

WHEY PROTEINS REDUCE APPETITE, STIMULATE ANOREXIGENIC GASTROINTESTINAL PEPTIDES AND IMPROVE GLUCOMETABOLIC HOMEOSTASIS IN YOUNG OBESE WOMEN

Antonello E. Rigamonti¹, Roberto Leoncini², Claudia Casnici³, Ornella Marelli⁴, Alessandra De Col⁵, Sofia Tamini⁵, Elisa Lucchetti⁵, Sabrina Cicolini⁵, Laura Abbruzzese⁵, Silvano G. Cella¹, Alessandro Sartorio⁵

¹University of Milan, Department of Clinical Sciences and Community Health, Milan - Italy, ²University of Siena, Department of Medical Biotechnologies, Siena - Italy, ³Ferdinando Santarelli Foundation, Milan - Italy, ⁴University of Milan, Department of Medical Biotechnologies and Translational Medicine, Milan - Italy, ⁵Istituto Auxologico Italiano, IRCCS, Experimental Laboratory for Auxo-endocrinological Research, Verbania - Italy

Introduction: Proteins, particularly whey proteins, represent the most satiating macronutrient in animals and humans. A dietetic regimen based on proteins-enriched preload before eating might be a strategy to counteract obesity.

Aims and methods: Aim of the present study was to evaluate the effects of an isocaloric drink containing whey proteins or maltodextrins (preload) on appetite (satiety/hunger measured by a visual analogue scale or VAS), glucometabolic control (blood glucose/insulin) and anorexigenic gastrointestinal peptides (circulating levels of pancreatic polypeptide or PP, glucagon-like peptide 1 or GLP-1 and peptide YY or PYY) in a cohort of obese young women (n = 9; age: 18.1 ± 3.0 years; body mass index, BMI: 38.8 ± 4.5 kg/m²). After two and a half hours, they were administered a mixed meal at fixed dose; satiety and hunger were measured by VAS.

Results: Each drink significantly augmented satiety and reduced hunger, effects more evident with whey proteins than maltodextrins. Similarly, there were significant increases in circulating levels of GLP-1 and PYY levels (but not PP) after ingestion of each drink, being these anorexigenic responses higher with whey proteins than maltodextrins. While insulinemia identically increased after each drink, whey proteins induced a lower glycemic response than maltodextrins. No differences in satiety and hunger were found after the meal, presumably due to the late administration of meal test, when the hypophagic effect of whey proteins was disappearing.

Conclusions: Although whey proteins actually reduce appetite, stimulate anorexigenic gastrointestinal peptides and improve glucometabolic homeostasis in young obese women, further additional studies are mandatory to demonstrate their hypophagic effects in obese subjects, when administered as preload before eating.