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Food as Medicine



"Let food be thy medicine..." – Hippocrates (400 BC)?

No single definition of Food as Medicine

Prioritising diet in an individual's health plan

Food as Medicine





Nutrition central in many traditional forms of medicine. Role declined in last century. "Food as medicine" challenges conventional Western Medicine





Interdisciplinary collaboration







Behavioural Economist

Sofia Monteiro, PhD

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Medical Biochemist

Kate Larmuth, PhD

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State of the problem

The burden of lifestyle driven diseases





Diabetes: the problem

- World (2021) 537mil people (9.3%)
- SA (2019): 4.58 mil people
 - "unhealthiest country on earth"
 - #1 underlying cause of death in women
- Risk of death 50% higher
- 4x medical cost (to increase 50% 2010 2030)
- Public Sector costs
- Complications heart disease, blindness, kidney failure, lower-extremity amputations

 \rightarrow burden on patients, families, insurers, economy.

→ 67% of SA prediabetic







State of the problem

Diet is a major contributor to the problem!

Ultra-processed foods believed to play a predominant role Insulin Resistance

- Glucose Fuel for our cells
 - Pancreatic hormone Insulin
 - Diabetes = Cells don't respond to Insulins / Not enough Insulin
 - Build up of Glucose = sugary blood
 /Hyperglycemia



State of the problem

Diet is a major contributor to the problem!

Ultra-processed foods believed to play a predominant role Insulin Resistance

- CARBS INSULIN REWARD:
 - Chronic positive energy balance,
 - Total Carbs == HOMA-IR
 - Carbs promote hedonic eating Addiction
 - Carbs significantly increase SNS activity,
 - which chronically ↑BP
 - Muscles (Increased blood Glucose)
 - Liver slows down

Diabetes: Remission is possible

Bariatric surgery

Severe calorie restriction (850 kcal/d or less)

RCTs, meta-analyses, narrative reviews

+ ↑ consumption of healthy fats....

Compared to control diets, low carb diets consistently improve metabolic health. 



20% Protein 70% Fats 10% Carbs





Diabetes: food solutions

Low carb, healthy fats

- ↑ satiety
- ↓ sympathetic nervous system stimulation
- ↑ insulin sensitivity of liver and fat cells
- Ketones alleviate inflammatory processes
- Stop stimulating reward/addictive pathways that Carbohydrates lay down



Real food is medicine Carbohydrates potentially poison





Nudging healthier habits

Continuous Glucose Monitoring

Lifestyle change is a huge challenge

Fingerprick misses "silent killer"

Digital health monitoring technologies >>>> offer innovative solutions?



.

90% of non-diabetics experience glucose spikes

@glucosegoddess

Problem of frequency of feedback



Number of calories says nothing about the glucose spike!





Other lifestyle factors

→ Stress
→ Sleep
→ Physical activity

affect glucose responses to high carb foods





How often would we check glucose if it didn't hurt?



Dunn, Xu, Hayter, & Ajjan, 2018.



SH___.FT FOCUS.

Dunn, Xu, Hayter, & Ajjan, 2018.





Why do we need health coaching?

WHAT'S NEEDED	CONVENTIONAL
Health-oriented	Disease-oriented
Collaborative, patient-centered model	Expert, doctor-centered model
Biochemical individuality	Everyone treated the same way
Cost-effective	Expensive
Relieves symptoms by addressing cause	Suppresses symptoms with drugs
Preventative approach	Early detection of disease
High-touch and high-tech	High-tech

Acute, infectious diseases were the leading cause of death...

...now it's the **slow burn of lifestyle**.

Do we need a different treatment model to address the root cause of the disease burden? **Today things** aren't quite so simple...



Behaviour change specialists as part of a multidisciplinary team





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💹 Lauren Kim Wellness





How can we support T2DM patients to achieve remission and healthy food habits?



In the end, we all have the same goal... It's an ideological empirical question what works.



chesteralex Suffering from obesity, being diabetic I decided to change my life around. My 36 year journey has taken a massive jump in the way I live. It's been tough at time... more

Send message

You did it! Onwards and upwards



Kenilworth Medicross Medical Centre Dr N. Wellington Dr C. Bosch

Funding: Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods German Research Foundation

S. Monteiro, K. Larmuth, D. Wiesen, J. Kroff, & M. Sutter. (in preparation). Technology-assisted behavioural interventions in T2DM

Evidence from the field

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- Randomised controlled trial 95 non-insulin dependent
- 35 non-insuin depen
- Type 2 Diabetics
- 30-65 yrs old
- HbA1c eligible: 6.5-11%





Monteiro and Larmuth et al. (in prep). Technology-assisted behavioural interventions in T2DM





† SH___.FT FOCUS.

dialogues 2022



Food Item	Glycaemic index	Serve size g	How does each food affect blood glucose compared with one 4g teaspoon of table sugar?									
Basmati rice	69	150										
Potato, white, boiled	96	150	9.1									
French Fries baked	64	150	7.5									
Spaghetti White boiled	39	180										
Sweet corn boiled	60	80	4.0									
Frozen peas, boiled	51	80	1.3									
Banana	62	120	5.7									
Apple	39	120	2.3									
Wholemeal Small slice	74	30	3.0 Other foods in the very low									
Broccoli	15	80	0.2 glycaemic range would be chicken, oily fish, almonds,									
Eggs	0	60	0 mushrooms, cheese, meat									

Very lowcarbohydrate <10% carbohydrates 20-50 g/day

+ High healthy fats

Recommendation *in SA:* 45–65% carbohydrates

Oh R, Gilani B, Uppaluri KR. [2021]. Unwin, D, Haslam, D, Livesey, G. [2016]. https://phcuk.org/sugar/



THE GREEN LIST

THE GREEN FOOD LIST IS THE ONLY LIST THAT YOU CAN EAT FROM ON A DAILY BASIS. THESE ARE THE FOODS THAT ARE NUTRITIOUS, LOW IN CARBS PER PORTION AND EXTREMELY HEALTHY. PRACTICING PORTION CONTROL IS STILL IMPORTANT WHEN EATING FROM THIS LIST

THE BANTING POCKET GUIDE QUICK REFERENCE LISTS

For a more extensive list of foods, including the macro nutrient breakdown, please refer to our book The Banting Pocket Guide.

THE ORANGE LIST

THE ORANGE FOOD LIST IS

THE

RFD

LIST

THE BANTING

LISTS

POCKET GUIDE

QUICK REFERENCE

nutrient breakdown, please

FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE REACHED THEIR GOAL WEIGHT AND WANT TO INCLUDE SOME VEGETABLES AND BERRIES ON THIS LIST. OR FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT SENSITIVE TO CARBOHYDRATES AND CAN TOLERATE THESE VEGETABLES AND FRUITS. THIS LIST IS ALSO FINE FOR AN OCCASIONAL SWEET TREAT, BUT ONLY ONCE YOU HAVE REACHED YOUR GOAL WEIGHT.WE HAVE INSERTED THE CARB COUNT HERE SO YOU CAN BE AWARE OF THE HIGHER CARB VALUES:

THE BANTING POCKET GUIDE QUICK REFERENCE LISTS

For a more extensive list of foods, including the macro nutrient breakdown, please refer to our book The Banting Pocket Guide.

ALL PRODUCTS CONTAINING ANY OF THESE INGREDIENTS

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BEVERAGES

Canned coffee - generally containing other ingredients like dextrose, etc Tea with added artificial ingredients Fizzy drinks including diet or lite drinks Cordials, Fruit drinks, Fruit juice Shakes of any kind Energy drinks

ALCOHOL

Beer Ciders Dessert wine Liqueurs & Shooters

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FRUIT AND VEGETABLES Dried fruit – all varieties

Dried fruit – all Legumes Corn Potatoes

SWEETENERS

Agave Aspartame Blackstrap molasses Cane sugar, Beet sugar Castor sugar Coconut sugar, Date sugar Carob syrup, Corn syrup, Maple svrup Dextrose Fructose Glucose Maltitol Saccharin Sorbitol Sucralose Table sugar Tapioca sugar Treacle





THE

Very lowcarbohydrate <10% carbohydrates 20-50 g/day

+ High healthy fats

Recommendation in SA: 45–65% carbohydrates

Oh R, Gilani B, Uppaluri KR. [2021]. Unwin, D, Haslam, D, Livesey, G. [2016]. https://phcuk.org/sugar/



★ SH___.FT FOCUS

Real-time CGM feedback



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	LAST 24 HOURS		
TIME IN TARGET	LAST SCAN	AVERA	GE
29%	6.2 mmal/L	7.4m 腔	mol/L
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Current level, trend, past 8 hours

Average glucose

Time in Target

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When do I spike?



Physician-supervised CGM feedback

5 June 2020 - 18 June 2020 (14	4 Days)			<i>neview</i>
GLUCOSE STATISTICS AND	TARGETS		TIME IN RANGES	
5 June 2020 - 18 June 2020		14 Days		
% Time CGM is Active		95%	Very High	0% (Dmin
Ranges And Targets For	Type 1 or	Type 2 Disbetes	10.0 High	05
Glucose Ranges Target Range 3.9-10.0 mmol/L	Targets % of Readings (TimeDay) Greater than 70% (16h 48min)		10.1 - 13.9 mmol/L	(0m)
Below 3.9 mmol/L	Less than 4% (S8min)		Target Pange	761
Below 3.0 mmol/L	Less than 1% (14min)		3.9 - 10.0 mmoll	(18h 14mi
Above 10.0 mmol/L	Less than 25% (6h)			
Above 13.9 mmol/L	Less than 5% (1h 12min)			
Each 5% Increase in time in range (3.9-10	0.0 mmol/L) is clinically beneficial.		3.9	1.41
Average Glucose		4.2 mmoil.	3.0 - 3.8 mmol/L	(Sh 22mi
Glucose Management Indicate	or (GMI) 5.1% or	32 mmol/mol		
Olyana Variability		24.49/	Very Low	10%

CONTROL







Time in Target & average glucose

When do I spike?





46% of all patients achieved remission



Average glucose

Significant decrease in glucose levels by all groups while wearing the CGM



7 Days of CGM data







Blood Pressure



We expected decreases in BP

For all changes: Coach > Info > Ctrl



Welch t-test independent samples, * p <= 0.05 , ** p <= 0.01, ***: p <= 0.001

What we expected from following the given nutritional advice:







Weight





Significant HbA1c decreases 46 % remission

Baseline	\rightarrow Final
Control	8.3% → 7.1%
Info	8.2% → 7.2%
Coach	8.4% → 6.7%



t-test paired samples, ***: p <= 0.0001, **** p<= 0.00001



Density plots of our "remissions" N=41

Ordinary Least Squares Regression Models (HbA1c)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
	HbA1c post								
HbA1c pre	0.54***	0.43***	0.43***	0.42***	0.090	0.057	0.11	0.10	0.17
	(0.08)	(0.08)	(0.08)	(0.08)	(0.09)	(0.13)	(0.10)	(0.10)	(0.11)
realtime	0.18	0.31	0.31	0.34	0.031		-0.0066	-0.089	-0.023
	(0.26)	(0.22)	(0.23)	(0.23)	(0.18)		(0.18)	(0.20)	(0.20)
coach	-0.64**	-0.51**	-0.50**	-0.53**	-0.27	-0.18	-0.24	-0.15	-0.18
	(0.25)	(0.23)	(0.22)	(0.22)	(0.19)	(0.19)	(0.19)	(0.22)	(0.21)
RED portions / week (post)		0.021***	0.021***	0.020***	0.0057	0.015**	0.0045	0.0019	0.0024
		(0.00)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.00)
ORANGE portions / week (post)			0.0087	0.023	0.077*	0.073	0.076*	0.082*	0.062
			(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.05)	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.04)
GREEN portions / week (post)				-0.0059	-0.0015	-0.0011	-0.00068	-0.00067	-0.0017
				(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Time in High range (CGM)					0.026***	0.025***	0.025***	0.026***	0.024***
					(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.00)	(0.01)	(0.01)
Mean scans per day						-0.024			
						(0.02)			
Triglycerides post							0.14	0.070	0.064
							(0.10)	(0.11)	(0.10)
% weight gain								0.016	0.021
								(0.02)	(0.02)
Male over 50 years									0.36*
									(0.20)
Female under 50 years									0.30
									(0.30)
Female over 50 years									0.55**
									(0.22)
education									-0.16*
									(0.08)
N	89	85	85	85	83	55	83	76	74
R-sq	0.39	0.50	0.50	0.51	0.70	0.70	0.71	0.70	0.75
Standard errors in parentheses.									
* p < 0.10, ** p < 0.05, *** p < 0.01									



THE RED LIST

THE BANTING POCKET GUIDE LISTS

Available online:

ALL PRODUCTS CONTAINING ANY OF THESE INGREDIENTS

Atta (chapatti flour) Breaded or battered foods Cake flour, Chickpea flour Corn flour, Durum (wheat) Malt, Matzo meal, Modified wheat starch Oatmeal, Oat bran, Whole oats Potato starch, Rice flour Semolina, Sorghum, Sov flour Dried beans, Couscous Lentils, Pasta, Polenta Rice, Samp Split peas, Stampkoring Wheat germ, Wheat starch

BEVERAGES

Canned coffee - generally containing other ingredients like dextrose, etc. Tea with added artificial ingredients Fizzy drinks including diet or lite drinks Cordials, Fruit drinks, Fruit juice Shakes of any kind Energy drinks

ALCOHOL

Beer Ciders Dessert wine Liqueurs & Shooters

> DAIRY All low fat/ fat free products Cheese spreads, Processed cheese Canned cream, Dessert cream Coffee creamer Condensed milk Custard Flavoured yoghurt Ice cream Powdered milk, Rice milk, Soy milk

FATS AND OILS All commercial fat spreads/ margarine Flavoured butters Canola oil, Corn oil Cottonseed oil, Grapeseed oil, Soybean oil,Sunflower oil



All commercial sauces and dressings Barbeque sauce, Cook in sauce, Marinades, Mustard sauce, Peri-peri sauce. Pasta sauce. Salad creams and dressings Tomato sauce Sweet sauces

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FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Dried fruit - all varieties Legumes Corn Potatoes

SWEETENERS

Tapioca sugar

Treacle

Agave Aspartame Blackstrap molasses Cane sugar, Beet sugar Castor sugar Coconut sugar, Date sugar Carob syrup, Corn syrup, Maple syrup Dextrose Fructose Glucose Maltitol Saccharin Sorbitol Sucralose Table sugar



NOAKES

thenoakesfoundation.org



★ SH___.FT FOCUS.

Monteiro and Larmuth et al. (in prep). Technology-assisted behavioural interventions in T2DM

OUICK REFERENCE

SAUCES AND DRESSINGS

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RED portions / week (post)		0.021***	0.021***	0.020***	0.0057	0.015**	0.0045	0.0019	0.0024

KEY RESULTS

COACH >>>>> 0.5 lower HbA1c (on average) compared to CONTROL & INFO

RED LIST is "poison" for diabetics

10 additional RED portions per week (e.g. slices of bread) >>> 0.2 higher HbA1c (on average)

Monteiro and Larmuth et al. (in prep). Technology-assisted behavioural interventions in T2DM



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Available online: thenoakesfoundation.org

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Tapioca sugar

Treacle



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Food, real-time CGM (& coach support) as medicine >>>> **2x** More Deprescribing drugs!



* p < 0.10, ** p < 0.05

Note: all patients were advised to limit carbohydrates to 25g/day & avoid RED list foods

Almost everyone who took part **improved** their diabetes status and eating behaviour.

Total study remission - 46 % (HbA1c < 6.5)



Unsupported real-time monitoring does not hasten treatment goals

- INFO GROUP
- Overload
- Anxiety/stress/panic
- Question every reading
- Felt abandoned without CGM



<u>Minimal outpatient model for remission</u> <u>over 3 months</u>

- CONTROL GROUP
- Invisible policeman
- Prepared to be without the CGM



Best model for outpatient treatment is highly supportive

- COACH GROUP
- Nutrition education (to include family too if possible)
- Health coaching
- Real time blood glucose monitoring.



Conclusions

FOOD CAN BE OUR MEDICINE... OR OUR POISON

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Low carb diets are medicine to the sugar intolerant (a large proportion of the world) 67% of all South Africans are prediabetic and potentially addicted!

- Need a new healthcare (wellness) model to address the diabetes burden
- Standard of care doesn't reflect evidence-based "lifestyle" treatment options
- Diabetes doesn't have to be a progressive chronic disease Image:
- CGM can highlight unhealthy food choices & raise awareness of sugar spikes
- CGM is (relatively) affordable if used as a limited (short term) learning tool



Front. Psychiatry, 06 July 2022.https://doi.org/10.3389/f psyt.2022.951376

FOOD FOR THOUGHT





FIGURE A. Changes in Psychotropic Medication.

Changes in the number and/or dosage of psychotropic medications associated with KD intervention are represented in this figure.

The majority (64%) of participants were discharged on less medication

Mental illness



FIGURE B. Change in Clinical Global Impressions Severity Scale (CGI-S) Over Time.

Severity of illness was assessed in 27 of 28 patients using the CGI-S. The CGI-S is rated on a scale of 1 to 7, with 1 indicating normal and 7 indicating extreme illness.

Following the KD intervention, CGI-S had improved in all 27 patients, with 12 of 27 (44%) achieving a CGI-S of 1 (clinical remission)

HEALTH CARE'S CLIMATE FOOTPRINT

HOW THE HEALTH SECTOR CONTRIBUTES TO THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CRISIS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

4.4% ~ 514 coal-fired power plants annual emissions



If the healthcare sector were a country, it would be the 5th largest GHG emitter on the planet



ARUP

Health Care Without Harm Climate-smart health care series Green Paper Number One

Produced in collaboration with Arup September 2019



Fig 1. Time series of life cycle GHG emissions from US health care activities.



Eckelman MJ, Sherman J (2016) Environmental Impacts of the U.S. Health Care System and Effects on Public Health. PLOS ONE 11(6): e0157014. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0157014 https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0157014



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