What's the Best Weight Loss Diet

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Disclosures – Donna Ryan

- Advisor or Consultant: Novo Nordisk, Pfizer, Real Appeal, Epitomee, Gila Therapeutics, Xeno Bioscience, Calibrate, Naturally Slim Wondr Health, Lilly Advisory, YSOPIA, Altimmune, IFA Celtic, Ro, Scientific Intake, Amgen, Zealand
- Speakers Bureau: Novo Nordisk
- Ownership Interest: Gila Therapeutics, Xeno Bioscience, Epitomee, Calibrate, Roman and Scientific Intake
- Research: SELECT Steering Committee (Novo Nordisk)



AHA/ACC/TOS Guidelines Critial Question 3: What is the best diet for weight loss?

- 17 diets reviewed: including AHA step 1, EASD & ADA, low cal, low carb, low fat, low glycemic index/load, vegan, lacto-ovarian vegetarian, Mediterranean, DASH, Zone-like, Atkins-like and others
- For weight loss of at least one year's duration, there was no one clearly superior dietary approach.

Lacking a superior diet for weight loss, the Obesity Guidelines endorsed behavioral counseling.

The diet must be calorie reduced in order to create an energy deficit

- 1200-1500 kcal/d for women and 1500-1800 kcal/d for men, or
- 500 kcal/d or 750 kcal/d energy deficit from baseline diet

Prescription diets for weight loss should be based on the patient's preferences and health status – there is no 'one diet' for all patients

Behavioral Strategies for Creating Negative Energy Balance Target Biology



Gastroenterology 2017;152:1728–1738

The search for a magic diet to promote weight loss

- Simple, easy to follow instructions
 - No weighing, measuring, monitoring and recording
- Lose weight without restricting delicious foods
 - Macronutrient approaches eliminate whole classes of foods, but allow some foods *ad lib*

- Illustrates how difficult it is for patients to navigate the obesogenic environment
- Distracts from understanding obesity as a disease

• Time restricted eating



1. Heterogeneity of treatment effect

4 Popular Diets Atkins, Zone, WW, Ornish

2. Adherence predicts success



Dietary Adherence Wanes over Time

Mean Self-reported Dietary Adherence by Month for 4 Popular Diets



Adherence – Not Diet - Predicts Success Choice of Strategy Does Not Improve Weight Loss

- 2012 Consistent finding in four meta-analyses, each summarizing 13 to 24 trials: adherence was most strongly associated with weight loss¹⁻⁴
 - 1. Ajala O, et al. Am J Clin Nutr. 2013;97(3):505-516.
 - 2. Wycherley TP, et al. Am J Clin Nutr. 2012;96(6):1281-1298.
 - 3. Hu T, et al. Am J Epidemiol. 2012;176 Suppl 7:S44-54.
 - 4. Bueno NB, et al. Br J Nutr. 2013;110(7):1178-1187
- 2014 Meta-analysis of 48 trials, n = 7,286; conclusion: any diet a patient will adhere to lose weight is best⁵

5. Johnston BC, et al. JAMA. 2014;312(9):923-933.

- 2019 Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of 12 interventions in 9 studies - Choice vs. No choice did not incur weight loss benefit⁶
 - 6. Leavy JM, Clifton PM, Keogh JB. The Role of Choice in Weight Loss Strategies: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. Nutrients. 2018 Aug 21;10(9):1136.

Current Diet Trends 2021

- 39% have followed a specific diet or eating pattern within the past year...Top Diets:
 - Calorie counting (10%)
 - clean eating (9%)
 - Intermittent fasting (8%)
 - ketogenic or high-fat (5%) and low-carb (6%)
- Top motivators for new diets
 - losing weight (39%)
 - protecting long-term health and preventing future health concerns (38%)
 - feeling better and having more energy (38%)
 - improving physical appearance (29%)
 - preventing weight gain (28%)

Trending now... Time Restricted Eating





Sutton et al., Cell Met, 2018

Trending now... Clean Eating



Clean eating... avoids processed foods



Trending, but seems to have plateaued – Ketogenic diet

Ketogenic diet: very hi fat

& low carb; 75% fat, 20% protein, 5% carb

> excludes most grains, legumes, fruits, breads, sweets, pastas and starchy vegetables, and sometimes nuts and seeds

If you limit food choices, you will reduce caloric intake.





What about a personalized approach to diet for weight loss?

Heterogeneity of treatment effects occurs when... there is an interaction between patient characteristics and the treatment delivered



Adapted from Kravitz et al. Milbank Quart 2004;82:661-687

POUNDS Lost: Weight Change Over 2 years among 4 diets of differing macronutrient composition



Sacks, et al. NEJM. 2009;360(9):859-873.

POUNDS LOST: Weight Change from Baseline to 2 years: N=811



Sacks, et al. NEJM. 2009;360(9):859-873.

Baseline factors in POUNDS Lost Predicting Weight Loss

Baseline Factor	Outcome
Older age vs younger age	Greater weight loss
Men vs women	Greater weight loss
Married vs unmarried women	Greater weight loss
White participants vs black participants	Greater weight loss
Free triiodothyronine (FT3), Free thyroxine (FT4) higher levels vs low	Greater weight loss,
Lower levels of craving for carbohydrates/starches vs. high	Greater weight loss
Low Restraint on TFEQ vs high levels	Greater weight loss
Perfluoroalkyl compounds (PFAS) low levels vs. high	Greater weight loss

Post hoc factors in POUNDS Lost Predicting Weight Loss

Post hoc Factor	Outcome
Higher adherence to attendance, monitoring, dietary goals, computer tracking	Greater weight loss
Greater increase in dietary protein intake	Greater weight loss
Greater increase in dietary fiber intake	Greater weight loss

Genetic predictors of weight loss in POUNDS Lost

Gene	SNP	Weight loss/abdominal fat	Treatment group
AMY1-AMY2	rs11185098	Greater weight loss; -5.1 kg for AA vs GG phenotype	All diets
PPM1K	rs1440581	Greater weight loss -8.2 kg for TT vs -5.1 kg for CC genotype	High fat diet
NPY	rs16147	Greater waist circumference decrease; -8.5cm for CC vs -5 cm reduction for TT genotype	High fat diet
NFATC2IP	rs11150675	Greater weight loss; -6.4 kg for A versus -5.3 for non-A allele	High fat diet
FGF21	rs838147	Decreased total fat; -3.7% for CC vs -15% for TT genotype	High carbohydrate diet
IRS1	rs2943641	Greater weight loss; -6.5kg for CC vs -3.7kg for TT genotype	High carbohydrate diet
MTNR1B	rs7227255	Greater weight loss; -11 kg for GG vs 6.5 kg for CC genotype	Low fat diet
TCFL72	rs122553720	Greater weight loss; -9.5 kg for TT vs 6.4 kg for GG genotype	Low fat diet
HNFIA	rs7957197	Greater weight loss-6.1 kg for AA vs -4.5 kg with AT or TT genotype	Low fat diet
LCT	rs4988235	Greater weight loss; -1.3 kg for GG vs -0.4 kg for AA genotype	High protein diet
FTO	rs1558902	Greater weight loss; -8.8 kg for AA vs -4.1 kg for TT genotype	High protein diet

Lacking evidence from clinical trials of personalized approaches to diet prescription for weight loss, what are we to do?

Expert Approaches to Weight Loss Diets

Most experts will

- For diabetes, prediabetes and insulin resistance, advise low carb or low GI approaches.
- Respect patient's choice of diet for weight loss, within bounds of Guidelines.
- Remember, adherence is strongest predictor of weight loss.
- Caloric intake (quantity) is important in weight loss, but dietary quality can have health benefits. The long-term diet should be one that is health-promoting.

Mediterranean Diet Reduces CVD Risk and Total Mortality



Primary Endpoint: Acute MI, Stroke or CVD death

Med Diet + EVOO HR = 0.69 (CI = 0.53-0.91) Med Diet + Nuts HR = 0.72 (CI = 0.54-0.95)



Total Mortality

Med Diet + EVOO HR = 0.690 (CI = 0.69-1.18) Med Diet + Nuts HR = 1.12 (CI = 0.86-1.87)

ARS: Which statement best captures your thoughts about this presentation?

- 1. The speaker is correct. I agree with her.
- 2. The speaker is mostly correct, but I disagree with a few things.
- 3. The speaker is dead wrong. There is a diet that is better than all others to produce weight loss and it is the low carb/low glycemic load diet.
- 4. The speaker is dead wrong. There is a diet that is better than all others to produce weight loss and it is early time restricted feeding diet.
- 5. The speaker is dead wrong. There is a diet that is better than all others to produce weight loss and it is the clean food diet.
- 6. The speaker is dead wrong. There is a diet that is better than all others to produce weight loss and it's not mentioned above.

Thank You!

Methodology

- What statistical analysis to use?
 - ANCOVA models, Pearson correlations, multiple regression models, X²
- Cluster analysis¹
 - Identify a set of predictive factors by looking at responders versus on responders
- Signal Detection²
 - Hierarchical approach to identifying predictors
- Identification by biological response
 - Drug levels, fMRI, physiological marker