowan ³ and P. Courtney Gaine ⁴

| Percentile of added sugar in diet | Contribution of SSB's to added sugar intake |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Top 10% | 51 |
| Mid-point | 15 |
| Lowest 10% | 11 |



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**Yes = Food listed in UPF paper and found in top 10 foods
in decile paper**

**No = Food listed in UPF paper and NOT found in top 10 foods
in decile paper**

| Food | Included in top decile in any age group | Food | Included in top decile in any age group |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| SSBs | Yes | Milk-based drinks | No |
| Fruit drinks | Yes | Sauces, dressings | No |
| Cakes, cookies, pies | Yes | RTE Pizza | No |
| Breads | Yes | Salty snacks | No |
| Desserts | Yes | Frozen meals | No |
| Sweet snacks | Yes | Sandwiches, buns etc. | No |
| RTE cereals | No | Instant & canned soups | No |
| Ice cream & ice pops | No | Others | No |

Probing the role of ultra-processed foods on nutrient intake

Part 2: Fats, SFAs, added sugars, fibre and sodium



Ultra-Processed Foods: Definitions and Policy Issues

Michael J Gibney 

Institute of Food and Health, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

- ❖ The definitions of ultra-processed foods varies considerably over time
- ❖ The foods included in the definition also vary over time



Ultra-Processed Foods: Definitions and Policy Issues

Michael J Gibney 

Institute of Food and Health, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

- ❖ The definitions of ultra-processed foods varies considerably over time
- ❖ **The foods included in the definition also vary over time**
- ❖ **Increasing intakes of ultra-processed foods**
 - Predict intakes of sugar and fiber
 - **Do NOT** predict intakes of total fats, saturates and fibre

UK

20. Rauber F, da Costa Louzada ML, Steele EM, Millett C, Monteiro CA, Levy RB. Ultra-processed food consumption and chronic non-communicable diseases-related dietary nutrient profile in the UK (2008–2014). *Nutrients* 2018;10(5):587. [[PMC free article](#)] [[PubMed](#)]

Brazil

10. Costa Louzada ML, Martins AP, Canella DS, Baraldi LG, Levy RB, Claro RM, Moubarac JC, Cannon G, Monteiro CA. Ultra-processed foods and the nutritional dietary profile in Brazil. *Rev Saude Publica* 2015;49:38. [[PMC free article](#)] [[PubMed](#)]

US

21. Steele EM, Popkin BM, Swinburn B, Monteiro CA. The share of ultra-processed foods and the overall nutritional quality of diets in the US: evidence from a nationally representative cross-sectional study. *Popul Health Metrics* 2017;15(1):6 [[PMC free article](#)] [[PubMed](#)]

Canada

12. Moubarac JC, Batal M, Louzada ML, Martinez Steele E, Monteiro CA. Consumption of ultra-processed foods predicts diet quality in Canada. *Appetite* 2017;108:512–20. [[PubMed](#)]



| Country | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 |
|---------|---|----|----|----|----|
| | Quintile of intake of ultra-processed foods | | | | |
| | Nutrient intake | | | | |
| UK | | | | | |
| Brazil | | | | | |
| Canada | | | | | |
| US | | | | | |



| Country | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 |
|-----------------------|---|----|----|----|----|
| | Quintile of intake of ultra-processed foods | | | | |
| Total fat as % energy | | | | | |
| UK | 31 | 32 | 32 | 33 | 33 |
| Brazil | 24 | 25 | 27 | 28 | 30 |
| Canada | 31 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 |
| US | 31 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 |

| Country | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 |
|--------------------------------------|---|----|----|----|----|
| | Quintile of intake of ultra-processed foods | | | | |
| Saturated fats as % of energy intake | | | | | |
| UK | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Brazil | 8 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 9 |
| Canada | 10 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| US | 10 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |

| Country | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 |
|----------------------------|---|----|----|----|----|
| | Quintile of intake of ultra-processed foods | | | | |
| Fibre intake (g/1000 kcal) | | | | | |
| UK | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 7 |
| Brazil | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 |
| Canada | 10 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 7 |
| US | 10 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 7 |

| Country | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Fibre intake (g/1000 kcal) | | | | | |
| UK | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 7 |
| Brazil | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 |
| Canada | 10 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 7 |
| US | 10 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 7 |

| | Official target for fibre intake | Actual fibre intake at Q1 of UPF intake |
|---------------|---|--|
| UK | 30 g/d | 15 g/d |
| Canada | 32 g/d | 19 g/d |
| US | 14 g/ 1000 kcal | 10 g/1000 kcal |

| Country | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Sodium intake (g/1000 kcal) | | | | | |
| UK | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.3 |
| Brazil | 1.9 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.6 |
| Canada | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| US | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.6 |



| Country | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sodium intake (g/1000 kcal) | | | | | |
| UK | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.3 |
| Brazil | 1.9 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.6 |
| Canada | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| US | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.6 |

| | WHO target for sodium intake | Actual sodium intake at Q1 of UPF intake |
|--------|------------------------------|--|
| Brazil | 2 g/d | 1.9 g/d |
| Canada | | 2.9 g/d |
| US | | 3.3 g/d |

| Country | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 |
|--|---|------|------|------|------|
| | Quintile of intake of ultra-processed foods | | | | |
| Free (f) or added (a) sugars as % of energy intake | | | | | |
| UK (f) | 9.9 | 11.3 | 12.2 | 13.4 | 15.4 |
| Brazil (f) | 10.9 | 13.1 | 15.0 | 17.6 | 20.2 |
| Canada (a) | 7.7 | 11.7 | 13.4 | 16.1 | 19.4 |
| US (a) | 7.7 | 11.0 | 13.4 | 15.7 | 19.2 |

Bear in mind that UPF accounts for over 90% of added sugar intake

ARTÍCULO ORIGINAL

Association between ultra-processed food consumption and the nutrient profile of the Colombian diet in 2005

Diana C Parra, MPH, PhD,⁽¹⁾ Maria Laura da Costa-Louzada, PhD,⁽²⁾ Jean-Claude Moubarac, PhD,⁽¹⁾ Renata Bertazzi-Levy, PhD,⁽¹⁾ Neha Khandpur, ScD,⁽¹⁾ Gustavo Cediel, MS, PhD,⁽¹⁾ Carlos A Monteiro, PhD,⁽¹⁾

Parra DC, da Costa-Louzada ML, Moubarac JC, Bertazzi-Levy R, Khandpur N, Cediel G, Monteiro CA. Association between ultra-processed food consumption and the nutrient profile of the Colombian diet in 2005. *Salud Publica Mex.* 2019;61:147-154. <https://doi.org/10.21149/9038>

Parra DC, da Costa-Louzada ML, Moubarac JC, Bertazzi-Levy R, Khandpur N, Cediel G, Monteiro CA. Asociación entre el consumo de alimentos ultraprocesados y el perfil nutricional de la dieta de los colombianos en 2005. *Salud Publica Mex.* 2019;61:147-154. <https://doi.org/10.21149/9038>

| | Overall diet | From non-UPF | From UPF |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| Protein (%en) | 13 | 13 | 9 |
| Carbohydrates (%en) | 65 | 64 | 65 |
| Free sugars (%en) | 14 | 12 | 25 |
| Total fats (%en) | 25 | 25 | 26 |
| Saturated fats (%en) | 9 | 9 | 8 |
| Fibre (g/1000 kcal) | 12 | 12 | 5 |





OPEN ACCESS

Consumption of ultra-processed foods and cancer risk: results from NutriNet-Santé prospective cohort

Thibault Fiolet,¹ Bernard Srour,¹ Laury Sellem,¹ Emmanuelle Kesse-Guyot,¹ Benjamin Allès,¹ Caroline Méjean,² Mélanie Deschasaux,¹ Philippine Fassier,¹ Paule Latino-Martel,¹ Marie Beslay,¹ Serge Hercberg,^{1,4} Céline Lavalette,¹ Carlos A Monteiro,³ Chantal Julia,^{1,4} Mathilde Touvier¹

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Research Center (CRESS),
Inserm U1153, Inra U1125,
Cnam, Paris 13 University,
Nutritional Epidemiology
Research Team (EREN),
Bobigny, France
²INRA UMR 1145 MICA

ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVE

To assess the prospective associations between consumption of ultra-processed food and risk of cancer.

DESIGN

Population based cohort study.

statistically significant after adjustment for several markers of the nutritional quality of the diet (lipid, sodium, and carbohydrate intakes and/or a Western pattern derived by principal component analysis).

CONCLUSIONS

In this large prospective study, a 10% increase in the proportion of ultra-processed foods in the diet was





Consumption of ultra-processed foods and cancer risk: results from NutriNet-Santé prospective cohort

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¹Sorbonne Paris Cité Epidemiology and Statistics Research Center (CRESS), Inserm U1153, Inra U1125, Cnam, Paris 13 University, Nutritional Epidemiology Research Team (EREN), Bobigny, France

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 Population based cohort studv.

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CONCLUSIONS
 In this large prospective study, a 10% increase in the proportion of ultra-processed foods in the diet was

RESEARCH

Table 1 | Baseline characteristics of study population according to sex specific quarters of ultra-processed food consumption (n=104 980), NutriNet-Santé cohort, France, 2009-17*. Values are numbers (percentages) unless stated otherwise

| Characteristics | All participants | Quarters of ultra-processed food consumption† | | | | P for trend‡ |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| | | 1 (n=26 244) | 2 (n=26 245) | 3 (n=26 246) | 4 (n=26 245) | |
| Mean (SD) age, years | 42.8 (14.8) | 47.9 (13.5) | 45.0 (14.0) | 42.0 (14.4) | 36.5 (13.6) | <0.001 |
| Female sex | 82 159 (78.3) | 20 539 (78.3) | 20 540 (78.3) | 20 541 (78.3) | 20 542 (78.3) | – |
| Mean (SD) height, cm | 166.8 (8.1) | 166.3 (8.0) | 166.7 (8.0) | 167.0 (8.1) | 167.3 (8.2) | <0.001 |
| Mean (SD) body mass index → | 23.8 (4.6) | 23.8 (4.3) | 23.8 (4.4) | 23.8 (4.5) | 23.8 (5.0) | 0.9 |
| Family history of cancer§ | 35 668 (34.0) | 10 542 (40.2) | 9624 (36.7) | 8625 (32.9) | 6877 (26.2) | <0.001 |
| Higher education: | | | | | | |
| No | 19 357 (18.4) | 5154 (19.6) | 4961 (18.9) | 4637 (17.7) | 4605 (17.6) | 0.01 |
| Yes, <2 years | 18 076 (17.2) | 3938 (15.0) | 4091 (15.6) | 4426 (16.9) | 5621 (21.4) | |
| Yes, ≥2 years | 67 547 (64.3) | 17 152 (65.4) | 17 193 (65.5) | 17 183 (65.5) | 16 019 (61.0) | |
| Smoking status: | | | | | | |
| Current | 17 763 (16.9) | 4127 (15.7) | 4065 (15.5) | 4266 (16.3) | 5305 (20.2) | <0.001 |
| Never/former | 87 217 (83.1) | 22 117 (84.3) | 22 180 (84.5) | 21 980 (83.8) | 20 940 (79.8) | |
| IPAQ physical activity level:¶ | | | | | | |
| High | 29 603 (28.2) | 8753 (33.4) | 7762 (29.6) | 6983 (26.6) | 6105 (23.3) | <0.001 |
| Moderate | 38 874 (37.0) | 9620 (36.7) | 9953 (37.9) | 9814 (37.4) | 9487 (36.2) | |





Consumption of ultra-processed foods and cancer risk: results from NutriNet-Santé prospective cohort

Thibault Fiolet,¹ Bernard Srour,¹ Laury Sellem,¹ Emmanuelle Kesse-Guyot,¹ Benjamin Allès,¹ Caroline Méjean,² Mélanie Deschasaux,¹ Philippine Fassier,² Paule Latino-Martel,¹ Marie Beslay,¹ Serge Hercberg,^{1,4} Céline Lavalette,¹ Carlos A Monteiro,³ Chantal Julia,^{1,4} Mathilde Touvier¹

¹Sorbonne Paris Cité Epidemiology and Statistics Research Center (CRESES), Inserm U1153, Inra U1125, Cnam, Paris 13 University, Nutritional Epidemiology Research Team (EREN), Bobigny, France

ABSTRACT
OBJECTIVE
 To assess the prospective associations between consumption of ultra-processed food and risk of cancer.
DESIGN
 Population based cohort studv.

statistically significant after adjustment for several markers of the nutritional quality of the diet (lipid, sodium, and carbohydrate intakes and/or a Western pattern derived by principal component analysis).
CONCLUSIONS
 In this large prospective study, a 10% increase in the proportion of ultra-processed foods in the diet was

| Quartile | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| BMI kg/m2 | 23.8 | 23.8 | 23.8 | 23.8 |

RESEARCH

Table 1 | Baseline characteristics of study population according to sex specific quarters of ultra-processed food consumption (n=104 980), NutriNet-Santé cohort, France, 2009-17*. Values are numbers (percentages) unless stated otherwise

| Characteristics | All participants | Quarters of ultra-processed food consumption† | | | | P for trend‡ |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| | | 1 (n=26 244) | 2 (n=26 245) | 3 (n=26 246) | 4 (n=26 245) | |
| Mean (SD) age, years | 42.8 (14.8) | 47.9 (13.5) | 45.0 (14.0) | 42.0 (14.4) | 36.5 (13.6) | <0.001 |
| Female sex | 82 159 (78.3) | 20 539 (78.3) | 20 540 (78.3) | 20 541 (78.3) | 20 542 (78.3) | – |
| Mean (SD) height, cm | 166.8 (8.1) | 166.3 (8.0) | 166.7 (8.0) | 167.0 (8.1) | 167.3 (8.2) | <0.001 |
| Mean (SD) body mass index → | 23.8 (4.6) | 23.8 (4.3) | 23.8 (4.4) | 23.8 (4.5) | 23.8 (5.0) | 0.9 |
| Family history of cancer§ | 35 668 (34.0) | 10 542 (40.2) | 9624 (36.7) | 8625 (32.9) | 6877 (26.2) | <0.001 |
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RESEARCH

Open Access



Characterisation of UK diets according to degree of food processing and associations with socio-demographics and obesity: cross-sectional analysis of UK National Diet and Nutrition Survey (2008–12)

Jean Adams¹ and Martin White

Abstract

Background: The degree of food processing is an important determinant of diet quality and obesity risk. This study examined the association between the degree of food processing and obesity risk in the UK National Diet and Nutrition Survey (2008–12).

| Nova classification | Adjusted odds ratio of being overweight or obese |
|--|--|
| Unprocessed or minimally processed foods | 1.0 |
| Processed ingredients | 0.97 |
| Unprocessed or minimally processed foods AND processed ingredients | 0.99 |
| Ultra-processed food products | 1.01 |



Please cite this article in press as: Hall et al., Ultra-Processed Diets Cause Excess Calorie Intake and Weight Gain: An Inpatient Randomized Controlled Trial of *Ad Libitum* Food Intake, *Cell Metabolism* (2019), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cmet.2019.05.008>

Cell Metabolism

Clinical and Translational Report

CellPress

Ultra-Processed Diets Cause Excess Calorie Intake and Weight Gain: An Inpatient Randomized Controlled Trial of *Ad Libitum* Food Intake

Kevin D. Hall,^{1,5,*} Alexis Ayuketah,¹ Robert Brychta,¹ Hongyi Cai,¹ Thomas Cassimatis,¹ Kong Y. Chen,¹ Stephanie T. Chung,¹ Elise Costa,¹ Amber Courville,² Valerie Darcey,¹ Laura A. Fletcher,¹ Ciaran G. Forde,⁴ Ahmed M. Gharib,¹ Juen Guo,¹ Rebecca Howard,¹ Paule V. Joseph,³ Suzanne McGehee,¹ Ronald Ouwerkerk,¹ Klaudia Raisinger,² Irene Rozga,¹ Michael Stagliano,¹ Mary Walter,¹ Peter J. Walter,¹ Shanna Yang,² and Megan Zhou¹

¹National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, Bethesda, MD, USA

²National Institutes of Health Clinical Center, Bethesda, MD, USA

³National Institute of Nursing Research, Bethesda, MD, USA

⁴Singapore Institute for Clinical Sciences, Singapore, Singapore

⁵Lead Contact

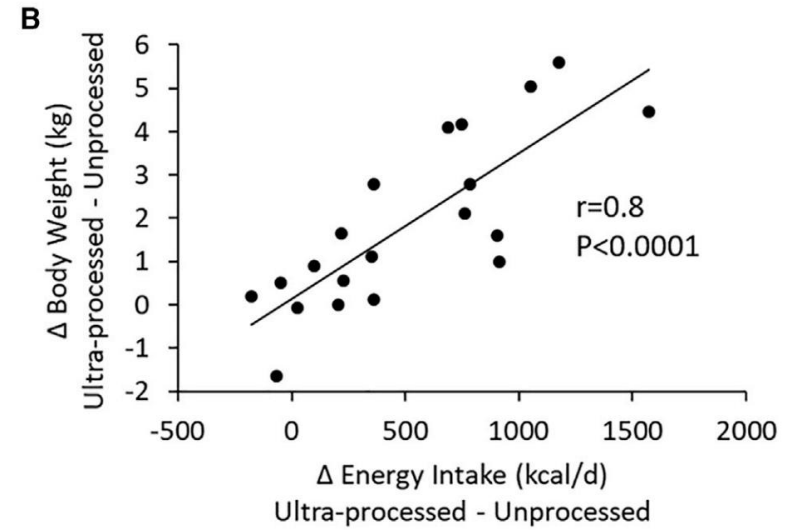
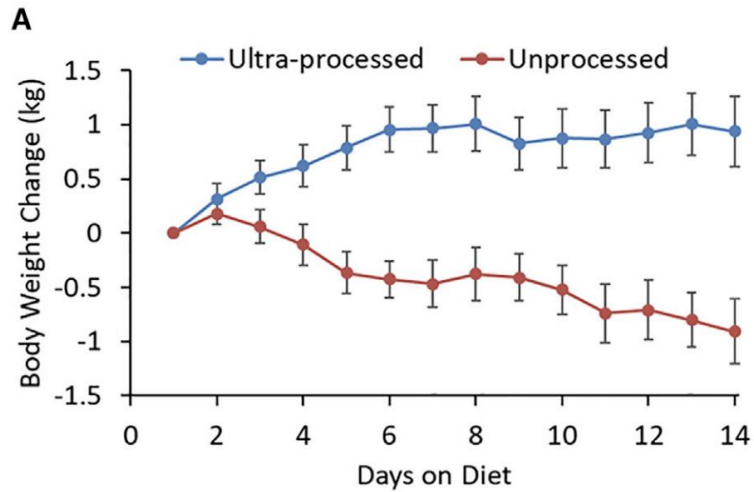
*Correspondence: kevinh@nih.gov

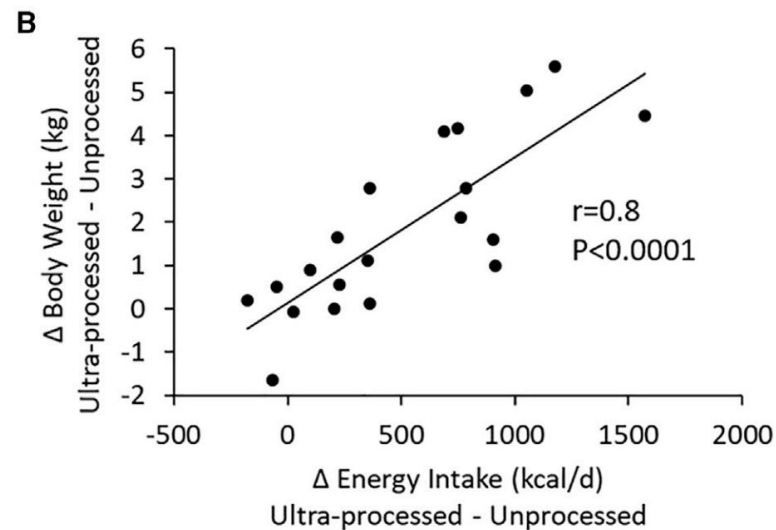
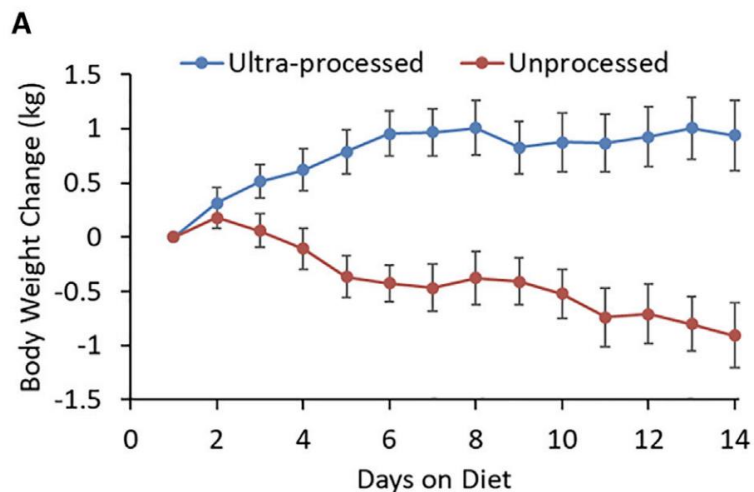
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cmet.2019.05.008>



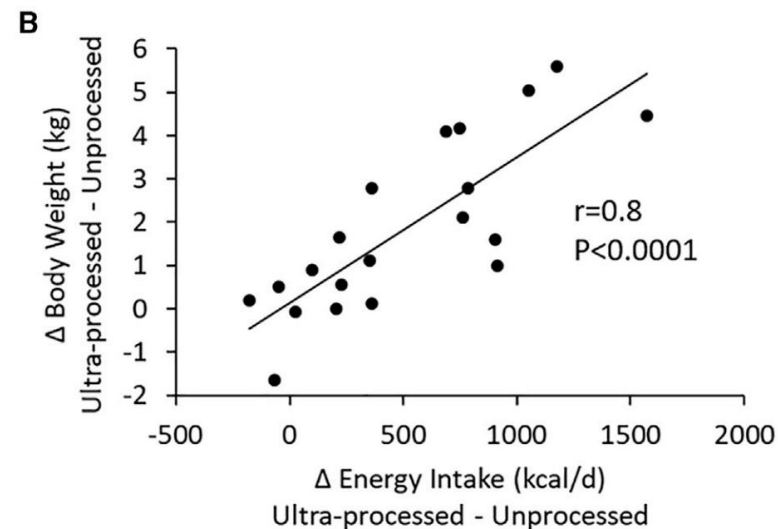
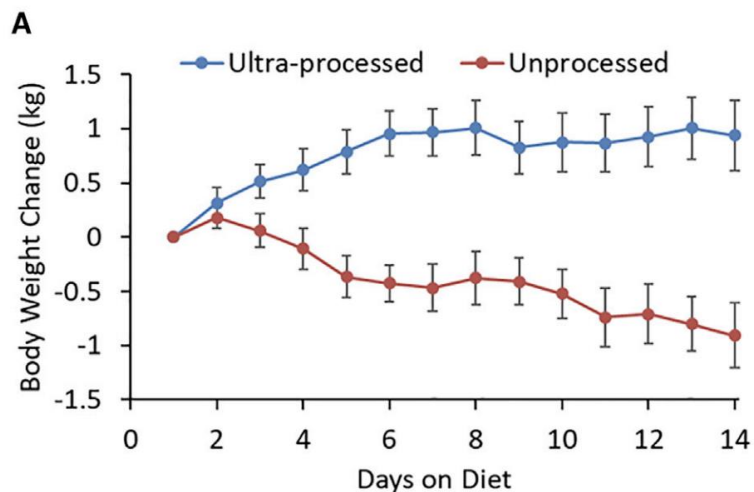
UCD Institute of Food & Health







| Energy density (kcal/g) of... | Non-processed diet | Ultra processed diet |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Foods offered to subjects | 1.02 | 1.03 |



| Energy density (kcal/g) of... | Non-processed diet | Ultra processed diet |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Foods offered to subjects | 1.02 | 1.03 |
| Foods selected by subjects | 1.09 | 1.36 |

Cell Metabolism

Letter

Ultra-Processed Food and Obesity: The Pitfalls of Extrapolation from Short Studies

David S. Ludwig,^{1,5,*} Arne Astrup,² Lydia A. Bazzano,³ Cara B. Ebbeling,¹ Steven B. Heymsfield,⁴ Janet C. King,⁵ and Walter C. Willett⁶



UCD Institute of Food & Health



However, the findings of Hall et al may be transient and independent of food processing



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However, the findings of Hall et al may be transient and independent of food processing

It might be tempting to attribute modern-day diet problems predominantly to the food industry, but.....



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However, the findings of Hall et al may be transient and independent of food processing
It might be tempting to attribute modern-day diet problems predominantly to the food industry, but.....

.....a knowledge of the drivers of food intake, including the metabolic effect of food independent of calorie content is needed to mitigate the risks of misguiding the food industry in how to formulate more healthful food products



However, the findings of Hall et al may be transient and independent of food processing. It might be tempting to attribute modern-day diet problems predominantly to the food industry, but.....

.....a knowledge of the drivers of food intake, including the metabolic effect of food independent of calorie content is needed to mitigate the risks of misguiding the food industry in how to formulate more healthful food products

In fact, many of the foods utilized on the ultra processed diet (e.g. breads, baked potato chips and apple sauce) and various refined grain products are, from a food science perspective, no more processed than olive oil, dark chocolate, or nut butters



However, the findings of Hall et al may be transient and independent of food processing. It might be tempting to attribute modern-day diet problems predominantly to the food industry, but.....

.....a knowledge of the drivers of food intake, including the metabolic effect of food independent of calorie content is needed to mitigate the risks of misguiding the food industry in how to formulate more healthful food products

In fact, many of the foods utilized on the ultra processed diet (e.g. breads, baked potato chips and apple sauce) and various refined grain products are, from a food science perspective, no more processed than olive oil, dark chocolate, or nut butters

The processing of olives to olive oil removes virtually all the fiber and fully disrupts the natural food structure. Dark chocolate typically contains a dozen or more refined ingredients



Commentary. The Food System. Ultra-processed products

Product reformulation will not improve public health

World Nutrition. Journal of the World Public Health Nutrition Association. Volume 3, Number 9, September

*“Reformulation is not of healthy foods. **It is of inherently unhealthy products.** These are usually identified in dietary guidelines as products to be **consumed only occasionally.** They are made only some what less unhealthy by manipulation of their constituents.”*

Reformulation

Choose better alternatives

High SFA spread



MUFA rich spread



UCD Institute of Food & Health



Probing the role of a specific ultra-processed foods on nutrient intake



Examples of typical ultra-processed products are:

Carbonated drinks

Sweet or savoury packaged snacks

Ice-cream

Chocolate, candies (confectionery)

Mass-produced packaged breads and buns

Margarines and spreads

Cookies (biscuits), pastries, cakes, and cake r

Breakfast 'cereals', 'cereal' and 'energy' bars

Energy' drinks

Milk drinks

Fruit' yoghurts and 'fruit' drinks; cocoa drinks

Meat and chicken extracts and 'instant' sauces

Infant formulas, follow-on milks, other baby products

Pre-prepared pies and pasta and pizza dishes

Poultry and fish 'nuggets' and 'sticks'

Sausages, burgers, hot dogs,

Instant soups, noodles and desserts.

Ultra-processed products



Food Consumption Patterns and Micronutrient Density of Complementary Foods Consumed by Infants Fed Commercially Prepared Baby Foods

Kathleen C. Reidy, DrPH
Regan Lucas Bailey, PhD
Denise M. Deming, PhD
Lynda O'Neill, PhD
B. Thomas Carr, MS
Ruta Lesniasuskas, MS
Wendy Johnson, PhD

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Feeding Infants and Toddlers Study 2008



% of infants in FITS study consuming commercial baby food: fruits, vegetables, dinners

| Age in months | % |
|---------------|----|
| 6 | 78 |
| 7 | 81 |
| 8 | 80 |
| 9 | 71 |
| 10 | 82 |
| 11 | 53 |



Daily intakes vitamins among infants consuming or not consuming commercial non-cereal baby foods

| Vitamin | Consumers of commercial baby food | Non-consumers of commercial baby food |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Vitamin E (mg/d) | 5.5 | 4.6 |
| Vitamin C (mg/d) | 131.0 | 95.8 |
| Retinol eq (ug/d) | 1172 | 696 |
| Riboflavin (mg/d) | 1.4 | 1.4 |
| Thiamin (mg/d) | 1.1 | 1.2 |
| Niacin (mg/d) | 15.9 | 16.7 |
| Vitamin B ₆ (mg/d) | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Folate (mg/d) | 328 | 418 |
| Vitamin B ₁₂ (ug/d) | 2.5 | 3.0 |
| Vitamin D (ug/d) | 1.0 | 1.7 |

Daily intakes minerals among infants consuming or not consuming commercial non-cereal baby foods

| Mineral | Consumers of commercial baby food | Non-consumers of commercial baby food |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Calcium (mg/d) | 672 | 637 |
| Magnesium (mg/d) | 202 | 177 |
| Iron (mg/d) | 33.2 | 27.7 |
| Potassium (mg/d) | 2025 | 1607 |
| Zinc (mg/d) | 7.9 | 8.3 |
| Sodium (mg/d) | 572 | 1192 |

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Glycemic, Insulinemic, and Appetite Responses of Patients With Type 2 Diabetes to Commonly Consumed Breads



Cathy Breen, BSc

Miriam Ryan, PhD

Michael. J. Gibney, PhD

Michelle Corrigan, PhD

Donal O'Shea, MD

Purpose

The purpose of this study was to identify the breads most commonly consumed by adults with type 2 diabetes (T2DM) and then examine the postprandial glycemic, insulinemic, and appetite responses that these breads elicit.





Calcium carbonate, iron, niacin, E472e emulsifier, flour treatment agent



Nothing



Raising agents, sodium Hydrogen carbonate, diphosphates



Calcium carbonate, iron, niacin, E472e emulsifier, flour treatment agent

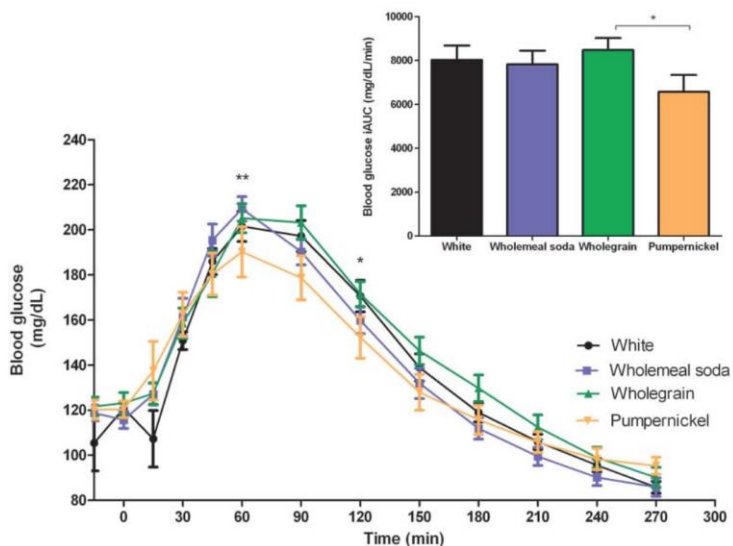


Figure 2. Glucose response curve and incremental area under the curve following consumption of test breads in part 2. * $P < .05$. ** $P < .01$.

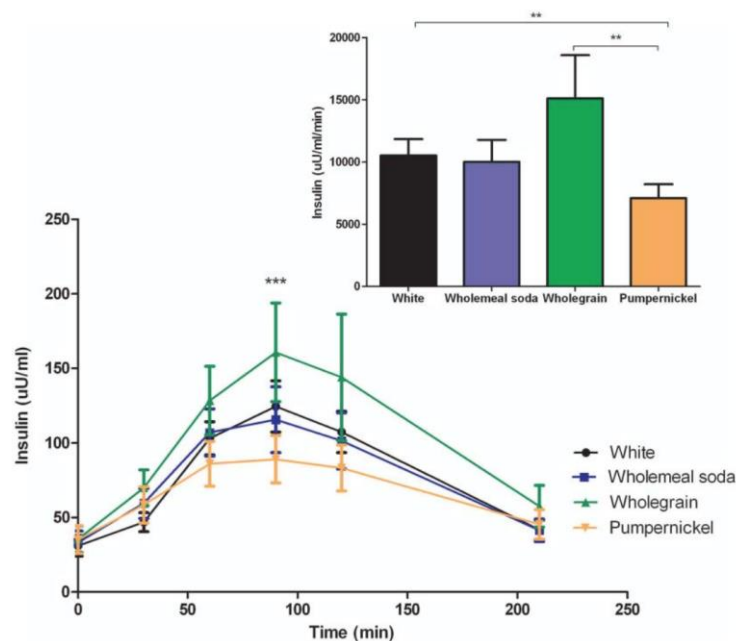


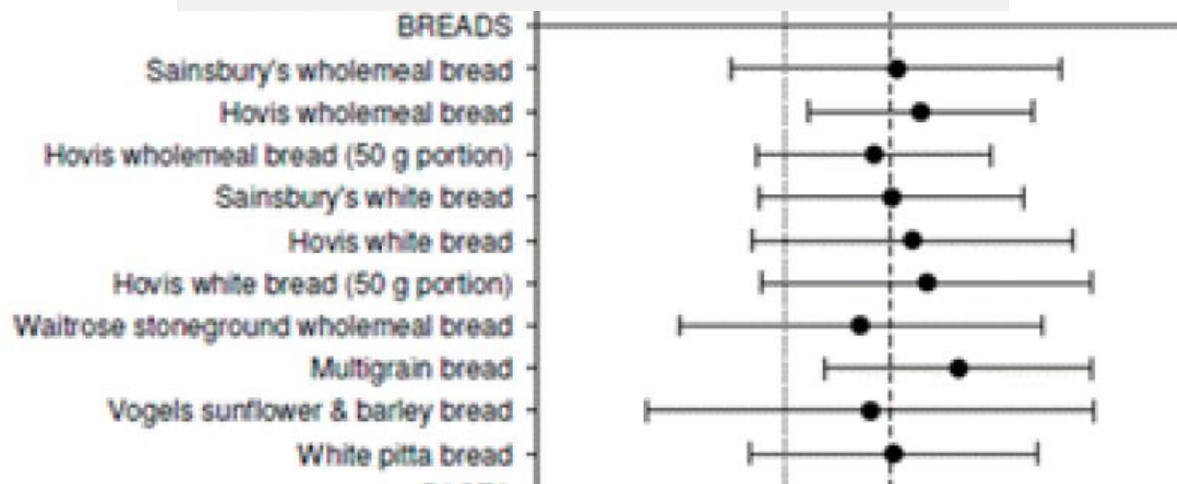
Figure 3. Insulin response curve and incremental area under the curve following consumption of test breads in part 2. * $P < .01$. ** $P < .001$.

Published in final edited form as:

Eur J Clin Nutr. 2008 February ; 62(2): 279–285. doi:10.1038/sj.ejcn.1602723.

Determination of the glycaemic index of various staple carbohydrate-rich foods in the UK diet

Louise M. Aston, Joanna M. Gambell, David M. Lee, Susan P. Bryant, and Susan A. Jebb
MRC Human Nutrition Research Elsie Widdowson Laboratory 120 Fulbourn Road Cambridge
CB1 9NL



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1970

2004

Intake of saturated fats in Ireland

18%
energy

13% of
energy



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Almost all the extensive literature on ultra-processed foods is focused on foods and nutrients

This is at odds with the basic tenet of UPF, that is, processing matters, not foods or nutrients

However, there is not a shred of evidence that there is a link between food additives and chronic disease



RESEARCH

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The share of ultra-processed foods and the overall nutritional quality of diets in the US: evidence from a nationally representative cross-sectional study

Euridice Martínez Steele^{1,2}, Barry M. Popkin³, Boyd Swinburn⁴ and Carlos A. Monteiro^{1,2*}

PDF search for key words

| | Abstract | Introduction | Methods | Results & discussion |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Added sugars | 2 | 1 | 3 | 11 |
| Sodium | 1 | 1 | 2 | 11 |
| Fiber | 3 | 2 | 4 | 10 |
| Saturates | 2 | 2 | 5 | 11 |
| Total fat | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |



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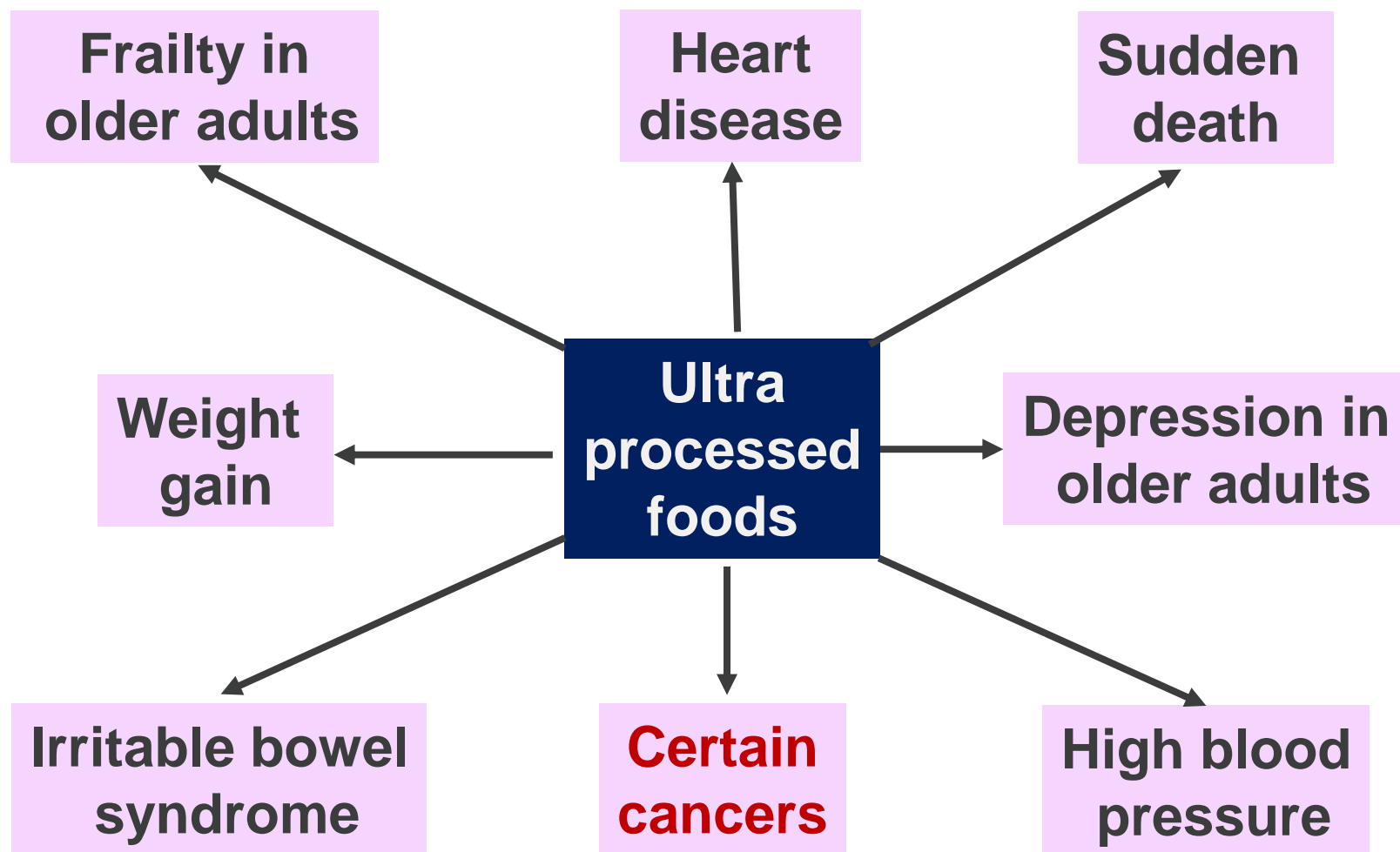
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| | Abstract | Introduction | Methods | Results & discussion |
|---------------------|----------|--------------|----------|----------------------|
| Additives | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Added sugars | 2 | 1 | 3 | 11 |
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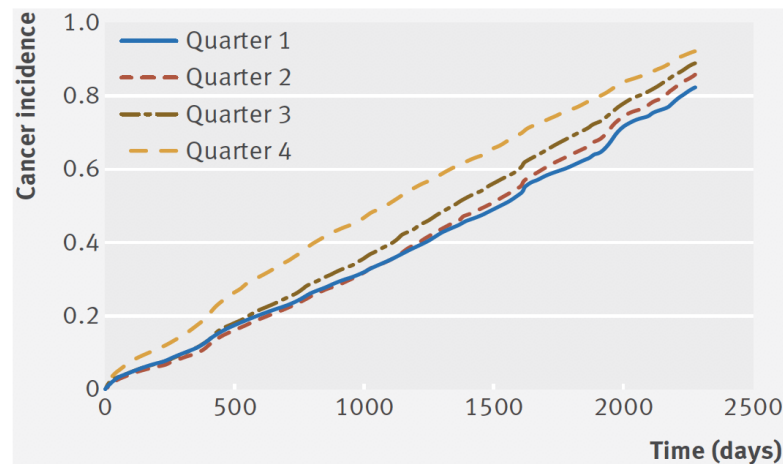


Fig 2 | Cumulative cancer incidence (overall cancer risk) according to quarters of proportion of ultra-processed food in diet

Mediation analyses did not support a strong effect of the “nutritional quality” component in this association, suggesting that other bioactive compounds contained in ultra-processed food may contribute to explain the observed associations.

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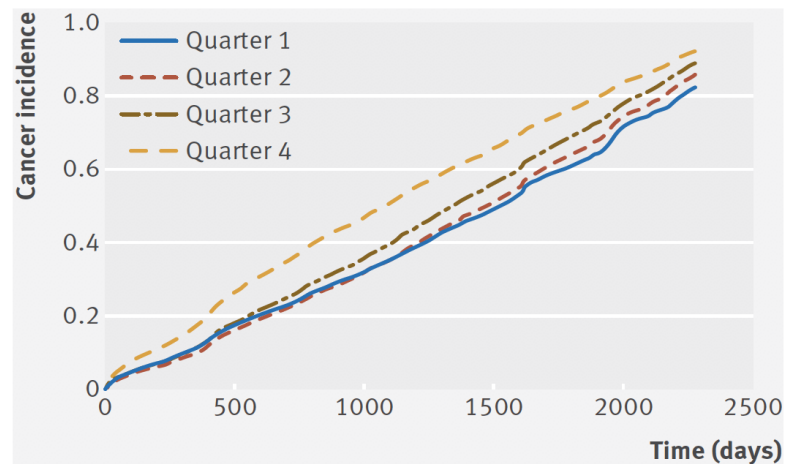


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A second hypothesis concerns the wide range of additives contained in ultra-processed foods.



TiO₂ “as a possible carcinogen”

.... *But EFSA state that “The data provided demonstrate that the additive particles stay embedded even in swollen polar polymers such as polyamide, and do not migrate. Thus, the **additive particles do not give rise to exposure via food and to toxicological concern.***

Although previous experimental studies in animals confirmed the safety of aspartame, their relevance to human health outcomes has been questioned, particularly regarding potential long term carcinogenicity.

*Overall, EFSA concluded that the information available from the **Soffritti** and **Halldorsson** publications **do not give reason to reconsider the previous evaluations** of aspartame or of other food additive sweeteners authorised in the European Union.*



Nitrosamines:EFSA state.....

*“We re-assessed the safety of nitrites and nitrates added to food as part of EFSA’s re-evaluation programme of all food additives authorised in the EU before 2009. Based on the available evidence, **we concluded that there was no need to change previously set safe levels for either substance.**”*

Acrylamide: This was a problem for industry and *remains* a problem in the domestic kitchen

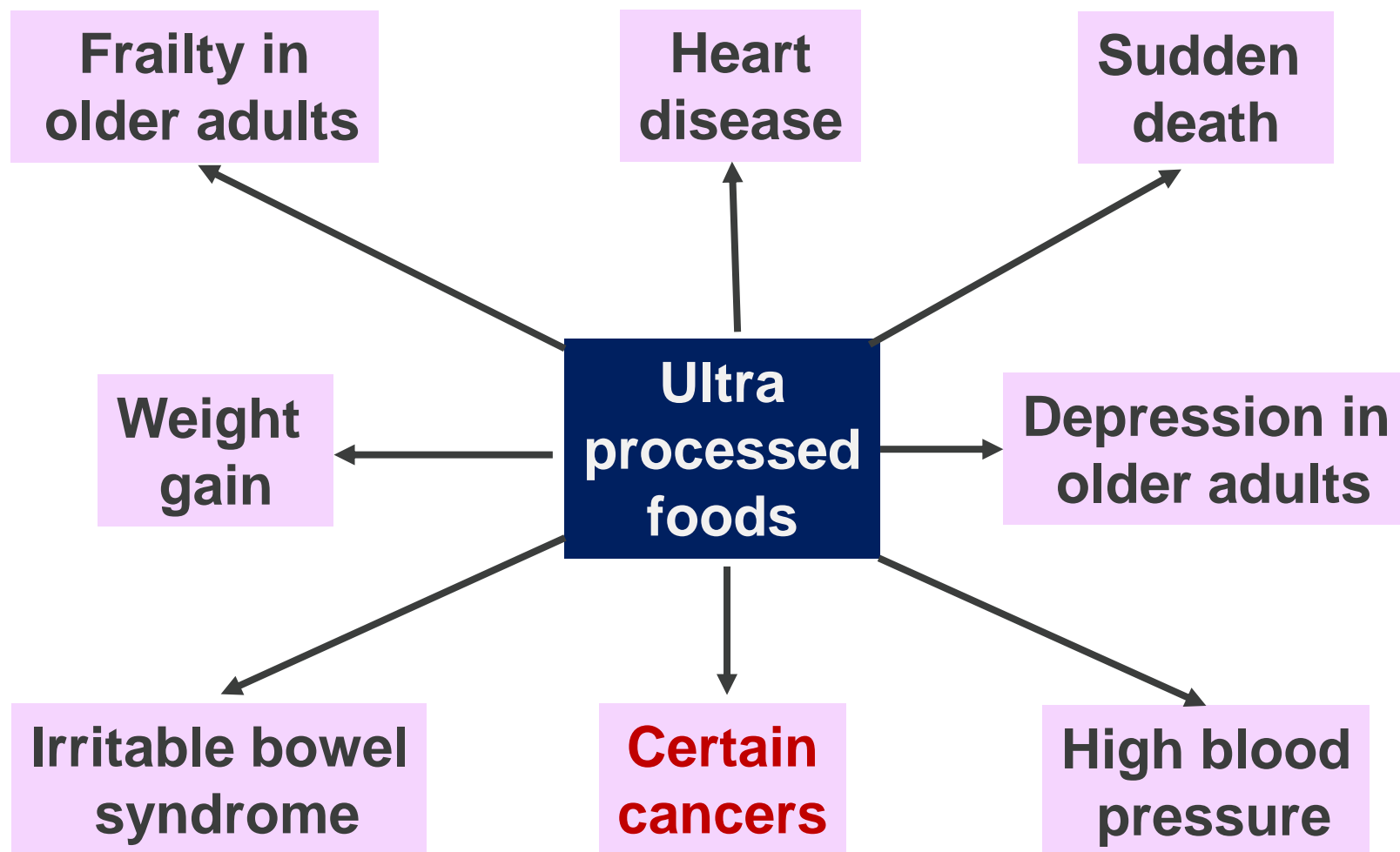


Bisphenol A

Increasing evidence suggests involvement in the development of several non-communicable disease including cancer linked to endocrinal disruptors

*EFSA's comprehensive review of BPA exposure and toxicity **concludes that BPA poses no health risk to consumers of any age group** (including unborn children, infants and adolescents) at current exposure levels*







Porridge and yogurt



Whole meal bread and low fat spread



Tea with low fat milk





Cantucci



Vino Santo



Non-churn ice cream



Cantucci



Vino Santo



Non-churn ice cream



Vanilla is used as a
flavouring enhancer.
Thus they are
ultra-processed according
to the NOVA classification!!!!



Concluding thoughts:

- **There is no clear biological basis to believe that either processing or additives are linked to chronic disease**
- **The NOVA literature does not focus on processing but on nutrients**
- **Creating a large category of foods (UPF), and using that single category in epidemiology is retrograde**
- **Advocating the avoidance of UPF creates many problems for policy makers consumers**
- **Home prepared food is seen as the ideal. We do not live in an ideal society**
- **Non-ultra processed foods are expensive and occasional convenience in dining is an outcome of our busy lifestyle**



