

**Carnosine reduction of AGEs (CML) formation during digestion of meat (#157)**

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**Introduction**

Red meat consumption, in spite of offering a high density of important nutrients, has been associated with increased risk of developing a range of chronic diseases. The advanced glycation end products (AGEs) formed in vivo [1-2] and potentially also those derived from the meat [1,3] have been reported to contribute to the development of these diseases [1,3]. Although further validation is warranted for the dietary AGEs contribution to consumer’s health [4], it was recently suggested that AGEs could be formed directly in the gastro intestinal tract (GIT) [5], but supporting data are warranted. Carnosine ( -alanyl-L-histidine), a meat dipeptide possessing multiple properties, including antiglycation, is recognized for its capacity to inhibit AGEs formation in biological tissues [2,6]. However, compared to the experimental use of carnosine supplement, very few studies have involved carnosine in its meat matrix. The pro-oxidative environment of the GIT can contribute to the oxidation of meat components during digestion leading in turn to potential health implications [7]. Therefore, assessing the assumptive AGEs formation in the GIT and their potential *in situ* inhibition by carnosine from meat could shed a new light on the health attributes of meat.

**Methods**

Fresh ground pork *longissimus* muscle was prepared as per Table 1. *In vitro* digestion (salivary, gastric, and duodenal phases) was conducted on cooked meat based on Van Hecke et al. [8]. Digests from each phase were analyzed for N(epsilon)-(carboxymethyl)lysine (CML), a common AGEs maker [3], with the OxiSelect™ CML competitive ELISA kit (Cell Biolabs, Inc, San Diego, USA). Data were analyzed by the MIXED procedure of SAS version 9.4 (SAS, 2002-2012; SAS Institute Inc., Cary, USA).Table 1. Preparation of meat samples

Low Carnosine (LCar=309.8mg/100g longissimus muscle)*		High Carnosine (HCar=600.0mg/100g longissimus muscle)**	
Low Fat (LF=1.3%)*	High Fat (HF=10.0%)**	Low Fat (LF=1.3%)*	High Fat (HF=10.0%)**

\* intrinsic levels of carnosine and fat in *longissimus* muscle, \*\*targeted levels of carnosine and fat (increased).

**Results**

Table 2 shows a clear increase in CML during the digestion of meat irrespective of treatments suggesting an overall increase in AGEs formation. Statistical effects of either increased fat content or carnosine level were obtained in each of the salivary and duodenal phase in line with their respective

enhancing or reducing effect on CML. However, it is the interaction between carnosine and fat content in the saliva (P < 0.0001) and duodenal phase (P=0.0112) that shows the inhibition of AGEs formation by meat carnosine in the GIT. Although high fat content enhanced CML formation, increasing carnosine level in the meat from HF groups was clearly effective in decreasing the CML level compared to that of the LCar-HF group. In the gastric phase, the trend for decreased CML in the HCar-LF group only (P = 0.0505), compared to the other treatments, also supports the carnosine reduction of AGEs (CML) formation in the GIT. Table 2. CML levels

Phase	LCar		HCar		P Values		
	HF	LF	HF	Car	Fat	Car*Fat	LF
Salivary	18.06	46.98	15.75	13.89	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001
Gastric	113.18	111.60	69.45	114.64	.0857	.0668	.0505
Duodenal	733.90	1281.37	669.16	889.31	.0009	<.0001	.0112

Unit: ng/g meat; Car: carnosine.

**Conclusion**

This study shows that AGEs formation as CML occurred during the digestion of meat relative to its fat content. However, the significant reduction of CML by carnosine, particularly in the duodenum where CML formation was the most prevalent and potentially available for absorption, bring forward a potentially important role of carnosine for reducing AGEs formation in the GIT.

**References**

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## Notes