The recently discovered SCFA-activated G-coupled protein receptors FFA receptor 2 and FFA receptor 3 are co-localised in l-cells with the anorexigenic ‘ileal brake’ gut hormone peptide YY, and also in adipocytes, with activation stimulating leptin release. Thus, SCFA such as acetate and propionate show promise as a candidate to increase satiety-enhancing properties of food. We therefore postulate SCFA may have a role in appetite regulation and energy homeostasis. SCFA can be delivered either directly within food, or indirectly via the colon by the provision of fermentable non-digestible carbohydrates. A review of studies investigating the effects of oral SCFA ingestion on appetite suggests that while oral SCFA ingestion is associated with enhanced satiety, this may be explained by product palatability rather than a physiological effect of SCFA. Colon-derived SCFA generated during microfloral fermentation have also been suggested to explain satiety-enhancing properties of non-digestible carbohydrates. However, findings are mixed from investigations into the effects of the prebiotic inulin-type fructans on appetite. Overall, data presented in this review do not support a role for SCFA in appetite regulation.


Human subjects are living in an increasingly ‘obesogenic’ environment with easily accessed, energy dense foods and sedentary lifestyles. These ‘obesogenic’ factors can override homeostatic systems resulting in a gradual increase in the population body weight (BW)\(^{(1)}\). The need for strategies to prevent the rise in obesity is therefore becoming increasingly urgent. One strategy is to identify and develop foods that enhance satiety, thereby reducing subsequent energy intake (EI)\(^{(2,3)}\).

SCFA have been suggested to have satiety-enhancing properties, with some researchers suggesting SCFA may explain the inverse association between dietary fibre intake and BW found in some observational studies\(^{(4–16)}\). This review considers the evidence for SCFA having a role in appetite regulation, starting first with the description of SCFA, followed by a discussion of the SCFA-activated receptors FFA receptor 2 (FFA2) and FFA receptor 3 (FFA3), which provide a rationale that SCFA may have a role in energy homeostasis. Finally, studies that have investigated the effects of orally and colonically delivered SCFA on appetite are reviewed.

**SCFA**

SCFA are organic fatty acids generated in the colon when non-digestible carbohydrates (NDC) such as dietary fibre, resistant starch and inulin resist digestion and absorption in the small intestine, instead proceeding to the colon to undergo bacterial fermentation. The SCFA formed comprise between one and seven carbon units, with acetate (two carbon units) being the most predominant anion in the colon, followed by propionate (three carbon units) and then...
butyrate (four carbon units)\(^\text{17,18}\) (shown in Fig. 1), accounting for approximately 90–95% of total colonic SCFA\(^\text{19}\)). Total colonic SCFA concentrations in human subjects are in the range of 60–130 mM; however, relatively low quantities reach the peripheral circulation, with normal blood concentrations in the range of 100–150 μM acetate, 4–5 μM propionate and 1–3 μM butyrate\(^\text{20}\).

In addition to being generated from fermentable NDC, dietary SCFA sources include various foods containing SCFA, particularly foods that have been fermented. Examples include sourdough bread, vinegar and vinegar-containing products such as pickles, and some dairy products such as cheese, butter, crème fresh and soured cream. Due to the volatility of SCFA, SCFA-containing products have a distinctive odour and taste associated with them.

**The SCFA receptors**

In 2003, two orphan G-protein coupled receptors, FFA2 and FFA3 were identified as being activated by SCFA\(^\text{21–23}\). FFA2 and FFA3 were originally known as GPR43 and GPR41, respectively\(^\text{24}\). Initial studies indicate that FFA2 is equally sensitive to activation by propionate, butyrate and acetate, while sensitivity for FFA3 is in the order propionate ≥ butyrate > acetate\(^\text{21–26}\). FFA2 and FFA3 are expressed in a variety of tissues including adipose and the colon\(^\text{21,22,26,27}\).

In adipocytes, in vitro and in vivo evidence from murine models indicate that the activation of FFA3 may mediate leptin expression. In vitro, leptin expression was up-regulated following the treatment of murine adipocytes with SCFA solutions, while oral provision of propionate to mice in vivo led to elevated circulatory leptin concentrations. Propionate was the most potent ligand for FFA3 stimulation, with no significant release of the gut hormone peptide YY (PYY) in enteroendocrine L-cells\(^\text{28–30}\). When administered in vitro to a vascularily infused rat colon lumen, solutions of propionate, butyrate, and not acetate stimulate PYY secretion\(^\text{31}\), with no significant release of the gut hormone glucagon-like protein 1 (GLP-1)\(^\text{32}\). In vivo, luminal administration of SCFA solutions to live rats and large white pigs has been shown to significantly increase subsequent blood PYY concentrations\(^\text{33,34}\) and reduce upper gastrointestinal motility\(^\text{33}\), an effect reproduced with a PYY infusion\(^\text{33}\). As sensitivity to stimulation in vitro is in the order propionate ≥ butyrate > acetate for PYY secretion\(^\text{28–30}\), FFA3 is implicated as the responsible receptor for modulating these effects.

Thus, SCFA may have a role in energy homeostasis via FFA3 activation in adipocytes to stimulate leptin expression\(^\text{26,27}\) and via FFA2 and FFA3 activation in the colonic mucosa to enhance production of the anorexigenic gut hormone PYY\(^\text{28–34}\).

**The role of SCFA in appetite regulation**

As outlined above, the presence of the SCFA-activated receptors FFA2 and FFA3 in adipocytes\(^\text{26,27}\) and co-localised with PYY in the colonic mucosa\(^\text{28–34}\) is suggestive of a role for SCFA in energy homeostasis. The effects of SCFA on appetite have been investigated both by (1) oral provision of SCFA and (2) colonic delivery of SCFA via fermentable NDC such as inulin-type fructans as discussed later.

**The effect of orally delivered SCFA on appetite**

A number of studies investigating the effects of orally ingested SCFA, in particular acetate (delivered as vinegar)\(^\text{35–38}\) and propionate (delivered as sodium (Na) propionate\(^\text{39–41}\), on subsequent satiety have been published (Table 1). These studies will be reviewed below.

**Orally delivered acetate and appetite effects.** The effects of long-term supplementation with apple cider vinegar as a source of acetate on anthropometric measures in human subjects were reported in a recently published three-way parallel study\(^\text{38}\). In this study, healthy obese Japanese volunteers were randomised to the control (n 58, 50 completed), low-dose (n 59, 54 completed) or high-dose (n 58, 51 completed) treatment, consuming a beverage containing 0, 15 or 30 mL apple cider vinegar, respectively (equivalent to 0, 12.5 and 25 mmol acetate) daily for 12 weeks. At the end of the intervention, those in both the low- and high-dose treatment groups had a significantly lower BW, BMI, % body fat, waist and hip circumference, waist:hip ratio, visceral fat area, subcutaneous fat area and TAG concentrations relative to control. Additionally total fat area and systolic blood pressure were significantly lower in the high-dose group relative to control\(^\text{38}\).

This study therefore provides some compelling evidence that vinegar as a source of acetate may influence appetite. The acute effects of vinegar supplementation on appetite and satiety in human subjects have been investigated in a few studies (summarised in Table 1) that will be reviewed later\(^\text{35–38}\).

In an acute four-way crossover study, Ostman et al. provided human volunteers (n 12) bread (containing 50 g carbohydrate) soaked in 0 g (control), 18, 23 and 28 g vinegar (equivalent to 0, 18, 23 and 28 mmol acetic acid) for their breakfast following an overnight fast. They reported a dose–response increase in the area under curve (AUC) for satiety ratings (Fig. 2), with a significantly higher AUC following the 28 g dose relative to control\(^\text{37}\).

The same group also investigated the effects of vinegar and form of wheat grain (refined, milled or wholegrain). In this four-way crossover study, participants (n 15,
Table 1. Summary of human clinical studies investigating the acute effects of oral SCFA supplementation on appetite

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>SCFA and test products</th>
<th>Design</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Effects on appetite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ostman et al. (37)</td>
<td>Acetate: 18, 23 or 28 mmol soaked in white bread</td>
<td>Acute dose–response crossover study</td>
<td>Healthy (n 12)</td>
<td>Dose dependent ↑ in satiety. Satiety AUC significantly ↑ at highest dose relative to control.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Control: white bread</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hlebowicz et al. (35)</td>
<td>Acetate: 28 mmol soaked in white, wholemeal or wholegrain bread</td>
<td>Acute four-way crossover study</td>
<td>Healthy (n 13)</td>
<td>Satiety AUC significantly ↑ for vinegar plus wholegrain compared to other treatments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Control: white bread</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mettler et al. (36)</td>
<td>Acetate: 28 mmol + / – added cinnamon in milk rice pudding and glucose drink</td>
<td>Acute 2 × 2 crossover study</td>
<td>Healthy (n 27)</td>
<td>Satiety incremental AUC did not differ between treatments. Main effect of acetate approaching significance (P = 0.064).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Control: milk rice pudding and glucose drink</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J Darzi, GS Frost and MD Robertson (unpublished results)</td>
<td>Acetate: 25 mmol in unpalatable or more palatable drink alongside standard breakfast</td>
<td>Acute three-way crossover study</td>
<td>Healthy (n 16)</td>
<td>Mean ad libitum EI 3 h postprandially and appetite VAS for hunger, desire to eat and fullness significantly influenced by treatment. Significant correlations between palatability ratings and appetite measures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Control: drink with no added vinegar alongside standard breakfast</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liljeberg et al. (41)</td>
<td>Propionate: 15 mmol (low dose) or 45 mmol (high dose) Na-propionate added to wholemeal bread</td>
<td>Acute six-way crossover study</td>
<td>Healthy (n 11)</td>
<td>Satiety AUC significantly ↑ and acceptability score significantly ↓ with Na-propionate bread (high dose) relative to control.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Control: wholemeal bread</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liljeberg and Bjorck (40)</td>
<td>Propionate: 45 mmol Na-propionate added to wholemeal bread</td>
<td>Acute three-way crossover study</td>
<td>Healthy (n 12)</td>
<td>Satiety AUC significantly ↑ following Na-propionate bread relative to control.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Control: wholemeal bread</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Appetite ratings and ad libitum EI 4 h postprandially not significantly different. Significantly ↑ plasma GLP-1 incremental AUC and with psyllium plus oil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frost et al. (39)</td>
<td>Propionate: 31 mmol Na propionate plus 30 g sunflower oil + / – psyllium viscous fiber in tomato pasta</td>
<td>Acute 2 × 2 way crossover study</td>
<td>Healthy (n 10)</td>
<td>Appetite ratings, ad libitum EI 3 h postprandially and 24 h EI not significantly different between treatments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Control: tomato pasta</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darzi et al. (42)</td>
<td>Propionate: 6 mmol propionate rich sourdough bread jam sandwiches</td>
<td>Acute two-way crossover study</td>
<td>Healthy (n 20)</td>
<td>VAS appetite ratings, ad libitum EI 3 h postprandially and 24 h EI not significantly different between treatments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Control: non-sourdough bread jam sandwiches</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AUC, area under curve; EI, energy intake; VAS, visual analogue scales; GLP-1, glucagon-like peptide 1; ↑, higher; ↓ lower.

Fig. 2. Postprandial satiety score area under curve (AUC) following ingestion of bread (containing 50 g carbohydrate) soaked in 0, 18, 23 and 28 g white wine vinegar, supplying 0, 18, 23 and 28 mmol acetate, respectively. A dose–response increase in the satiety AUC was observed. Values are mean with error bars representing the SEM. Taken from Ostman et al. (37).

Do SCFAs have a role in appetite regulation? 121

13 completed) consumed a test breakfast comprising white, milled grain or wholegrain bread soaked in 28 g vinegar (supplying 28 mmol acetate) compared to white bread without vinegar (control). The postprandial satiety score AUC was significantly higher following wholegrain bread soaked in vinegar relative to the other three treatments, with none of the other treatments altering satiety (35). However, as wholegrain bread without added vinegar was not investigated, it is not possible to conclude whether the increased satiety arose from the wholegrain structure of the bread alone or it was an additive effect of the grain structure with the vinegar.

A two-by-two crossover study by a different group investigated the additive effects of acetic acid (28 mmol) and cinnamon mixed into a glucose drink and milk rice pudding. This study reported the satiety incremental AUC did not significantly differ between treatments, although a main effect of acetic acid approaching significance (P = 0.064) was found (36).

However, none of these previous studies investigated quantitative effects on appetite. In addition, subjective effects on appetite were investigated using a single rating bipolar scale (35,37) or point scale (36), rather than a variety of appetite-related visual analogue scale (VAS) questionnaires.

In our own laboratories, we carried out an acute three-way crossover study with two main objectives: to investigate the acute effects of acetate supplementation on
subjective and quantitative measures of appetite, and to investigate the influence of product palatability. Subjective appetite effects were assessed using a variety of appetite-related VAS questionnaires. Alongside a standard breakfast (jam sandwiches) normal weight unrestrained eaters (n = 16) were provided a drink of sugar-free orange squash containing 25 g vinegar (supplying 25 mmol acetate) in a more palatable (Pal, vinegar divided across two drinks) and unpalatable (Unpal, vinegar in a more concentrated form in one drink) form compared to control (drink with no added vinegar). Palatability ratings for the breakfast were significantly lower for the Unpal treatment compared to both control and Pal.

Vinegar treatment significantly lowered subjective appetite VAS ratings for hunger (P = 0.045) and the desire to eat (P = 0.036) and increased ratings for fullness (P < 0.0001). Mean ad libitum EI of a large pre-weighed homogenous pasta meal provided 3 h postprandially was significantly influenced by vinegar treatment (P = 0.022). The mean intake was lowest with Unpal treatment, followed by Pal, with the highest mean intake occurring with the control treatment, which was significantly higher than with Unpal treatment. Furthermore, a pooled correlation analysis found significant correlations between breakfast palatability ratings and various appetite measures including 24 h VAS AUC and ad libitum EI (J Darzi, GS Frost and MD Robertson, unpublished results). Our findings therefore indicate that while vinegar as a source of acetate may reduce appetite, this effect may be due, at least in part, to palatability effects of the vinegar-containing test products.

**Orally delivered propionate and appetite effects.** Two acute crossover studies from the same group have examined effects on appetite of bread baked with added Na propionate when consumed as part of a mixed meal for breakfast. In the first study, participants (n = 11) attended on six occasions and were provided breakfast made using wholemeal bread (control) or the same bread with added Na propionate (low and high dose), sourdough, lactic acid or Ca lactate. In the second study, participants (n = 12) attended on three occasions and were provided breakfast made using wholemeal bread (control) or the same bread with added Na propionate (high dose only) or lactic acid. The actual dose of Na propionate was not reported by the authors, but is calculated as 15 and 45 mmol for low- and high-dose breads, respectively. In both studies, the addition of Na propionate was reported to increase the postprandial satiety rating AUC in a dose–response manner (Fig. 3(A)), with a significantly higher-satiety AUC reported following the high dose of Na propionate bread relative to control. However, at the same time, the acceptability rating score was reduced by the addition of Na propionate in a dose–response manner (Fig. 3(B)).

The provision of Na propionate is also associated with increased nausea. When volunteers (n = 10) ingested 3 g Na propionate (equivalent to 31 mmol) combined with 30 g sunflower oil (as a source of PUFA) mixed into a pasta meal at breakfast, postprandial nausea ratings were significantly increased. In this study, the postprandial incremental AUC for the appetite gut hormone GLP-1 was significantly increased by Na propionate and PUFA treatment, although subjective appetite ratings and EI of an ad libitum test meal served 4 h postprandially did not differ from the control (pasta with no added Na propionate/PUFA). However, if PUFA was delivered alongside the Na propionate, it was not possible to determine whether the observed effects were attributed to the added PUFA, propionate, or both and if the higher energy content of the Na propionate/PUFA pasta test meals had an effect.

In our own laboratories we carried out an acute two-way crossover study to investigate the effects of providing a palatable propionate-rich sourdough bread compared to an equally palatable and visually identical non-sourdough control bread on subjective and quantitative measures of appetite. Prior sensory evaluation of the bread products determined the sourdough and control breads to be equally acceptable. Healthy, normal weight unrestrained eaters (n = 20) were provided a breakfast comprising jam sandwiches made using the palatable sourdough bread (supplying a total of 60 mmol propionate) or the non-sourdough control bread. In this study, we found that the palatable propionate-rich sourdough bread did not influence appetite, with no significant differences between
and satiety, most likely via mechanisms mediated at the cephalic phase. SCFA palatability explains effects on appetite and/or BMI(4–16). Dietary fibre and other NDC may thereby be associated with increased satiety and increases in food intake following food manipulation(Fig. 4)(44). This provides a rationale for our hypothesis that oral SCFA palatability explains effects on appetite and satiety, most likely via mechanisms mediated at the cephalic phase.

**Colonic delivery of SCFA to investigate appetite effects, focusing on inulin-type fructans**

There is growing evidence to indicate dietary fibre and other NDC may have a role in BW regulation, with a number of studies suggesting the intake of dietary fibre and/or wholegrains is inversely associated with BW and/or BMI(4–16). Dietary fibre and other NDC may therefore potentially have a role in the prevention and treatment of obesity.

Furthermore, various studies have demonstrated dietary fibre may enhance satiety and reduce appetite, thus helping to control subsequent food intake(4–6,10,11,45). However, the mechanisms by which this may occur are not fully understood. It is possible that SCFA generated during colonic fermentation may mediate effects on appetite via interaction with the SCFA-activated receptors FFA2 and FFA3 in colonic enteroendocrine i-cells, and FFA3 in adipocytes to modulate PYY and leptin production, respectively, as discussed earlier.

This review will now focus on a particular group of fermentable NDC, the inulin-type fructans, which as well as being classified as a dietary fibre is also classified as being a prebiotic.

**What are inulin-type fructans?** Inulin-type fructans are linear oligo- and polysaccharides comprising mainly β-(2→1) fructosyl–fructose glycosidic linkages(Fig. 5)(46). As digestive enzymes are specific for α-glycosidic bonds, inulin-type fructans resist enzymatic hydrolysis in the small intestine, and therefore proceed undigested to the colon where they are fermented(47). Inulin-type fructans are considered long chain with a degree of polymerisation (DP) ≥ 10, medium chain with a DP between five and nine and short chain with a DP between two and four. Various inulin-type fructan preparations with differing physical, chemical and physiological properties are available commercially including(47,48):

- High DP inulin (e.g. Inulin HP): Long-chain only inulin-type fructan preparation with a DP ≥ 10 and an average DP of 25;
- Oligofructose (OF) (e.g. Rafitlose P95): Short- and medium-chain preparation with a DP ranging from 2 to 10 and an average DP of 4;
- Mixed inulin-type fructan (e.g. Synergy 1): A mixture of low-, medium- and high-DP inulin-type fructans.

**Inulin-type fructans and effects on appetite.** Initial rodent model studies give evidence that inulin-type fructans may enhance satiety(49–54). Chronic OF supplementation in rodents significantly decreases EI(50,51,54), suppresses BW gain(49,51,52), increases proximal colon GLP-1 (7–36) amide concentrations(49–51,53,54) and gastric-inhibitory polypeptide(53) concentrations, reduces plasma ghrelin concentrations(50) and increases the caecum mass(50,51,53). Most studies examined OF, with few investigating higher DP inulin-type fructans (e.g. Inulin HP)(50,52). Supplementing rats diets with Synergy 1 (mixture of low- and high-DP inulin-type fructans) resulted in significantly suppressed BW gain(52) and fat mass gain(50), reduced EI(50,52), reduced proximal colon GLP-1 (7–36) concentrations(50) and reduced caecum mass(50). Furthermore, supplementation with inulin HP significantly suppressed BW gain and increased caecum mass, but did not influence proximal colon GLP-1 (7–36) concentrations or fat mass gain(50).

Following on from these promising data from animal models, a few human studies have investigated acute (Table 2) and more have investigated chronic (Table 3) effects of supplementing with inulin-type fructans on appetite and/or anthropometrics. A review of these studies now follows.

Three different studies have been published that investigated acute effects of ingesting inulin-type fructans on subsequent appetite (Table 2). Peters et al. provided volunteers (n 21) with a meal replacement bar containing 8 g OF or a non-OF control to be eaten in the free-living setting at breakfast and lunch on day 1 and breakfast only on day 2. No significant effects of treatment were found on satiety ratings or EI at an ad libitum buffet meal provided 4 h postprandially(55).
Table 2. Summary of human clinical studies investigating acute effects of inulin-type fructan supplementation on appetite

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Inulin-type fructan</th>
<th>Design</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Test meals</th>
<th>Effects on appetite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archer et al.</td>
<td>24 g inulin HP</td>
<td>Acute three-way</td>
<td>Healthy (n 33)</td>
<td>Sausage patties in muffin matched for mass, protein and available carbohydrate but not E:</td>
<td>24 h EI significantly lower following inulin compared to control. No significant influence on satiety ratings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peters et al.</td>
<td>2 x 8 g OF</td>
<td>Acute four-way</td>
<td>Healthy (n 21)</td>
<td>Meal replacement bar given twice on day 1 and once on day 2:</td>
<td>Appetite ratings AUC and ad libitum EI 4 h postprandially did not differ between treatments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perrigue et al.</td>
<td>6 g unspecified</td>
<td>Acute six-way</td>
<td>Healthy (n 38)</td>
<td>Test product provided 2 h following standard preload: Low-E yoghurt (control 1), high-E yoghurt (control 2), orange juice (control 3) or no yoghurt/drink (control 4) or 6 g inulin-type fructan in low-E or high-E yoghurt</td>
<td>Fullness ratings significantly higher and ad libitum EI 2 h postprandially significantly lower following yoghurts with added inulin-type fructan compared to control %.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

E, energy; EI, energy intake; OF, oligofructose; AUC, area under curve.

By contrast, Archer and colleagues reported 24 h EI was significantly lowered by supplementation with 24 g inulin HP when supplied to volunteers (n 33) as a fat replacer in a sausage patty, relative to a full-fat patty (control). Satiety ratings were not significantly altered\(^{(56)}\). However, control and inulin-containing sausage patties were not matched for energy in this study.

Similarly, consumption of yoghurt containing 6 g inulin-type fructans (type used not specified) significantly decreased subsequent ad libitum EI in a controlled setting relative to ‘no preload’ (control) in healthy volunteers (n 38)\(^{(57)}\). However, the overall EI including the preload and the ad libitum intake was more than the ‘no preload’ condition.

A larger number of chronic supplementation studies have been published investigating effects on appetite (Table 3), again with variable results and study limitations, as reviewed below.

Let us first take a look at the chronic effects of OF supplementation on subjective and quantitative appetite measures. In a two-way crossover study, Cani and co-workers reported that daily supplementation of healthy volunteers (n 10) with 16 g OF for 2 weeks significantly lowered ad libitum EI at breakfast and lunch and the mean daily EI relative to control (16 g maltodextrin)\(^{(58)}\). Relative to control, OF supplementation also significantly increased satiety ratings after breakfast and dinner, and reduced hunger and prospective consumption ratings following dinner\(^{(58)}\). However, as preload test meals were provided ad libitum rather than being a fixed, standardised preload, the postprandial appetite ratings are difficult to interpret.

Similarly, a recent parallel study reported supplementation of volunteers (n 51) with 14 g Jerusalem Artichoke concentrate (containing OF) daily for 12 weeks reduced rated hunger\(^{(59)}\). However, it was unclear whether effects on hunger were significant.

By contrast, in a two-way parallel study, Parnell and Reimer reported daily supplementation of healthy overweight volunteers (n 48) for 12 weeks with 21 g OF did not significantly alter satiety ratings and EI relative to control (7.89 g maltodextrin), although the PYY AUC was significantly higher\(^{(60)}\). However, this parallel study was not sufficiently powered to assess subjective appetite effects\(^{(61)}\).

Effects of OF supplementation on gut peptide production have also been investigated by Piche and colleagues in patients with gastrooesophageal reflux disease. In a two-way crossover study, participants (n 9) ingested 19.8 g OF or sucrose (control) for 7 d. The postprandial plasma GLP-1 AUC was significantly higher in response to a meal tolerance test following OF supplementation relative to control; however both PYY and cholecystokinin were not significantly influenced by treatment\(^{(62)}\).
Let us now take a look at the effects of mixed inulin-type fructans. In a two-way parallel chronic study, Cani et al. and co-workers asked volunteers to supplement their usual diet with 16 g Synergy-1 (n 5) or 16 g Maltodextrin (control) (n 5) daily for 12 weeks. At the end of the supplementary period volunteers attended a meal tolerance test challenge. The authors reported postprandial subjective appetite ratings did not differ between the two treatments during the meal tolerance test, although the postprandial GLP-1 and PYY response was significantly higher with Synergy-1 treatment (63). However, this study was underpowered and the meal tolerance test was supplemented with added pea fibre, inulin and OF for 2 weeks as their enteral formula (control) or a modified enteral formula containing OF (+21 g OF/7.89 g DM (control)) – Standard formula (control)

In our own laboratories, we carried out an acute three-way crossover study to investigate the effects of providing inulin-type fructans. In a two-way crossover study Whelan and colleagues asked healthy volunteers (n 11) to consume a standard enteral formula (control) or a modified enteral formula with added pea fibre, inulin and OF for 2 weeks as their sole nutrition source (64). Significantly increased daily mean and minimum fullness and minimum satiety ratings were observed when the modified enteral formula was consumed relative to control (64). However, as pea fibre was also included in the active treatment, observed results may not have been solely due to the inulin-type fructans.

Less compelling is anthropometric and food intake data from chronic intervention studies, although these were not the main outcomes of interest for all studies (65–72) except for two (59,60). One study reported daily supplementation with 14 g Jerusalem Artichoke concentrate (containing OF) for 12 weeks significantly reduced BMI and % body fat levels (59), while another reported daily supplementation with 21 g OF significantly reduced BW, fat mass and central fat mass (60). However, none of the other studies found a significant influence of inulin-type fructan supplementation on BW post-intervention (59,65,66,68–72) or on food intake during the intervention (65–68).

In our own laboratories, we carried out an acute three-way crossover study to investigate the effects on subjective and quantitative measures of appetite of providing inulin HP or another NDC L-rhamnose as a component of breakfast and lunch compared to a visually identical control (no NDC) following a 6 d run-in period. L-rhamnose fermentation, both in vitro (73) and in vivo (74). Propionate is the most potent ligand for the SCFA receptor FFA3 and appears to promote leptin expression (56–57) and the production of PYY (28–34) as discussed earlier, providing a

---

**Table 3.** Summary of human clinical studies investigating chronic effects of inulin-type fructan supplementation on appetite

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Inulin type-fructan and protocol</th>
<th>Design</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Effects on appetite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Piche et al. (62)</td>
<td>Supplemented daily for 7 d either: 3 × 6·6 g OF; 3 × 6·6 g sucrose</td>
<td>Chronic two-way crossover</td>
<td>Patients with GERD (n 9)</td>
<td>Significantly ↑ GLP-1 AUC following OF supplementation relative to control with meal tolerance test. No significant changes for PYY and CCK.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cani et al (58)</td>
<td>Supplemented daily for 2 weeks either: 2 × 8 g OF; 2 × 8 g DM (control)</td>
<td>Chronic two-way crossover</td>
<td>Healthy (n 10)</td>
<td>Satiety ratings significantly ↑ following breakfast and dinner, and hunger ratings significantly ↓ following dinner with OF supplementation. Significantly ↓ ad libitum EI at breakfast, lunch and for 24 h period with OF supplementation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whelan et al. (64)</td>
<td>Consumed daily for 2 weeks as sole source of nutrition either: 21 g OF + 8 g DM formula containing added pea fibre, inulin and OF</td>
<td>Chronic two-way crossover</td>
<td>Healthy (n 11)</td>
<td>Significantly ↑ mean and minimum fullness, minimum satiety and mean hourly fullness ratings with fibre formula.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antal et al (59)</td>
<td>Consumed daily for 12 weeks either: 7.89 g DM (control)</td>
<td>Chronic two-way parallel</td>
<td>Healthy obese (n 51)</td>
<td>Hunger ratings ↓ and significantly ↓ BMI and % body fat with artichoke supplementation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cani et al (63)</td>
<td>Supplemented daily for 2 weeks either: 2 × 8 g OF/inulin mixture or low E diet (control)</td>
<td>Chronic two-way parallel</td>
<td>Healthy (n 10)</td>
<td>No differences in satiety ratings or EI between treatments. Significantly ↑ postprandial plasma PYY, GLP-1 and GIP relative to baseline with OF supplementation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pannell and Reimer (60)</td>
<td>Supplemented daily for 12 weeks either: 21 g OF; 7.89 g DM (control)</td>
<td>Chronic two-way parallel</td>
<td>Healthy overweight and obese (n 48)</td>
<td>No differences in satiety ratings between treatments. OF supplementation significantly ↓ 24 h EI, BW, fat mass, central fat mass and postprandial plasma leptin and significantly ↑ postprandial plasma PYY and ghrelin.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GERD, gastrooesophageal reflux disease; ↑ higher; ↓ lower; GLP, glucagon-like peptide; AUC, area under curve; OF, oligofructose; PYY, peptide YY; CCK, cholecystokinin; GIP, gastric-inhibitory polypeptide; BW, body weight.
rationale 1-rhamnose may enhance appetite. Inulin HP was investigated due to the lack of previous data regarding effects on appetite.

During an acute meal challenge, healthy, normal weight unrestrained eaters (n 13) ingested 22.4 g inulin HP or 25.5 g 1-rhamnose as a split dose at a standard breakfast and 180 min later at a standard lunch. We found neither treatment influenced appetite, with no significant differences between treatments for postprandial appetite VAS ratings, ad libitum EI 7 h postprandially, intake during the 24 h period following the breakfast preload nor on the mean daily intake during the run-in period (J Darzi, GS Frost and MD Robertson, unpublished results).

Colonial SCFA and appetite summary. While a number of studies have investigated the influence of supplementation with inulin-type fructans on markers of appetite in human subjects, the results to date are contradictory making it difficult to draw firm conclusions. This is in part due to variable dosages and differing choices of inulin-type fructan supplements.

Conclusion

The presence of the SCFA-activated G-coupled protein receptors, FFAs and FFAs3 in adipocytes and the colonic mucosa provide a rationale that SCFA may influence appetite and energy homeostasis. Initial data from observational studies that found dietary fibre and wholegrain intake is inversely related to BW and/or BMI, and from animal studies that found ingestion of inulin-type fructans on reduced EI and BW, provided initial evidence that colonic-derived SCFA may influence appetite. However, as reviewed in this paper, these findings are not equivocally corroborated in human intervention studies, and our findings from oral SCFA supplementation studies are suggestive that product palatability may explain the observed effects of oral SCFA ingestion on appetite via cephalic-phase-initiated mechanisms. Therefore, in conclusion, the findings from this review do not support a role for SCFA in appetite regulation.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to all the volunteers who participated in our studies. J. D. wrote the paper and had primary responsibility for final content. M. D. R. and G. S. F. were involved in refining the paper. All authors read and approved the final manuscript. The authors declare no conflicts of interest. J. D. was supported by an educational fellowship from Premier Foods.

References

Do SCFA have a role in appetite regulation?

127


