Effects of food form on food intake and postprandial appetite sensations, glucose and endocrine responses, and energy expenditure in resistance trained v. sedentary older adults

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Abstract

Limited research has suggested that the food form of nutritional supplements (FFNS) and resistance training (RT) influence ingestive behaviour and energy balance in older adults. The effects of the FFNS and RT on acute appetitive, endocrine and metabolic responses are not adequately documented. The present study assessed the effects of the FFNS and RT on postprandial appetite sensations (hunger and fullness), endocrine responses (plasma insulin, cholecystokinin, ghrelin and glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1)), metabolism (glucose, energy expenditure and RER) and food intake (satiation) in older adults. On separate days, eighteen sedentary (Sed) and sixteen RT healthy adults (age 62–84 years) consumed 12·5 % of their energy need as an isoenergetic- and macronutrient-matched solid or beverage. Postprandial responses were assessed over 4 h. No RT x FFNS interactions were observed for any parameter. Fasting cholecystokinin was higher in the RT v. Sed group (P < 0·05). RT did not influence fullness, but fullness was higher following the solid v. beverage intake (P < 0·01). Neither RT nor FFNS influenced hunger. Glucose and insulin were higher after the solid v. beverage intake (P < 0·01). Neither RT nor FFNS independently or interactively influenced food intake 2 h after post-nutritional supplements. In conclusion, RT had little influence on ingestive behaviour. The appetitive and endocrine responses suggested the solid-promoted satiety; however, the FFNS did not alter subsequent food intake.

Key words: Beverages: Thermic effect of food: Insulin: Cholecystokinin

Older individuals experience alterations in physical activity, body composition, appetite and food intake that may lead to a dysregulation of energy balance(1). Typically, there is an increase in daily fullness(2) and a tendency to decrease energy consumption(3,4), leading to anorexia of ageing, lower body weight and sarcopenia. However, most older adults over-consume energy relative to their need, resulting in weight gain(1). It is important to investigate exercise- and diet-related strategies that might help older adults effectively manage body weight because 0·7 and 2·4 % of Americans aged 60–69 and 70 + years, respectively, are underweight (BMI < 18·5 kg/m²) and 75·5 and 65·8 % of older persons aged 60–69 and 70 + years are overweight and obese (BMI ≥ 25·0 kg/m²)(5). Furthermore, sarcopenia and obesity cost the USA approximately 18·5(6) and 110·5 billion dollars a year(7) respectively.

Older adults expend less energy than younger adults due to sarcopenia and lower levels of physical activity. One common treatment to combat sarcopenia is resistance training (RT), which increases muscle strength, muscle mass and resting energy expenditure(8,9). Limited research in young men has suggested that acute resistance exercise may reduce hunger and ghrelin concentration(10), but the impact of RT on fasting and postprandial appetite and related hormones has been undocumented in older adults.

RT may have an impact on the dietary response of older adults to nutritional supplementation. When sedentary (Sed), frail, elderly men and women consumed a nutritional...
supplement in beverage form, they compensated for this energy intake by reducing their habitual food intake\textsuperscript{(13)}. Alternatively, when RT individuals consumed the dietary supplement, energy compensation was reduced, leading to increased energy intake. These findings suggest that RT may alter ingestive behaviour in older adults.

Food form is also known to influence energy regulation\textsuperscript{(12, 13)}. Specifically, beverages elicit reduced satiety compared with solid foods in some\textsuperscript{(14–16)} but not all studies\textsuperscript{(17)}. Previous research\textsuperscript{(18)} from our laboratory examined appetite sensations and energy intake following consumption of isoenergetic beverage \textit{v.} solid foods in older adults (age range 50–80 years)\textsuperscript{(18)}. Beverage meal replacement products resulted in greater postprandial hunger and a 13-4\% higher energy intake at the next eating occasion compared with isoenergetic solid meal replacement products\textsuperscript{(18)}. Knowledge regarding the mechanisms explaining the differential food form responses is limited, but alterations of postprandial hormone concentrations (i.e. insulin, ghrelin and cholecystokinin (CCK)) and energy expenditure responses have been posited\textsuperscript{(14, 19, 20)}. In the present study, we critically evaluated the acute effects of isoenergetic- and macronutrient-matched beverage and solid supplements on postprandial appetite sensations, endocrine responses, energy expenditure and satiation in Sed \textit{v.} RT older adults. We hypothesised the postprandial appetite responses (decreased hunger, desire to eat and increased fullness) and endocrine responses (increased glucose, insulin, CCK and decreased ghrelin) would be greater following the solid food form and these differential responses would be enhanced with RT.

### Methods

#### Screening and subjects

Potential participants responded to newspaper advertisements and flyers recruiting RT and Sed individuals. A phone interview was conducted to estimate physical activity patterns and weight stability. Inclusion criteria for all potential subjects were the following: age \(\geq 60\) years; BMI 20–29 kg/m\(^2\); <2 kg weight change during the previous 6 months; consistent physical activity patterns during the previous 6 months; consume breakfast and lunch; non-smoking; clinically normal blood profile; clinically normal heart function based on resting electrocardiogram; no osteoporosis based on self-report; fasting plasma glucose \(<1100\, \text{mg/l}; \) no diabetes mellitus; not taking medications known to influence appetite or metabolism; acceptability of test foods. Further inclusion criteria were to be included in the Sed group: participants could not have engaged in RT in the previous 6 months. The RT group was required to have engaged in RT \(\geq 2\) times/week during the previous 6 months.

Initially, nineteen Sed and seventeen RT subjects were in the study, and eighteen (nine males and nine females) and sixteen (seven males and nine females) completed the study, respectively. The present study was conducted according to the guidelines laid down in the Declaration of Helsinki, and all participants were given verbal and written explanations about the study, provided signed informed consent and received a monetary stipend. The study was approved by the Purdue University Biomedical Institutional Review Board and registered at www.clinicaltrials.gov (NCT00798668).

#### Experimental design and protocol

A randomised, mixed-model, cross-over design study, incorporating food form (solid \textit{v.} beverage) as a within-subject factor and Sed \textit{v.} RT as a between-subject factor, was performed. Each subject participated in 5 d of testing. The first day of testing (baseline testing) was used to assess subject characteristics (Table 1). The randomised second and third days were used to assess the effects of food form on most of the study’s dependent variables (hunger, fullness, desire to eat, glucose, insulin, ghrelin, CCK, glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1), energy expenditure and RER). These days were separated by 48 h. On these days, participants came to the research laboratory after a 12 h overnight fast. A venous catheter was appropriately placed, and appetite sensations, endocrine responses and energy expenditure were measured at specified times (Fig. 1). During the second week of testing, again volunteers came in on two different days separated by at least 48 h after a 12 h overnight fast. These two randomised days were used to assess the effects of food form on satiation.

#### Baseline testing

Height was measured to \(\pm 0.1\) cm using a wall-mounted stadiometer (Holterm Limited, Crymych, Wales, UK). Body weight and body composition were measured by air displacement

### Table 1. Subject characteristics and training status for sedentary and resistance trained men and women\textsuperscript{†}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex (n)</th>
<th>Sedentary Mean ± SE</th>
<th>RT Mean ± SE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>75 ± 2</td>
<td>69* ± 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (kg)</td>
<td>75·4 ± 2·2</td>
<td>66·9* ± 2·7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMI (kg/m(^2))</td>
<td>25·7 ± 0·5</td>
<td>24·0* ± 0·6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body composition Body fat (%)</td>
<td>34·3 ± 2·4</td>
<td>31·8 ± 2·2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body fat (%)</td>
<td>25·7 ± 1·8</td>
<td>21·1 ± 1·6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical activity VAI units/month‡</td>
<td>10·8 ± 3·4</td>
<td>40·0* ± 3·3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h/d†</td>
<td>3·6 ± 0·7</td>
<td>4·6 ± 0·5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kcal/d§</td>
<td>1138 ± 117</td>
<td>1778 ± 138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total maximum strength (kg/kg FFM)¶</td>
<td>6·7 ± 0·3</td>
<td>8·3** ± 0·3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{1} RT, resistance training; VAI, vigorous activity index; FFM, fat-free mass. Mean values were significantly different between the groups: *\(P<0.05\), **\(P<0.001\).

\textsuperscript{†} One-way ANOVA comparing sedentary \textit{v.} RT.

\textsuperscript{‡} Measured from the Yale Physical Activity Questionnaire.

\textsuperscript{§} Measured from the Caltrac\textsuperscript{™} Activity Monitor (Body Flex X-Max).

\textsuperscript{¶} Maximum strength: sum of one-repetition maximum-seated row, seated chest press, leg extension, leg curl and leg press exercises divided by kg of FFM.
plethysmography (Bod Pod; Life Measurement, Inc., Concord, CA, USA)(21). Fat mass and fat-free mass were estimated from body density using the two-compartment Siri equation (22). BMI was calculated as weight divided by height squared (kg/m²). Maximum strength (one-repetition maximum) was assessed on five pieces of resistance exercise equipment (Keiser Sports Health Equipment Company, Fresno, CA, USA). Lower body (leg extension, seated leg curl and leg press), upper body (upper back (seated row) and seated chest press) and total strength were computed to be the sum of these maximal strength values and are reported as total kg lifted divided by kg of fat-free mass.

The Yale Physical Activity Questionnaire was used to estimate hours of habitual physical activity and a vigorous activity index (23). The vigorous activity index was determined by multiplying a frequency score (not at all, 0; 1–3 times/month, 1; 1–2 times/week, 2; 3–4 times/week, 3; 5 + times/week, 4) by a duration score (not applicable, 0; 10–30 min, 1; 31–60 min, 2; 60 + min, 3) and multiplying again by a weighting factor (vigorous, 5; leisurely, 4; moving, 3; standing, 2; sitting, 1) (23). On 3 d (two weekdays and one weekend day), each subject’s energy expenditure as physical activity (kJ/d) was assessed using a Caltrac™ Activity Monitor (Body Flex X-Max, Van Nuys, CA, USA) worn during waking hours (24).

Also during baseline testing, each subject completed a taste test of the nutritional supplements, rating the palatability (pleasantness) of the solid and beverage using a scale from 1 to 9 (1, extremely unpleasant; 9, extremely pleasant).

Nutritional supplement feeding response tests

Each participant’s total energy need was calculated to be 1·5 times their estimated resting energy expenditure (25), which was determined using the sex-specific Harris–Benedict equations (26). Previously, RT has been shown not to increase daily energy requirements (27) compared with Sed older individuals. On study days 2, 3, 4 and 5, each subject consumed test supplements that contained 12·5 % of their total energy need (1·08 (SE 0·03); 0·84–1·42 MJ) in either solid (hardness 1012 g, Texture Analyzer (TA-TX2; Texture Technologies Corporation, Scarsdale, NY, USA) or beverage form (viscosity 21.5 cP s, Brookfield Rheometer (RVDV); Brookfield Corporation, Middleboro, MA, USA) with approximately 89 ml (3 oz) of water for each treatment. After the beverage was consumed, the participants were instructed to rinse the bottle with approximately 89 ml of water and to consume the rinse. By design, the non-commercially available test supplements contained comparable energy and macronutrients (Table 2). A baseline (fasting) blood sample was taken (Table 3) and an appetite questionnaire was completed. At time 0, the subjects began to consume the test supplement simultaneous with the blood draw. The participants were given 15 min to consume each test supplement.

Appetite

At the time points corresponding with each blood draw (Fig. 1), the following appetite-related questions (28) were asked:

Table 2. Total energy and macronutrient composition of solid and beverage treatments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Solid</th>
<th>Beverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Testing supplement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy (MJ)</td>
<td>1·08±0·03</td>
<td>1·08±0·03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (g)</td>
<td>62·8±1·4</td>
<td>292·2±6·4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macronutrient composition</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total energy (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbohydrate</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protein</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fat</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g/Supplement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbohydrate</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fibre</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protein</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fat</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
plasma ghrelin, CCK26–33 and GLP-1 7–36 were analysed by an electrochemiluminescence immunoassay method on the Elecsys 2010 analyser (Roche Diagnostic Systems). Total enzymatic colorimetry, using an oxidase method on a COBAS Integra 400 analyser (Roche Diagnostic Systems, India–Burlingame, CA, USA). All samples were run in duplicate and each individual’s samples were analysed on the same day within the same assay.

**Food intake**

On study days 4 and 5, volunteers were seated 60 min before consuming the test supplements. The protocol was designed to be similar to days 2 and 3. At −50, −40 and −30 min, three baseline appetite questionnaires (see above) were given. Then while receiving the test supplement, the participants completed an appetite questionnaire. Questionnaires were also completed at 15, 30, 60, 90, 120, 150 and 180 min. At 120 min after consuming the supplement, the participants were presented with a bowl of hot oatmeal. They were asked to consume the oatmeal to a ‘comfortable level of fullness’. Each bowl contained rolled oats (120 g), 2 % reduced fat milk (75 g), brown sugar (24 g), salt (1 g) and water (550 g). This represented three commercial servings. The total amounts consumed (weighed to the nearest 0·1 g) were evaluated as an index of satiation.

**Diversionary task**

To minimise bias and not declare the true purpose of the study, several mental diversionary tasks were included in the protocol. They were performed after the appetite questionnaires were completed at −50, 15, 90 and 150 min. At −50 (practice) and 90 min, participants were asked to take eye–hand coordination and memory tests using an online computer game, Escapa. At 90 min, they were given twelve optical illusions and asked to document what was observed first. Finally, at 150 min, participants had 45 s to circle as many of the letter ‘S’ as possible on two pages with a random combination of letters.

**Statistical analyses**

All values are reported as means with their standard errors. For subject characteristic data, differences between the Sed and RT groups were assessed using one-way ANOVA. After adjusting the postprandial responses for the corresponding fasting values (i.e. expressing the data as a change from baseline), area under the curve (AUC) was calculated using the trapezoidal method. After all preliminary calculations, if needed, based on the Shapiro–Wilk test, data were normalised using a log or square root transformation to approximate a normal distribution. Statistical evaluation of subject characteristic data revealed differences between groups for age and BMI (Table 1). Also, since the initiation of this project, a growing body of emerging research has suggested that sex influences appetitive and endocrine responses, especially insulin and ghrelin. Therefore, sex, age and BMI were included in the statistical analyses. Note that a priori hypotheses were not generated based on age, BMI and sex. Repeated measures with

### Table 3. Values for the fasting appetite glucose and endocrine compounds in sedentary (n 18)† and resistance trained (RT, n 16)‡ subjects||

**Parameters** | **Sedentary** | **RT** | **Sedentary** | **RT**
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Fasting appetite sensations||| |
Fullness (AU) | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1
Hunger (AU) | 6 | 1 | 4* | 1
Desire to eat (AU) | 6 | 1 | 4* | 1
Fasting glucose and endocrine values||| |
Glucose (mmol/l) | 5·22 | 0·11 | 5·47 | 0·10
Insulin (µg/l) | 0·28 | 0·05 | 0·30 | 0·06
Ghrelin (µg/l) | 1·98 | 0·21 | 2·36 | 0·35
CCK (µg/l) | 0·62 | 0·08 | 0·71* | 0·08
GLP-1 (µg/l) | 0·31 | 0·03 | 0·31 | 0·04

CCK, cholecystokinin; GLP-1, glucagon-like peptide-1.
† Mean values were significantly different between the groups (P<0·05).
‡ Nine males and nine females.
§ The lower anchor for the 13-point category scale was ‘not at all’ (1) and the upper anchor was ‘extremely’ (13).
|| For statistics, see the Statistical analyses section.

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**Endocrine testing**

During each testing period, eleven blood samples were taken (Fig. 1) and immediately placed into blood collection tubes containing potassium EDTA (Becton, Dickinson and Company, Franklin Lakes, NJ, USA). Tubes were kept on ice until they were centrifuged at 4°C for 15 min at 3000 g. Aliquots of plasma were stored at −80°C until thawed for analyses. Plasma glucose concentration was measured by enzymatic colorimetry, using an oxidase method on a COBAS Integra 400 analyser (Roche Diagnostic Systems, Indianapolis, IN, USA). Plasma insulin concentration was measured by an electrochemiluminescence immunoassay method on the Elecsys 2010 analyser (Roche Diagnostic Systems). Total plasma ghrelin, CCK26–33 and GLP-1 7–36 were analysed through enzyme immunoassay techniques, following the manufacturer’s standard protocol (Phoenix Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Burlingame, CA, USA). All samples were run in duplicate and each individual’s samples were analysed on the same day within the same assay.

**Metabolic testing**

Indirect calorimetry was used to measure resting energy expenditure in the fasting and postprandial states (MedGraphics Cardiopulmonary Diagnostics Systems; MedGraphics Corporation, St Paul, MN, USA). Fasting-state energy expenditure was measured for 30 min before supplement consumption. Following the supplement, postprandial energy expenditure was periodically measured for three time intervals (+15 to +120 min; +150 to +180 min; +210 to +240 min). Non-protein energy expenditure was estimated using the ‘Weir equation’ and non-protein RER was calculated.
Training and food form effects on metabolism

Results

Day 1: subject characteristics/hedonics

Subjects ranged in age from 62 to 84 years. The RT group was younger than the Sed group ($P<0.01$; Table 1) and had lower body weight ($P<0.05$) and BMI ($P<0.05$). Height, body fat percentage and fat-free mass were not different between the groups. Total body strength was higher in the RT v. Sed groups ($P<0.01$). The RT group also had greater energy expenditure due to physical activity ($P<0.01$) and a greater amount of vigorous physical activity ($P<0.01$) compared with the Sed group. Training status of the subjects did not have an impact on palatability, but the solid supplement was more palatable than the beverage (solid 7 (SE 0), beverage 6 (SE 0), $P<0.05$).

Days 2 and 3: food form and appetitive, endocrine and metabolic responses

Appetite. Baseline appetite values are shown in Table 3. The changes in appetite sensations during the 4 h period are shown in Fig. 2 and Table 4. No training status x food form interactions were observed for the appetitive responses. Postprandial fullness AUC was not different with regard to training status, but was higher in the solid v. beverage treatment (Fig. 2(a), $P<0.01$). No differences in postprandial hunger or desire-to-eat AUC were observed with respect to training status or food form (Fig. 2(B) and 2(C)).

Endocrine testing. The fasting concentrations of glucose and hormones are shown in Table 3. The RT group had a higher fasting plasma CCK concentration ($P<0.05$). The changes in glucose and endocrine responses during the 4 h period are shown in Fig. 3 (a)–(c). No training status x food form interactions were observed with postprandial glucose or endocrine responses. No training status differences were seen with postprandial ghrelin or insulin (Table 4). Postprandial ghrelin and insulin were higher following the solid v. beverage test supplement ($P<0.01$ and $<0.01$, respectively). No difference in postprandial ghrelin was observed with training status or food form. The CCK concentration over the 4 h period was elevated in the RT v. Sed individuals ($P<0.01$) and higher following the solid v. beverage test supplement ($P<0.05$). Postprandial GLP-1 AUC did not differ between the training status groups or food form stimuli.

Metabolic testing. No training status x food form interactions were observed with postprandial energy expenditure or RER responses. Postprandial energy expenditure over the 4 h period was not affected by training status or food form (data not shown; RT 33.22 (SE 27.61) kJ/min x 240 min (7.94 (SE 6.60) kcal/min x 240 min) v. Sed 43.63 (SE 26.56)...

![Graph](image)

Fig. 2. Appetitive sensations and plasma glucose and endocrine responses for the sedentary and resistance trained (RT) males and females after beverage and solid supplement consumption. Values are means for eighteen sedentary and sixteen RT subjects for appetitive sensations and eighteen sedentary and fifteen RT subjects for glucose and endocrine responses, with standard errors represented by vertical bars. (a) RT status did not influence postprandial fullness. Postprandial fullness was lower after the solid supplement (218 (SE 94) arbitrary units (AU) v. 475 (SE 96)) compared with the Sed group. (b) No RT status or food form differences were seen with hunger. (c) No RT status or food form differences were seen with desire to eat.
the present study compared the appetitive, metabolic and endocrine responses between RT and Sed older individuals following the consumption of energy- and macronutrient-matched beverage and solid nutritional supplements. Contrary to our hypothesis, RT did not influence postprandial appetitive, metabolic or endocrine responses to food form (i.e. there was no RT status × food form interactions). However, the RT group had reduced fasting hunger and desire to eat and increased fasting CCK. The findings that the nutritional supplement in beverage form elicited lower fullness along with decreased glucose, insulin and CCK responses compared with the solid food form coincides with most(14–16,38,39) but not all(17) published research indicating that beverages elicit weaker satiety sensations than solid foods. However, in contrast to our hypothesis, the findings also suggest no differential food form effect over 4 h on hunger, desire to eat or GLP-1. Recently, Mourao et al.(38) also suggested that solid food form resulted in lower postprandial feelings of fullness compared with beverages but did not affect feelings of hunger. The findings that food form affected fullness but not hunger are plausible since these are different dimensions of appetite (i.e. previously CCK has been shown to influence postprandial energy expenditure contrasts with the report that postprandial energy expenditure was approximately 85 % higher when young men consumed a 2·6MJ (approximately 615 kcal) meal as whole foods (solid–liquid), compared with when the same food items were homogenised with water and
consumed as a viscous suspension. Both of these studies contrast with the observation that postprandial energy expenditure was 54% higher after eight healthy, normal-weight young men consumed a 2·1 MJ (approximately 500 kcal) solid meal compared with a liquid meal of similar macronutrient composition. Furthermore, the interpretation of these disparate results is complicated by multifarious factors, including energy content and macronutrient distribution of the test meals; glycaemic and insulinaemic responses; gastrointestinal transit time and absorption; and subjects’ sex and age. Peracchi et al. did not evaluate RER. In the present study, RER was lower after solid consumption, suggesting higher fat oxidation, whereas beverage consumption resulted in higher carbohydrate oxidation and thus lower fat oxidation.

Fig. 3. Plasma glucose and endocrine responses for the sedentary and resistance trained (RT) males and females after beverage and solid supplement consumption. Values are means for eighteen sedentary and fifteen RT subjects, with standard errors represented by vertical bars. (a) RT status did not affect plasma glucose. Beverages decreased plasma glucose area under the curve (AUC) v. solids (2660 (se 2400) v. 5030 (se 2920) mg/l × 240 min; P<0.01). (b) No training status effects were observed with plasma insulin. Beverages decreased plasma insulin AUC v. solids (12978 (se 1244) v. 19522 (se 1897) pmol/l × 240 min; P<0.001). (c) No training status or food form differences were observed with ghrelin. (d) Training increased cholecystokinin (CCK) AUC v. sedentary (28.97 (se 12.70) v. 12.16 (se 7.73) ng/ml × 240 min; P<0.01) and beverages decreased CCK levels compared with solids (6.19 (se 8.91) v. 33.42 (se 8.86) ng/ml × 240 min; P<0.05). (e) RT status and food form did not affect glucagon-like peptide-1 AUC.

Solid (sedentary); beverage (sedentary).
The higher postprandial glucose, insulin and CCK AUC following the solid v. beverage nutritional supplement might be the result of increased (slower) gastric transit time. Specifically, solid foods appear to elicit a slower gastrointestinal transit time than beverages (47–49), which may result in a different absorption profile. Within physiological ranges, higher CCK and GLP-1 inhibit gastric emptying (30,51). Our data follow this pattern since solids elicited a greater CCK response than beverages. GLP-1 secretion did not vary between solid and beverage test supplements. Previous research provided mixed results regarding gastrointestinal transit time and ageing (32–35) and suggested that, in younger individuals, beverages have faster gastric emptying time (36,57) and orocecal transit time than solids (36).

RT increases fat-free mass due to muscle hypertrophy in older adults (39), and fat-free mass and appendicular muscle mass were shown to be positively correlated with fasting ghrelin in healthy younger, older and elderly subjects (30–37). In contrast to these findings, our RT and Sed subjects did not exhibit a significant correlation between fat-free mass and ghrelin. Tai et al. (36) studied adults of all ages, 22–82 years, while the present study and Bertoli et al. (37) studied older adults. The 60-year age range by Tai et al. may have resulted in a broader distribution of data contributing to a significant correlation. Differences in the measurement of fat-free mass might also have contributed to the apparently disparate findings among studies. Tai and Bertoli et al. measured appendicular muscle mass using dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (36,37), while the present study measured whole-body fat-free mass using plethysmography. Appendicular muscle mass is a strong predictor of fasting ghrelin concentration (30,37). This parameter was not measured in the present study.

One of the strengths of the present study was the recruitment of older people who habitually performed RT. Currently, approximately 11% of adults aged 65 years and older in the USA (60) engage in this mode of exercise because it is encouraged for older people to retain and enhance muscle mass, strength, physical function and health indices associated with the metabolic syndrome. The 1.7 kg/m² BMI difference between the RT and Sed groups may be considered a weakness, but this subtle difference was accounted for statistically. The appetite ratings appear relatively low for the fasted state, which may be due to the use of the equal interval appetite scale (compared with the labelled magnitude scale) (61). Also, appetite questionnaires were examined across groups (between subject) for RT. It is not possible to determine whether all subjects had similar responses at the various intensities (62,63) so caution is warranted when interpreting these results. Lastly, not matching the beverage and solid nutritional supplements for weight or volume might also be considered a weakness. However, we chose to administer the products comparably with how they are consumed commercially. It is perhaps important to note that while the volume of the beverage was greater than the solid, the appetitive responses were consistent with lower satiety.

Conclusions

Findings from the present study suggest that RT and food form independently, but not synergistically, affect appetitive, metabolic or endocrine responses in older adults. However, the RT effect was limited to fasting and postprandial CCK. None of the results suggest that the beverage was more satiating than the solid. Some, but not all, endocrine responses found the solid to be more satiating than the beverage. The differential glucose, insulin, ghrelin and CCK responses between supplement treatments implicate food form as an important factor influencing energy homeostasis and indicate that energy- and macronutrient-matched nutritional supplements in the solid v. beverage form are not equivalent. Although the beverage supplement altered appetitive, endocrine and metabolic responses, the beverage food form did not alter subsequent food intake in this acute laboratory setting. RT and food form should be considered when recommending a weight management strategy to older adults, although they may not affect dietary energy intake.

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