

OBSERVATIONS

Fructose-Induced Hyperuricemia Is Associated With a Decreased Renal Uric Acid Excretion in Humans

Ingestion of a high-fructose meal increases blood uric acid (UA) concentration in healthy subjects (1). Furthermore, high-fructose intake over several days is associated with increased fasting UA concentration (1). These effects are generally attributed to an increased UA production, as observed after intravenous fructose administration (2). It has not been assessed, however, whether UA also increases when fructose is administered as several small drinks instead of one single large load or whether a high-fructose diet (HFrD) impairs renal UA clearance (UAC) or fractional excretion (UAFE) as observed in rats (3). We therefore measured blood and urine UA and creatinine concentrations (RX Monza; Randox Laboratories, London, U.K.) and calculated UAC and UAFE in 16 healthy male subjects (mean \pm SD age 22.6 ± 2.9 , weight 69.7 ± 6.9 kg, BMI 22.1 ± 1.8 kg/m², mean fat-free mass [FFM] 57.8 ± 5.4 kg) over a 9-h period during which they drank lemon-flavored beverages providing 0.2 g fructose/kg FFM every hour. These samples were collected while subjects were participating in two clinical trials (clinical trial reg. nos. NCT01121003 and NCT01119989; clinicaltrials.gov) that assessed different metabolic effects of HFrD but with very similar experimental designs (4,5). Each subject was studied twice after 1) 4–6 days on an isoenergetic, low-fructose diet (LFrD) ($n = 16$) and either 2) 6 days on a hyperenergetic HFrD with 34% excess energy as fructose ($n = 8$) or 3) 4 days on a weight maintenance HFrD in which 30% starch was substituted with fructose ($n = 8$). Because an initial repeated-measures ANOVA did not reveal any significant interaction between diet and energy content, all HFrD data were pooled to specifically test the hypothesis that HFrD decreased UAC and UAFE.

Although the cumulative fructose load was large (1.8 g/kg FFM), blood UA concentration did not increase above fasting

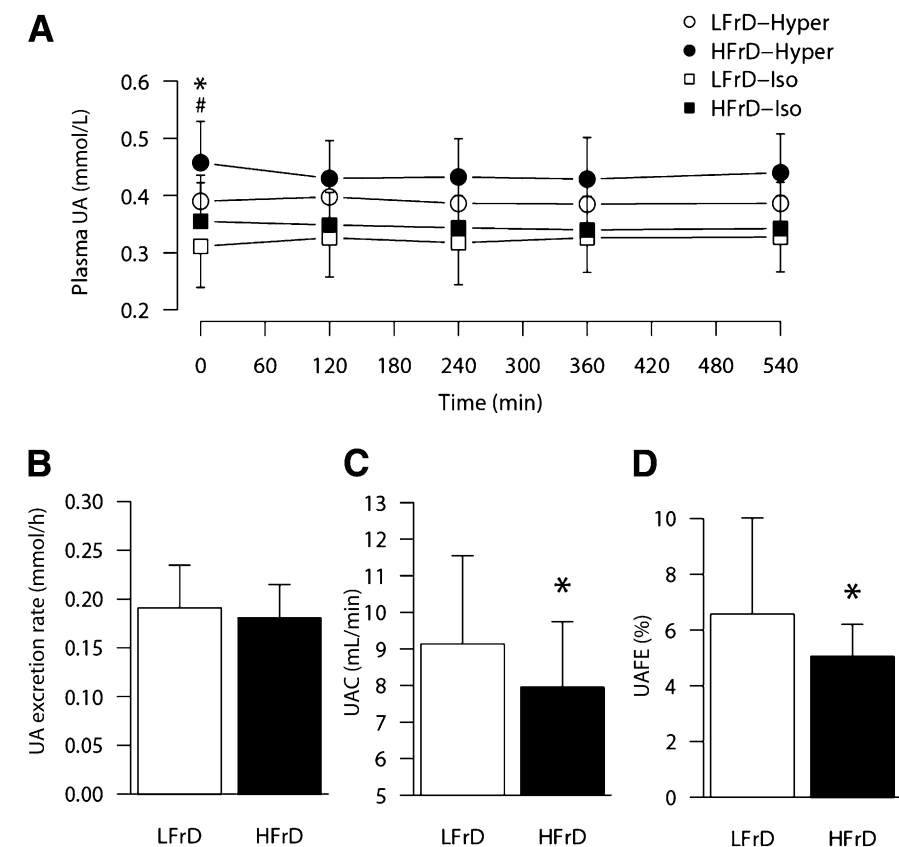


Figure 1—A: Effect of 4–6 days of an HFrD on blood UA concentrations during a 9-h test of 0.2 g/kg FFM fructose ingested every hour. \circ and \bullet , subjects receiving a hyperenergetic diet in the HFrD condition (HFrD-Hyper trial); \square and \blacksquare , subjects receiving an isoenergetic diet in the HFrD condition (HFrD-Iso trial). Open symbols indicate data collected after 4–6 days of an isocaloric LFrD in either trial (LFrD-Hyper, LFrD-Iso). Closed symbols represent data collected after 4–6 days of HFrD. Data are mean \pm SD. *Fasting values significantly ($P < 0.05$) different in subjects receiving an LFrD after the HFrD-Hyper trial. #Fasting values significantly ($P < 0.05$) different in subjects receiving an LFrD after the HFrD-Iso trial. B: Urinary UA excretion rate. C: UAC rate. D: UAFE. Data are mean \pm SD. *Significant difference between HFrD and LFrD (pooled data $P < 0.05$).

values, irrespective of the diet consumed in the days before (Fig. 1A), suggesting that UA production increases mainly when the rate of hepatic fructose metabolism is abnormally high. Urinary UA excretion was not different after HFrD and LFrD (Fig. 1B), but fasting blood UA concentration was 18% higher ($P = 0.004$) (Fig. 1A), urinary UAC was $9.8 \pm 21\%$ lower ($P = 0.015$) (Fig. 1C), and UAFE was $11.5 \pm 29.2\%$ lower ($P = 0.041$) (Fig. 1D) after HFrD. Creatinine clearance was not altered by HFrD (LFrD vs. HFrD 153 ± 39 vs. 158 ± 19 mL/min, $P = 0.62$) (data not shown). These observations suggest that a decreased urinary UA excretion may contribute to fructose-induced hyperuricemia. This mechanism may substantially enhance the risk of gout in people who consume high amounts of sugar. Because the metabolic effects of fructose

show significant sex differences, it remains to be assessed whether the same effects are observed in female subjects.

VIRGILE LECOULTRE, PHD¹
 LÉONIE EGLI, MSC¹
 FANNY THEYTAZ, MSC¹
 CAMILLE DESPLAND, RD¹
 PHILIPPE SCHNEITER, PHD¹
 LUC TAPPY, MD^{1,2}

From the ¹Department of Physiology, University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland; and the ²Service of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, Lausanne University Hospital, Lausanne, Switzerland.

Corresponding author: Luc Tappy, luc.tappy@unil.ch.

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