

01-5.5

DETERMINANTS OF HIGH FOLATE CONCENTRATION IN THE CANADIAN POPULATION

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^{1,2}C K Colapinto,* ^{3,4}D L O'Connor, ²L Dubois, ^{1,5}M S Tremblay. ¹*Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute, Healthy Active Living and Obesity Research Group, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada;* ²*University of Ottawa Institute of Population Health, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada;* ³*The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario, Canada;* ⁴*University of Toronto, Department of Nutritional Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Toronto, Ontario, Canada;* ⁵*University of Ottawa, Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada*

Introduction Canadians' red blood cell (RBC) folate has shifted towards high concentrations (>1360 nmol/l based on the 97th percentile of Americans post-fortification (NHANES)). Determinants of these high concentrations are poorly understood, though an association has been posited between high intakes of folic acid and adverse health outcomes. This research investigated determinants of high folate concentrations in Canadians.

Methods RBC folate concentrations from the nationally representative Canadian Health Measures Survey were examined in participants aged 6–79 years (N=5248). The population was described using frequencies and percentages. Sociodemographic, behavioural and clinical determinants of high RBC folate concentrations were examined using univariate and separate multiple logistic regression models controlling for age and household income.

Results The greatest proportion of high concentrations occurred in females (42.5%), higher age groups (6–11 years (36.4%), 12–19 years (25.6%), 20–39 years (32.9%), 40–59 years (44.5%), 60–79 years (53.6%)) and higher income quartiles (33.5% (Q1), 37.6% (Q2), 41.6% (Q3), 46.6% (Q4)). Folic acid containing supplement users had a greater prevalence of high concentrations (62.8%) than non-users (37.2%). Prevalence of high concentrations climbed with increasing intake of fruit/vegetables (>3 times per day (46.8%)) and grain products (>3 times per day (45.5%)). Never smokers (39.5%) and former smokers (49.1%) had a greater prevalence of high concentrations than daily smokers (28.4%). Detailed regression results will be presented at the conference.

Conclusion Determinants of high folate concentrations should be considered when refining folic acid supplementation and fortification policies. Future research on the relationship between high folate concentrations and health outcomes is warranted.

01-5.6

FORECASTING DIABETES PREVALENCE: VALIDATION OF A SIMPLE MODEL WITH FEW DATA REQUIREMENTS

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¹M O'Flaherty,* ²J Critchley, ³S Wild, ²N Unwin, ¹S Capewell. ¹*MEDCHAMPS Collaboration, Liverpool, UK;* ²*MEDCHAMPS Collaboration, Newcastle, UK;* ³*University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK*

Introduction Current projections of diabetes prevalence are mostly based on demographic change. Explicitly including trends in obesity and other risk factors could improve the accuracy of the projections and assist in evaluating policy options for prevention.

Methods The model integrates population, obesity and smoking trends to estimate future diabetes prevalence using a Markov approach. Model parameters were derived from the literature, except for diabetes incidence which was estimated using DISMOD from the baseline estimation of diabetes prevalence. We developed a model for the US population (2000–2006), and validated the model outputs (NHANES prevalence and projections using a different model).

Results US Diabetes mellitus prevalence estimated by the model (aged 25+) was 9.7% in 2000–2002 (7.8%–11.6%), increasing to 10.7% (8.63%–12.7%) by 2003–2006. Comparisons of the model results with the observed prevalence in the NHANES survey showed a close fit to the observed estimates (NHANES prevalence 2003–2006

10.3%, 9.3%–11.3%). The forecasts for 2030 was 19.3% (15.3%–23.0%). A different model (Narayan *et al*) for the same period and age group were 20.2%, 18.8%–21.6%. We tested the model for the England and Wales population obtaining a similar performance.

Conclusions This model provides a reasonably close estimate of diabetes prevalence for the USA over the 2000–2006 period, compared with contemporary independent prevalence surveys in the same population and with a different model. Because of its few data requirements, the approach is now being tested in different middle income countries as a potential global diabetes prevalence forecast tool.

1.6 COHORT STUDIES AROUND THE WORLD: METHODOLOGIES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND INTEGRATION TO ADDRESS THE EMERGING GLOBAL EPIDEMIC OF CHRONIC DISEASES

Chair: Prof Donna Spiegelman, USA
Discussant: Prof. David Hunter, USA

01-6.1

THE SHANGHAI WOMEN'S AND MEN'S HEALTH STUDIES

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Xiao-ou Shu.* *Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, USA*

Rapid economic developments accompanied by environmental and lifestyle changes over the last 3 decades in China have resulted in dramatic increases in the incidence of chronic diseases such as cancer and cardiovascular disease. As a result, cancer and cardiovascular disease are two of the leading causes of death in China. This change in disease spectrum presents an enormous challenge to public health practitioners and policy makers in designing cost-efficient strategies for disease prevention. To identify reasons for the increased risk of chronic disease in China and investigate etiologic hypotheses that cannot be adequately evaluated in other populations, we launched the Shanghai Women's Health Study in 1996 and the Shanghai Men's Health Study in 2001. In collaboration with community health workers, the Shanghai Women's Health Study recruited 75 049 women aged 40–70 from 7 communities in urban Shanghai between 1997 and 2000 with an overall response rate of 92%. Using a similar protocol, the Shanghai Men's Health Study recruited 61 500 men aged 40–74 from 8 communities in Shanghai with a response rate of 75% for study participation. Biological samples were collected from the vast majority of study participants. All study participants were interviewed using a structured questionnaire to obtain information related to their usual dietary intake, physical activity, and other lifestyle factors. These two cohorts are being followed through a combination of biennial in-person surveys and record linkage with the Shanghai Cancer Registry and Shanghai Vital Statistics database. In addition to ascertaining health outcomes, we also obtain exposure data as part of the follow-up surveys.

01-6.2

THE ESMAESTRAS STUDY: A LARGE COHORT STUDY AMONG MEXICAN TEACHERS

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I Romieu.* *International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, France & Mexico City, Mexico*

The EsMaestras study is a prospective cohort study which enrolled female teachers 25 years and older from 12 states of Mexico including urban and rural schools. The main objective of the cohort is to evaluate life styles and environmental risk factors related to chronic diseases with major focus on breast and reproductive