

J Nutr 1978 Apr;108(4):630-9 // Kelley JJ, Tsai AC.

EFFECT OF PECTIN, GUM ARABIC AND AGAR ON CHOLESTEROL ABSORPTION, SYNTHESIS, AND TURNOVER IN RATS.

A series of five experiments was conducted to determine the effect of pectin, gum arabic and agar (5%) on cholesterol absorption, biosynthesis and turnover in rats. In the study of cholesterol absorption, a tracer dose of labeled cholesterol was included in the last meal. The rats were killed 12 hours later. The proportion of the labeled cholesterol recovered in the whole body was used as an estimation of the efficiency of absorption of dietary cholesterol. Cholesterol biosynthesis was estimated by determining the activity of labeled digitonin-precipitable sterols biosynthesized from labeled glucose which was included in a test meal. In turnover studies, rats were injected intravenously with labeled cholesterol using serum as a vehicle, and the activity of

labeled cholesterol in tissues was determined after various time intervals. All three complex carbohydrates decreased cholesterol absorption and pectin had the greatest effect. Pectin and gum arabic increased cholesterol biosynthesis in rats fed a cholesterolcontaining diet, but had no effect in a cholesterol-free diet. Pectin slightly increased the turnover of cholesterol, but gum arabic and agar had no effect. This work supports the hypothesis that pectin lowers cholesterol levels by interfering with cholesterol absorption and by increasing cholesterol turnover. The study also suggests that complex carbohydrates differ in their effects on cholesterol metabolism. The reason for these differences remains to be determined.

Br J Nutr 1982 Jul;48(1):97-110 // Frape DL, Wayman BJ, Tuck MG, Jones E.

EFFECTS OF GUM ARABIC, WHEAT OFFAL AND VARIOUS OF ITS FRACTIONS ON THE METABOLISM OF 14C-LABELLED AFLATOXIN B1 IN THE MALE WEANLING RAT.

1. Male weanling rats were given for extended periods diets containing gum arabic or wheat offal or various offal fractions. The fractions included two lipid fractions, a watersoluble extract and a modified-acid-detergent (MAD)-fibre extract. The diets contained either low concentrations of aflatoxin B1 (induced rats) or were free from this source of aflatoxin (non-induced rats). The distribution of 14C was then studied after the rats received 14C-labelled aflatoxin B1 in their feed. Blood plasma concentrations of triglycerides, and total cholesterol were also measured. 2. Gum arabic and wheat offal accelerated the rate of passage of 14C through the small intestine and wheat offal very considerably decreased retention time in the large intestine. Both fibre sources increased faecal bulk. However, only wheat offal decreased liver and urinary accumulation of 14C and the effect could be explained entirely by the MAD-fibre fraction of wheat offal. 3. The possible induction of either microsomal enzymes unrelated to the production of mutagenic aflatoxin

metabolites, or of extramicrosomal enzymes is discussed; but it is concluded that the main effect brought about by wheat offal on the toxicity and carcinogenicity of aflatoxin can be attributed to a direct influence of the MAD fibre fraction of wheat offal on the intestinal absorption of aflatoxin B1. 4. The relevance of these conclusions to drug safety studies is discussed, because comparable studies may yield differing results, 3: The possible induction of either microsomal enzymes unrelated to the production of mutagenic aflatoxin metabolites, or of extramicrosomal enzymes is discussed; but it is concluded that the main effect brought about by wheat offal on the toxicity and carcinogenicity of aflatoxin can be attributed to a direct influence of the MAD fibre fraction of wheat offal on the intestinal absorption of aflatoxin B1. 4. The relevance of these conclusions to drug safety studies is discussed, because comparable studies may yield differing results, despite a use of diets having the same nutrient composition but differing ingredient composition.

J Am Coll Nutr 1993 Apr;12(2):147-54 // Jensen CD, Spiller GA, Gates JE, Miller AF, Whittam JH.

THE EFFECT OF ACACIA GUM AND A WATER-SOLUBLE DIETARY FIBER MIXTURE ON BLOOD LIPIDS IN HUMANS.

Shaklee Health Sciences Department, Shaklee US, Inc. San Francisco, CA 94111. Water-soluble dietary fibers (WSDF) are generally thought to lower cholesterol. This study compared the cholesterol-lowering effects of a medium viscosity WSDF mixture (psyllium, pectin, guar gum and locust bean gum) with an equal amount of WSDF from acacia gum, which has a lower viscosity. Hypercholesterolemic males (n = 13) and females (n = 16) were randomly assigned to one of two WSDF treatments provided in a low-calorie powder form for mixing into beverages (< 4 kcal/serving). Subjects were instructed to mix powders into their usual beverages and to consume them three times daily (5 g WSDF/sering) for 4 weeks while consuming their typical fat-modified diets. Exercise and body weights were also held constant. The WSDF mixture yielded a 10% decrease in plasma total cholesterol (from 251 +/- 20

to $225 + /-19 \, mg/dL$; p < 0.01), and a 14% reduction in low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (from 167 + /- 14 to 144 + /- 14 mg/dL; p < 0.001). No significant changes in plasma high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, very-low-density lipoprotein cholesterol or triglycerides were observed. In contrast, the acacia gum-treated group showed no change in any plasma lipid parameters. The WSDF treatments did not produce significant changes in mean dietary intakes within or between treatment groups. These data support previous findings that a diet rich in select WSDF can be a useful cholesterol-lowering adjunct to a fat-modified diet, but that caution should be exercised in ascribing cholesterol-lowering efficacy to dietary fibers based solely on their WSDF classification. Finally, WSDF viscosity is a potential cholesterol-lowering factor to be explored further.

J Pak Med Assoc 1989 Aug;39(8):208-12 // Wadood A, Wadood N, Shah SA.

EFFECTS OF ACACIA ARABICA AND CARALLUMA EDULIS ON BLOOD GLUCOSE LEVELS OF NORMAL AND ALLOXAN DIABETIC RABBITS.

The powdered seeds of Acacia arabica and roots of Caralluma edulis were administered in doses of 2, 3 and 4 gm/kg body-weight to normal and alloxan-diabetic rabbits. The blood glucose levels were estimated before and 2, 4, 6 and 8 hours after the administration of plant suspension. The powdered seeds of Acacia arabica exerted a significant (P less than 0.05) hypoglycemic effect in normal rabbits. The hypoglycemic effect was not significant (P greater than 0.01) in alloxan diabetic rabbits. The powdered

roots of Caralluma edulis did not produce any significant (P greater than 0.01) hypoglycaemic effect in normal as well as in alloxan diabetic rabbits. The doses used did not show any acute toxicity and behavioural changes. From this study it may be concluded that the powdered seeds of Acacia arabica act by initiating the release of insulin from pancreatic beta cells of normal rabbits. Moreover, Caralluma edulis did not show any hypoglycaemic effect in normal as well as in diabetic rabbits.

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Br J Nutr 1984 Jan;51(1):47-56 // McLean Ross AH, Eastwood MA, Brydon WG, Busuttil A, McKay LF.

A STUDY OF THE EFFECTS OF DIETARY GUM ARABIC IN THE RAT.

Gum arabic (GA) is a water-soluble polysaccharide (molecular weight approximately 850 000) containing rhamnose, arabinose, glucuronic acid and galactose. The metabolism of GA has been studied in the rat. Adult male Wistar rats were given GA incorporated into either an Oxoid breeders (OB) diet or an elemental (Elem) diet. Intestinal contents were examined for precipitable GA using acidified ethanol. GA was found from stomach to small intestine but not in the caecum, colon or rectum. Excreted methane, hydrogen and volatile fatty acids (VFA) were measured as indicators of bacterial activity in the caecum and colon.

Methane excretion increased on the OB + GA diet and H2 concentrations remained unaltered. When the animals were given the Elem + GA diet, H2 and methane were only produced after 28 d. Faecal VFA increased with increasing GA intake, acetate concentration increased and butyrate concentration decreased with increasing GA dosage. Significant decreases in concentrations of VFA were found from caecum to left colon and from left colon to faeces. It can be concluded that GA degradation occurs in the caecum and is associated with increased methane excretion, increased VFA concentrations and changes in the proportions of various VFA in the faeces.

J Nutr 1995 Feb;125(2):283-92 // Annison G, Trimble RP, Topping DL. -CSIRO Division of Human Nutrition, Australia.

FEEDING AUSTRALIAN ACACIA GUMS AND GUM ARABIC LEADS TO NON-STARCH POLYSACCHARIDE ACCUMULATION IN THE CECUM OF RATS.

Exudative gums from two Australian Acacia species (A. pycnantha and A. baileyana) and gum arabic (from A. senegal) were fed to rats at graded levels (0, 20, 40, 80 g/kg), replacing cellulose in purified diets containing cholesterol plus cholic acid. Compared with consumption of the control diet containing cellulose only, consumption of the gums had no significant effects on concentrations of plasma or liver cholesterol. Plasma triacylglycerol concentrations were higher in rats fed gum arabic, whereas liver triacylglycerols were lower in rats fed the gums. The gums did not affect the total pool of volatile fatty acids in the ceca, as compared with results in controls, but did promote the relative contribution of propionate at the expense of acetate. In rats fed the diet

containing cellulose (80 g/kg) the proportions of cecal acetate:propionate:butyrate were 76:15:9, whereas in the rats fed A. pycnantha gum, gum arabic and A. baileyana gum (80 g/kg) the ratios were 42:54: 4, 35:46:19 and 43:53:4, respectively. The low apparent fermentability of the gums was confirmed by the accumulation of non-starch polysaccharides in cecal digesta. In rats fed 80 g/kg A. pycnantha gum, 3.44 g of soluble non-starch polysaccharides was measured in the ceca, which was 58% of the dry weight of the cecal contents. We conclude that the biological activities of the Australian Acacia gums were similar to those of gum arabic and that these gums may have potential value as human food ingredients.

Food Chem Toxicol 1983 Jun;21(3):305-11 // Melnick RL, Huff J, Haseman JK, Dieter MP, Grieshaber CK, Wyand DS, Russfield AB, Murthy AS, Fleischman RW, Lilja HS.

CHRONIC EFFECTS OF AGAR, GUAR GUM, GUM ARABIC, LOCUST-BEAN GUM, ORTARA GUM IN F344 RATS AND B6C3F1 MICE.

Diets containing 25,000 (2.5%) or 50,000 ppm (5.0%) agar, guar gum, gum arabic, locust-bean gum or tara gum were fed to groups of 50 male and 50 female F344 rats and B6C3F1 mice for 103 wk. Separate groups of 50 rats and 50 mice of each sex served as controls for each study. There were no significant differences in survival between any of the dosed groups of rats or mice and their respective control groups. Depressions in body-weight gain greater than 10% for dosed groups relative to their respective control groups were observed for male (low dose only) and female mice fed diets containing agar, female mice fed diets containing

guar gum (high dose only), male mice fed diets containing locust-bean gum (high dose only) and male and female mice fed diets containing tara gum (high dose only).

Depressions in body-weight gain greater than 5% were observed for female rats fed diets containing agar, guar gum or gum arabic. There were no histopathological effects associated with the administration of the test materials. Under the conditions of these bioassays, none of the five polysaccharides was carcinogenic for F344 rats or B6C3F1 mice of either sex.

J Nutr 1995 Oct;125(10):2604-9 // Howard MD, Gordon DT, Garleb KA, Kerley MS. - Department of Animal Science, University of Missouri, Columbia, USA.

VARIABLE EFFECTS OF DIETARY FRUCTOOLIGOSACCHARIDE, XYLOOLIGOSACCHARIDE AND GUM ARABIC ON CECAL AND COLONIC MICROBIOTA AND EPITHELIAL CELL PROLIFERATION IN MICE AND RATS.

Two experiments were conducted to determine if supplementing soluble fiber (fructooligosaccharide, xylooligosaccharide or gum arabic) to a semi-elemental diet would beneficially change cecal and colonic microbiota populations and enhance epithelial cell proliferation. Experiments 1 and 2 used identical dietary regimens; mice and rats were given free access to a powdered semi-elemental diet. Animals were assigned to one of the four following treatment groups: control, no supplemental dietary fiber, fructooligosaccharide, xylooligosaccharide and gum arabic. In Experiment 1 populations of Bifidobacteria and total anaerobic flora were enumerated from the contents of the cecum and colon of weanling mice. Consumption of fructooligosaccharide increased (P < 0.05) the concentrations of Bifidobacteria and the ratio of Bifidobacteria to total anaerobic flora. In

Experiment 2 tissue from the cecum and distal colon of weanling rats was examined for morphological changes of the mucosa. Consumption of xylooligosaccharide increased (P < 0.05) cecal crypt depth and labeling index relative to the other three treatments. Consumption of gum arabic and the control diet increased (P < 0.01) cecal proliferation zone. Consumption of xylooligosaccharide and the control diet increased (P < 0.01) cecal cell density (number of cells in a vertical-half of the crypt). Distal colonic crypt depth was greatest (P < 0.05) in controls and rats fed fructooligosaccharide, intermediate in those fed gum arabic, and smallest in those fed xylooligosaccharide. These results suggest that fructooligosaccharide effectively stimulates growth of Bifidobacteria and xylooligosaccharide supports a modest enhancement of cecal epithelial cell proliferation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY BIBLIOGRAPHY

J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr 1999 Oct.29(4):411-7 // Teichberg S, Wingertzahn MA, Moyse J, Wapnir RA. - Department of Pediatrics, North Shore University Hospital, NY University School of Medicine, Manhasset, USA

EFFECT OF GUM ARABIC IN AN ORAL REHYDRATION SOLUTION ON RECOVERY FROM DIARRHEA IN RATS.

BACKGROUND: It has been shown that gum arabic, a soluble fiber, enhances water, electrolyte, and glucose absorption from oral rehydration solutions in jejunal perfusion of healthy rats and in animals with theophylline-induced secretion or chronic osmotic-secretory diarrhea. This report concerns a study of the effectiveness of an oral rehydration solution supplemented with gum arabic, during recovery from chronic osmotic secretory diarrhea in free-living rats. METHODS: Chronic diarrhea was induced in 60- to 80-g juvenile rats by providing a magnesium citrate-phenolphthalein solution as the sole fluid source for 7 days. This led to diarrhea characterized by dehydration, soft stools, increased cecal volume, decreased food and fluid intake and failure to gain weight. After 7 days of diarrhea, rats recovered for 24 hours

with either tap water or an oral rehydration solution (90 mM Na, 111 mM glucose, 20 mM K, 80 mM chloride, 20 mM citrate) with or without 2.5 g/l gum arabic. RESULTS: Although all three solutions improved the diarrhea, optimal recovery from diarrhea was achieved with the gum arabic-supplemented oral rehydration solution. After 4 hours and 24 hours, rats drinking the gum arabic-supplemented solution gained more weight and had lower fecal output than rats receiving water or the rehydration solution without gum arabic. CONCLUSIONS: The positive effects of the gum arabic-supplemented rehydration solution on fluid and electrolyte absorption seen during jejunal perfusion also occurred during recovery from chronic osmotic secretory diarrhea, when free-living animals drank the solution ad libitum.

Food Addit Contam 1987 Jul-Sep;4(3):233-46 // Fournier PE, Fournier-Desvaux M, Crouzette J, Palombo S, Vicaut E. - Unite de Pharmacologie Clinique, Hopital Fernand Widal, Paris, France.

DETERMINATION OF THE CALORIC VALUE OF GUM ARABIC IN THE MALE RAT.

Sprague-Dawley male rats were given normal diets (UAR A 03) containing various amounts of gum arabic, sucrose and lignin for eight consecutive weeks. While the data obtained from sucrose diets showed that these diets caused a clear incremental effect on energy production with respect to both test animals and controls, and data from lignin diets

were found to produce a negative effect on energy yields, gum arabic diets produced results indicating that at certain levels of intake, gum arabic may contribute energy values slightly superior to those of lignin (0 cal-g), possibly between zero and 1 cal/g

Nutrition 1994 Nov-Dec;10(6):544-50 // Assimon SA, Stein TP. - Department of Surgery, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, School of Osteopathic Medicine, Stratford USA.

DIGESTIBLE FIBER (GUM ARABIC), NITROGEN EXCRETION AND UREA RECYCLING IN RATS.

The effect of dietary fiber and level of amino acid (AA) intake on 1) partitioning of N excretion between urine and feces, 2) level of dietary AA on urea N kinetics, and 3) reutilization of urea-originated N into essential AAs was determined. In the first experiment, rats were adapted to one of two isocaloric (928-mJ.kg-1.day-1) and isonitrogenous (1.33-g N.kg-1.day-1) liquid diets containing 0 or 9% of nonprotein energy as gum arabic (GA) for 7 days. The rats were further subdivided, with half from each group continuing their diet and the AA intake of the remainder reduced by half (0.67 g N.kg-1.day-1). Daily N balance was determined over the next 5 days. For experiment 2, a catheter was inserted into the rats used for experiment 1, and 5-6 days later, urea production and urea N

recycling were determined with [15N2]urea. In experiment 3, as in experiment 1, rats were adapted to the reduced AA diet with and without GA and then given [15N2]urea. Plasma lysine was then analyzed for 15N to determine whether AA synthesis by intestinal bacteria was a contributing source of AAs to the body and whether this process was increased with dietary fiber. Dietary fiber decreased urinary N excretion and increased fecal N excretion but had no net effect on N balance. On the adequate-AA diet, GA decreased urea production (523 +/- 36 vs. 374 +/- 47 mg N.rat-1.day-1, p < 0.01), and urea N recycling (47 +/- 4 vs. 30 +/- 6 mg N.rat-1.day-1, p < 0.01) was found.

Gastroenterology 1997 Jun;112(6):1979-85 // Wapnir RA, Wingertzahn MA, Moyse J, Teichberg S. - Department of Pediatrics, North Shore Univ. Hospital-NY University School of Medicine, Manhasset, USA.

GUM ARABIC PROMOTES RAT JEJUNAL SODIUM AND WATER ABSORPTION FROM ORAL REHYDRATION SOLUTIONS IN TWO MODELS OF DIARRHEA.

BACKGROUND & AIMS: We have shown that addition of gum arabic (GA) to a 90 mmol/L sodium-111 mmol/L glucose oral rehydration solution (ORS) enhances its effectiveness for water and electrolyte absorption in normal rats. The present study extends these observations on GA in ORS to two rat models of diarrheal disease. METHODS: Juvenile rats were either treated for 1 week with magnesium citrate-phenolphthalein to produce chronic osmotic-secretory diarrhea or luminally exposed to 10 mmol/L theophylline to induce jejunal secretion. In both models jejunal perfusion was used to assess absorption. RESULTS: Addition of 2.5 or 5.0 g/L GA to ORS increased roughly twofold absorption

of sodium, potassium, and water in the model of chronic osmotic-secretory diarrhea. Rats perfused with GA-supplemented ORS showed an expansion of the basolateral intercellular spaces between villus absorptive epithelial cells and the lamina propria, reflecting enhanced water and sodium absorption. Similarly, addition of 2.5, 5.0, or 10.0 g/L GA to the ORS neutralized theophylline-induced abolition of net sodium and potassium absorption and reversed water and glucose malabsorption. CONCLUSIONS: These experimental studies in models of diarrhea suggest that GA may be a useful additive to ORS for the potentiation of water and electrolyte absorption.

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Food Addit Contam 1989 Jan-Mar;6(1):13-20 // Harley LJ, Davies IR, Livesey G. - Institute of Food Research, Norwich Laboratory, U.K.

DIGESTIBLE ENERGY VALUE OF GUMS IN THE RAT - DATA ON GUM ARABIC.

Male Wistar rats were fed a defined formula diet free from non-starch polysaccharides and either containing no additive or supplemented with gum arabic or cellulose or starch. Food and faeces were analysed by bomb calorimetry both to assess the effect of these substances on the apparent digestibility of dietary gross energy and to ascribe digestible energy values to the supplements. The former was not affected by starch

and was decreased more by cellulose than by gum arabic. The energy values obtained were 17.4 + /- 0.4 kJ/g starch, 1.7 + /- 0.6 kJ/g cellulose and 14.7 + /- 0.5 kJ/g gum arabic. The latter is consistent with the high apparent digestibility of gum arabic in vivo and casts doubt on the validity of growth assay procedures that suggest a near-zero energy value for gum arabic.

Food Chem Toxicol 1987 Nov;25(11):815-21 // Collins TF, Welsh JJ, Black TN, Graham SL, Brown LH.- Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, FDA, Washington, DC, USA.

STUDY OF THE TERATOGENIC POTENTIAL OF GUM ARABIC.

Gum arabic in the diet at 0, 1, 2, 4, 7.5 or 15% was available ad lib. to male and female Osborne-Mendel rats during premating and mating and throughout gestation. During gestation, the treated females consumed from 683 mg gum/kg body weight/day in the

1% group to 10,647 mg gum/kg/day in the 15% group. The animals were killed on gestation day 20. There were no dose-related changes in maternal findings, number of foetuses, foetal viability or external, visceral or skeletal variations. No terata were seen.

J Clin Periodontol 1993 Apr;20(4):238-43 // Clark DT, Gazi MI, Cox SW, Eley BM, Tinsley GF.- Department of Microbiology, King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry, London, UK.

THE EFFECTS OF ACACIA ARABICA GUM ON THE IN VITRO GROWTH AND PROTEASE ACTIVITIES OF PERIODONTOPATHIC BACTERIA.

The antibacterial activity of acacia gum was assessed using fresh isolates and reference strains of Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans, Capnocytophaga spp., Porphyromonas gingivalis, Prevotella intermedia and Treponema denticola. A fine aqueous suspension of gum was produced by sonication and then a soluble fraction isolated by centrifugation and membrane filtration. These preparations were incorporated into columbia agar at doubling concentrations. Growth of P. gingivalis and P. intermedia cultures on the agar was inhibited by whole gum sonicate at concentrations of 0.5-1.0% w/v. Both

species showed reduced susceptibility when horse blood was present in the agar. The gum soluble fraction did not inhibit growth of any bacterial culture. Enzyme activities were determined by fluorimetric assay with various synthetic peptide substrates. Most protease activities reduced in the presence of 0.5% w/v gum sonicate, with the trypsin-like activities of P. gingivalis and P. intermedia proving most sensitive. The gum soluble fraction was nearly always less inhibitory than the sonicate. The action of acacia gum against suspected periodontal pathogens and their enzymes suggests that it may be of clinical value.