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Nutritional Metabolomics – Object specific lipoprotein profiles and fat boosting

Mette Skau Mikkelsen a†, Francesco Savorani a†, Morten A. Rasmussen a, Birthe M. Jespersen a, Mette Kristensen b and Søren B. Engelsen a

*Dept. Food Science - Quality & Technology, b Dept. Nutrition, Exercise and Sports
†Presenting author. E-mail: Mette - skau@life.ku.dk; Francesco – frsa@life.ku.dk

Nutritional metabolomics
Nutritional metabolomics seeks to relate the intake of a particular dietary component to specific metabolic fingerprints.

The workflow of a nutritional metabolomics study involves hypothesis, experimental design, sampling of biofluids, the analytical platform, the sample spectra, data preprocessing, the multivariate data analysis and last but not least the biological interpretation.

Motivation
By using nutritional metabolomics techniques, it may be possible to detect additional nutritional responses to those found with the traditional biomarkers.

In this study, NMR spectroscopy in combination with multivariate data analysis is applied to investigate the full blood metabolic effects of daily supplementation of mixed linkage β-glucans from oat and barley.

Both targeted and explorative metabolomics approaches are used.

1H NMR spectroscopy
Proton nuclear magnetic resonance profiling of blood plasma reveals hundreds of small metabolites.

Assignment of the spectra is made according to previous investigations with the most important resonances for this study being the broad signals from the CH₂ and CH₃ protons in the lipoproteins (VLDL and LDL) at 0.9 and 1.3 ppm.

Multivariate data analysis
The complexity of metabolomics data makes interpretation complicated.

Multivariate data analysis can decompose data into simpler and more interpretable structures.

Principal component analysis (PCA) on plasma NMR spectra demonstrate that the main variance among samples is due to subject specific metabolomes.

Conclusions
No significant blood metabolic exposure and effect markers were identified for intake of β-glucans from oat and barley as studied by targeted metabolomics.

Explorative metabolomics revealed the existence of subject unique lipoprotein profiles, which especially are dependent on gender and diet.

This leaves a potential for improvement of design in future nutritional metabolomics studies.

References

Lipoprotein profiles
The second most influential variation in the data is due to gender and characteristic lipoprotein profiles are found for male and female samples.

Fat boosting
Outlier samples caused by high fat diets show extreme lipoprotein signals as compared to normal samples.