



65 - METABOLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF FOLLOWING THE HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE DIETARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SPANISH POPULATION: THE AWHS STUDY

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Resumen

Background/Objectives: Emerging approaches aim to protect both human and environmental health. Therefore, we aim to evaluate the association between adherence to the Healthy and Sustainable Dietary Recommendations for the Spanish Population Index (HS-DRSI) and the occurrence of Metabolic Syndrome (MetS), as well as to assess its environmental sustainability.

Methods: A cross-sectional analysis was performed with 2,286 middle-aged men, with no previous cardiovascular disease and belonging to the Aragon Workers Health Study (AWHS). Diet was collected with a 136-item food-frequency questionnaire. Adherence to the recommendation was assessed with the HS-DRSI, which assigns one point for each of 19 food categories. The National Cholesterol Education Programme-Adult Treatment Panel III (NCEP-ATP III) definition was used to define MetS. Logistic regressions were used to estimate the association between adherence to the HS-DRSI and presence of MetS. Environmental assessment was calculated based on the 2016 European database.

Results: Higher adherence to the HS-DRSI was inversely associated with MetS and elevated waist circumference. The odds ratio (OR) of having MetS for participants in the highest (9-13 points) vs. lowest (1-5 points) quartile of adherence to the HS-DRSI was 0.72, 95%CI 0.52-0.99 and the OR of elevated waist circumference was 0.69, 95%CI 0.48-0.99, with consistent results per 1 SD increase (2 points). In addition, green-house gas emissions (GHGE) decreased progressively across adherence quartiles (from 6.10 to 5.70 kg CO₂-eq/day).

Conclusions/Recommendations: In middle-aged men, adherence to the healthy and sustainable dietary recommendations for the Spanish population was associated with a lower risk of MetS and may contribute to lower GHGE production. Adherence to the index was also shown to reduce the risk of elevated waist circumference. These findings suggest that public health policies based on these recommendations could simultaneously promote cardiovascular health from early stages and contribute to environmental protection.

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