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Abstract

Foods are good sources of vitamins, minerals and dietary fibers as well as phytochemicals, which are beneficial for the human body as nutritional supplements. The nutritional value (crude fibers, crude proteins, crude fats, flavonols, carotenoids, polyphenols, glucosinolate, chlorophyll, and ascorbic acid) and nutritional properties (antioxidant activity, anticancer activity, or antimutagenic activity) of foods can be well retained and protected with the appropriate cooking methods. The chemical, physical and enzyme modifications that occur during cooking will alter the dietary phytochemical antioxidant capacity and digestibility. This paper reviewed the recent advances on the effects of domestic cooking process on the chemical and biological properties of dietary phytochemicals. Furthermore, the possible mechanisms underlying these changes were discussed, and additional implications and future research goals were suggested. The domestic cooking process for improving the palatability of foods and increasing the bioavailability of nutrients and bioactive phytochemicals has been well supported.

Effects of domestic cooking process on the chemical and biological properties of dietary phytochemicals

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Abstract: Foods are good sources of vitamins, minerals and dietary fibers as well as phytochemicals, which are beneficial for the human body as nutritional supplements. The nutritional value (crude fibers, crude proteins, crude fats, flavonols, carotenoids, polyphenols, glucosinolate, chlorophyll, and ascorbic acid) and biological or functional properties (antioxidant activity, anticancer activity, or anti-mutagenic activity) of foods can be well retained and protected with the appropriate cooking methods. The chemical, physical and enzyme modifications that occur during cooking will alter the dietary phytochemical antioxidant capacity and digestibility. This paper reviewed the recent advances on the effects of domestic cooking process on the chemical and biological properties of dietary phytochemicals. Furthermore, the possible mechanisms underlying these changes were

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Keywords: Domestic cooking; Phytochemicals; Chemical profiles; Biological properties

1. Introduction

Food processing has been carried out since ancient time as a way to preserve and improve the nutritional and organoleptic properties of foods. However, it can also result with some undesired consequences such as the losses of nutrients and the formation of toxic compounds with negative effects on flavor, texture, or color (Friedman, 2015; Mogol & Gokmen, 2016; Zamora, León, & Hidalgo, 2015). On the other hand, the benefits of food processing cannot be ignored including the improvement of food safety, enhancement of nutritional value, and formation or release of natural phytochemicals with functional and bioactive properties (*i.e.*, antioxidant or antimicrobial properties) (Nayak, Liu, & Tang, 2015; Van Boeckel et al., 2010). For instance, the formation of pyropheophytins is frequently found after the heating of green plant tissues (Schwartz & Elbe, 2010). Cooking induced the formation of pyropheophytin *a* (Chen & Roca, 2018). The increase in dietary fibre after domestic cooking may be because of the formation of complexes between polysaccharides and proteins in the food or resistant starch in cooked potatoes (Dhingra, Michael, Rajput, & Patil, 2012). Different cultures and countries have different cooking processes. Steaming, boiling and frying shape the eating habits of Western societies, while stir-frying gets used to prepare most homemade dishes in China (Ruiz-Rodriguez, Marín, Ocaña, & Soler-Rivas, 2008). Food quality often depends on the influences of primary production and industrial processing. Different food cooking methods at home as the final step have great influence on natural phytochemical profiles and biological properties. It can change them either in a positive or negative way (Bernhardt & Schlich, 2006).

Vegetables are excellent sources of carbohydrates, minerals, vitamins (specifically, ascorbic acid (*1*), β -carotene (provitamin A, *2*)), dietary fiber, and other bioactive phytochemicals (Fig. 1) (Dolkar et al., 2017; Kosinska-Cagnazzo et al., 2017; Michalska et al., 2017; Pan et al., 2017; Sarkar et al., 2017; Prodanov, Sierra, & Vidal-Valverde, 2004; Rao

and Rao, 2007). Phytochemicals are plant bioactive compounds mainly found in fresh vegetables, marine algae and fruits, which are broadly classified as phenolics, carotenoids (*i.e.* β -carotene (2), α -carotene (3), lutein (4), and zeaxanthin (5), alkaloids, and nitrogen-containing/organosulfur compounds (Chen et al., 2017a and 2017b; Luo et al., 2017; Neves and Caldas, 2017; Pinela, Carvalho, & Ferreira, 2017, Teng et al., 2017; Wu et al., 2017; Xiao, 2017). Numerous studies have been focused on the effect of cooking methods on dietary phytochemicals (Gliszczynska-Swiglo et al., 2006; Miglio, Chiavaro, Visconti, Fogliano, & Pellegrini, 2008; Zhao et al., 2018). The cooking conditions are clearly evident in inducing a series of changes in the physical properties, chemical composition and enzyme modifications of foods (Rothwell et al., 2015). However, such findings on the changes in the phytochemical and biological properties that various vegetables undergo during domestic cooking were inconsistent and sometimes contradictory. For instance, Blessington and coworkers (2010) reported that total phenolic content and antioxidant activity are significantly increased during boiling, baking, frying and microwaving in potatoes. In contrast, Xu, Li, Lu, Beta, & Hydamaka (2009) concluded that boiling, baking and microwaving decreased the phytochemical concentrations and their antioxidant activities. Faller & Fialho (2009) reported a significant increase in the total phenolic content of potatoes during boiling, as well as microwaving. However, the antioxidant activity of potatoes decreased significantly during boiling according to Burgos et al. (2013).

Foods can provide polyphenols such as flavonoids (Costa et al., 2017; Faller & Fialho, 2009; Karas, Ulrichova, & Valentova, 2017; Lin & Chang, 2005), anthocyanins (6) (Monero, Perez-Balibrea, Ferreres, Gil-Izquierdo, & García-Viguera, 2010), powerful glucosinates (7) resveratrol (Mallebrera et al., 2017; Orellana-Palma et al., 2017; Santhakumar et al., 2017) and isothiocyanates. These major biologically active compounds were entrusted to exhibit high anti-carcinogenic and antioxidant activities *in vitro* and *in vivo* (Verkerk et al., 2009) and played an important role in the prevention of many chronic diseases (Williams et al., 2013). Absorption and disposition of natural phytochemicals after food processing in humans have been widely studied. Vegetables and their associated phytochemicals appear to increase antioxidant capacities and concomitantly suppress oxidative stress and inflammation (Fig. 2). And the effect of dietary phytochemicals was closely associated with combating free radicals

and reducing the oxidative damage which are responsible of causing chronic diseases (Tiwari & Cummins, 2013). Even so, they are also too fragmented to have a good view of the effect of cooking methods on the nutritional quality of foods. Many studies have usually investigated one vegetable species with limited cooking methods. In this review, we aim to provide an overview of food processing on the content and biological activities of natural dietary phytochemicals.

2. Different domestic cooking techniques and their effects on food composition

Foods are cooked using different ways according to the traditional recipes and culinary skills of various countries for home consumption. The heat cooking methods include a wide variety of processes, *i.e.*, boiling, steaming, frying, baking and roasting, and use of microwave ovens (Palermo, Pellegrini, & Fogliano, 2014). These thermal processes can improve the sensory and textural features of the food material. Moreover, natural phytochemicals such as polyphenols, glucosinolates (7) and carotenoids will be released by the disruption of cell walls, breakdown of complex molecular structures, and dissociation of molecular linkages between food components (Hidalgo & Zamora, 2017). In addition, thermal processes also produce new bioactive compounds by the Maillard and carbonyl-amine reactions (Henle, 2005). Microwave heating treatment has been widely employed to inactivate enzymes in vegetable products (Redondo, Venturini, Oria, & Arias, 2016). These different domestic cooking techniques promote a better accessibility and availability of many food components, such as natural antioxidants, and also the rate of Maillard reaction and lipid oxidation (Santos et al., 2015; Wong, Chai & Xiao, 2018). To report the changes that occur during food processing, major dietary phytochemicals and biological properties were selected. The influence of different cooking methods on natural phytochemical profiles and biological properties of foods were all summarized in Table 1, Table 2, and Table 3.

Various chemical and physical changes may occur during cooking, and especially the proximate composition of the food is altered. The effect of different cooking methods on proximate composition was shown in the Table 1. The cooking methods may greatly affect the content of food nutrients, for example, frying seems to have a great influence on the

nutritional quality. Numerous biochemical reactions take place in the hot medium and several new chemical compounds are produced. The crude fat content is significantly increased during frying (increases of 4.07 ± 0.15 g/100 g dry weight) as the cooking oil is absorbed during this process (Tian, Chen, Ye, & Chen, 2016; Tian et al., 2016). The cooking oils are obtained from oilseeds (*i.e.* mustard, sunflower, and cottonseed), food legumes (*i.e.* soybean and peanut), nuts (*i.e.* almond,) or fruit pulp (*i.e.* olives) (Kumar, Kumeshini, & Xu, 2017). The hydrolysis of cooking oil is observed at the beginning of cooking, in which the acid value of the oil is enhanced due to the production of free fatty acids from triglycerides (Kumar, Kumeshini, & Xu, 2017).

Besides the changes in the fat content, other components of the foods are also known to be affected. According to Murniece et al. (2011), the highest fibre content in the fried samples increased significantly to 1.93 ± 0.06 g/100 g fresh weight and was higher than that of the uncooked sample. It was reported that the cells were exposed to a high extent of structural damage, which brought out a loss of liposoluble chemical constituents in vegetables and caused an increase in the fibre content (Sun, Mu, Xi, & Song, 2014). On the other hand, the content of ash was decreased appreciably after frying. This is probably due to some pretreatments applied on the vegetables (*i.e.*, soaking in water) (Bethke & Jansky, 2008).

Cooking of vegetables can affect their bioactive compounds, which may cause beneficial or harmful effects. Foods with high-carbohydrates/low-protein compositions produce a large amount of acrylamide (**8**) when exposed to high temperatures through the Maillard reaction (Mottram, Wedzicha, & Dodson, 2002). Acrylamide (**8**) is a hydrophilic substance that has been considered as a probable human carcinogen (Daniali, Jinap, Hajeb, Sanny, & Tan, 2016). High amounts of acrylamide in foods result in an estimated daily mean intake of 50 μg for a western style diet. The average daily intake of acrylamide for adults in western countries was estimated to be in the range of 0.2 to 1.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ body weight (Fuhr et al., 2006). It is necessary to reduce the acrylamide content to acceptable levels. The generated acrylamide (**8**) concentration depends on factors such as cooking time, temperature, and the amount of reducing sugars and free asparagine (Cheong, Hwang, & Hyong, 2005). There have been many measures to reduce acrylamide formation by the optimization of processing conditions. Current study revealed antioxidants play an important role in acrylamide formation. For this

reason, the use of phenol additives for reducing acrylamide levels has been widely reported (Pérez-Navado, Cabrera-Bañegil, Repilado, Martillanes, & Martín-Vertedor, 2018). Flavonoids exert their reduction effects on the formation of acrylamide in a nonlinear and bell-shaped dose-effect way. The mechanism by which flavonoids reduce the production of acrylamide can be attributed to their antioxidant properties by preventing lipid oxidation and the accumulation of carbonyls (Zhang, Huang, Wang, & Cheng, 2016). The addition of a flavonoid-rich spice mix could effectively reduce acrylamide levels by up to 50% in potato chips (Cheng, Chen, Zhao, & Zhang, 2015). It was also reported that the lowest concentration of acrylamide (8) was detected by submerging the potatoes in green tea flavonoid-rich extract containing water before frying (Morales, Jimenez, Garcia, Mendoza, & Beristain, 2014). Besides, asparaginase is considered as a potential agent in reducing the formation of acrylamide (Xu, Orunaconcha, & Elmore, 2016). Nachi et al. (2018) also demonstrated that fermentation processes performed with lactic acid bacteria and yeast could reduce the acrylamide content in bread. More interestingly, acrylamide (8) was not produced when it was heated in the absence of lipid other than the cooking oil (Daniali, Jinap, Hajeb, Sanny, & Tan, 2016).

3. Effects of cooking process methods on the dietary phytochemicals composition

3.1 Phenolic compounds

Phenolic compounds are known to be affected by food processing, and specifically by thermal treatments. As shown in Table 2, the total phenolic content was decreased after boiling, steaming, microwaving, baking, and frying (Ezekiel, Singh, Sharma, & Kaur, 2013; Tian, Chen, Ye, & Chen, 2016; Tian et al., 2016). This decrease may be due to water-soluble phenols leaching into the cooking water and the structural changes of phenolics that occurs during heat processing (Kita, Bąkowska-Barczak, Hamouz, Kułakowska, & Lisińska, 2013). Furthermore, the phenolic compounds participate in the interplay of the Maillard reaction, which results in an increase in the level of Maillard reaction products and decrease of phenolic level (Perla, Holm, & Jayanty, 2012). Steaming and microwaving are considered as the suitable methods for retaining the high level of phenolic compounds. Samples are not in contact with water and the inactivation of oxidative enzymes has prevented the disruption of

phenolic biosynthesis and degradation during these cooking methods (Vallejo, Tomás-Barberán, & Garcia-Viguera, 2003).

Most researchers concluded that thermal treatments could lead to the reduction of phenolic content (Gonçalves, Pinheiro, Abreu, Brandão, & Silva, 2010; Zhang & Hamauzu, 2004). In contrast, several studies have revealed that the total phenolic contents in cooked potatoes were increased. Faller & Fialho (2009) reported that the content of phenolic compounds increased by 81.4%, 22.8%, and 80.81% after boiling, steaming and microwaving, respectively. In another study, as compared for before and after the treatment, baking, frying and microwaving treatments resulted with an increase by 36.36%, 46.12%, and 47.48% in the phenolic contents, respectively (Blessington et al., 2010). The increase may be attributed to the thermal action which induces the breakdown of vegetables structure, and as a result improves the extractability of phenolic compounds from the cellular matrix and stimulates the release of dietary fiber-bound polyphenols forming the free phenolic compounds (Ruiz-Rodriguez, Marín, Ocaña, & Soler-Rivas, 2008). During extrusion, the reduction of total phenolic contents with increasing temperature may be due to the decarboxylation of phenolic acids in fruit leather and the high moisture content of the feed, which could promote the polymerization of phenols and reduce extractability and antioxidant activity (Dlamini, Taylor, & Rooney, 2007). Furthermore, the heat treatments could inactivate polyphenol oxidases and prevent the oxidation and polymerization of polyphenols (Navarre, Shakya, Holden, & Kumar, 2010). In general, steaming and microwaving methods with lower temperatures and shorter times may be better for the retention of total phenolic contents (Tian, Chen, Ye, & Chen, 2016; Tian et al., 2016).

3.1.1. Phenolic acids

Phenolic acids play significant roles in human nutrition and health due to their antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and anticarcinogenic effects (Balasundram, Sundram, & Samman, 2006). The phenolic acids include hydroxybenzoic and hydroxycinnamic acid derivatives. Hydroxybenzoic acids have a C₆-C₁ structure and include *p*-hydroxybenzoic (**9**), protocatechuic (**10**), gallic (**11**), vanillic (**12**) and syringic (**13**) acids (Singh, Singh, Kaur, & Singh, 2017). *p*-Hydroxybenzoic (**9**), protocatechuic (**10**), and vanillic (**12**) acids vary in beans, peas and lentils. Gallic acid (**11**) is the common phenolic acids found in beans.

Hydroxycinnamic acids are aromatic compounds having a C₆-C₃ structure and include caffeic (**14**), *p*-coumaric (**15**), *trans*-ferulic (**16**), sinapic (**17**) and chlorogenic (**18**) acids. Hydroxycinnamics vary in legumes such as beans, peas and lentils. *Trans*-ferulic acid is detected in beans, peas and lentils and *cis*-ferulic acid only in beans. *Trans-p*-coumaric acid is detected in lentils and peas, and *cis-p*-coumaric acid only in peas (Singh, Singh, Kaur, & Singh, 2017). Content and bioavailability of phenolic acids could be altered during processing. Cooking did not greatly affect the total phenolic acids of barley pasta, more leading to conserving free and bound phenolic compounds (De Paula, Rabalski, Messia, Abdel-Aal, & Marconi, 2017). However, phenolic substances in raw black rice cannot be obtained during boiling because its thermal degradation (Tang, Cai, & Xu, 2016). Phenolics in broccoli were lost heavily during conventional and microwave cooking, while the extent of loss would be lower in other processes, such as blanching and stir frying (Zhang & Hamazu, 2004). The effect of cooking on phenolic acids profile and antioxidant properties of durum wheat pasta enriched with debranning fractions of wheat were studied by Fares, Platani, Baiano, & Menga, 2010. Surprisingly, pasta enhanced its antioxidant properties measured *in vitro* after cooking. The increase of antioxidant level depended on the increased amount of ferulic acid released during cooking. The boiling water could have enhanced the extraction of bound phenolics from the food matrix, primarily ferulic acid ester linked to cell walls (Fares, Platani, Baiano, & Menga, 2010).

3.1.2. Flavonoids

The cooking processes, such as boiling and extrusion, resulted in a significant reduction in flavonols (*i.e.* Quercetin (**19**) and Kaempferol (**20**)) in foods (Table 2). According to Giallourou, Oruna-Concha, & Harbourne (2016), all flavonols in watercress samples are lost in boiling water bath after 10 min. The decrease in total flavonoid content is caused by the destruction of flavonoids while treated with high temperatures (Sharma, Ramchiary, Samyor, & Das, 2016). Extrusion can decrease the total flavonoid content by the effect of heat and screw speed (Sharma, Ramchiary, Samyor, & Das, 2016). Flavonoids share a basic structure of diphenylpropanes (C₆-C₃-C₆) parent depending on the oxidation level of the central pyran ring. Due to an increase in the temperature and shear, the structural rings start to degrade and thus flavonoid content in the product is decreased. The increase in screw speed can result

with an increase in the medium temperature, and thus the product temperature. Therefore, the combined effect of screw speed and temperature ultimately led to the loss of flavonoids (Sharma, Ramchiary, Samyor, & Das, 2016). On the other hand, the highest loss of flavonoids was observed during frying/microwaving (Barakat & Rohn, 2014). Frying and/or microwaving were the most dramatic treatments which cause the leaching of flavonoids into the frying oil, and then a following thermal degradation (Moreno, Lopez-Berenguer, & Garcia-Viguera, 2007; Vallejo, Tomás-Barberán, & Garcia-Viguera, 2003). Interestingly, according to some researchers, total flavonoids increased significantly in the range of 9.5% to 410.9% by the boiling processes because of an increased level of free flavonols (Singh et al., 2015).

Anthocyanins (**6**) are one of the most important classes of flavonoids and they are known to be highly unstable and easily affected by environmental factors, such as temperature, pH, oxygen, and light (Tian, Chen, Ye, & Chen, 2016; Tian et al., 2016). After frying, steaming, boiling, microwaving and baking, total anthocyanin content was significantly decreased (Brown, Durst, Wrolstad, & De, 2008; Table 2). Since anthocyanins (**6**) are highly water-soluble pigments, pretreatments such as soaking or blanching will also lead to the leaching of anthocyanins (**6**) into water during domestic and commercial processing (Tian, Chen, Ye, & Chen, 2016; Tian et al., 2016). Their greatest losses were caused by frying, air-frying and stir-frying with 57.06%, 44.53%, and 83.15%, respectively. Despite several studies reporting loss of anthocyanins as a result of processing, some contradictory results have also been reported. For example, increase in the concentration of total anthocyanins in cooked colored-flesh potatoes was observed after cooking treatments (Brown, Durst, Wrolstad, & De, 2008; Lachman et al., 2012; Lemos, Aliyu, & Hungerford, 2012). This increase was explained by three approaches; the first one indicates that anthocyanins (**6**) are enzymatically degraded in the presence of polyphenol oxidase, however, when heat treatments are applied, polyphenol oxidases are inactivated leading to the retention of anthocyanins (**6**). On the other hand, the second one points out that cooking treatments will destroy the microstructure of foods and induce a better extraction of anthocyanins (**6**) (Lemos, Aliyu, & Hungerford, 2012). Finally, the release of anthocyanins are susceptible to the type of cellular matrix and the kind of anthocyanins present in food (Brat, Tourniaire, &

Amiot-Carlin, 2008; Murador, Cunha, & Rosso, 2014). The cooking process involves changes to the structural integrity of the cellular matrix, softening the vegetable tissues and, consequently, increasing anthocyanins extraction and concentration (Chaovanalikit & Wrolstad, 2004; Murador, Cunha, & Rosso, 2014).

3.2 Carotenoids

The carotenoid content of foods was significantly affected by domestic cooking processes (Table 2). Carotenoids were reduced by all cooking methods in purple-fleshed potatoes, particularly frying, air-frying and stir-frying (Tian, Chen, Ye, & Chen, 2016; Tian et al., 2016). These treatments reduced the total carotenoid content from 66.30% to 76.16%. The loss of carotenoids is due to leaching into the oil and the degradation that occurs during thermal processing (Miglio, Chiavaro, Visconti, Fogliano, & Pellegrini, 2008). Mazzeo et al. (2011) identified that the carotenoids in freeze-dried carrot were β -carotene (2), α -carotene (3), lutein (4), phytofluene, and phytoene. The influence of cooking processes on β -carotene (2) and lutein (4) was slightly different. For β -carotene (2), steaming and microwaving were better methods followed by high pressure cooking. Whereas for lutein (4), pressure cooking was the best method followed by steaming and microwaving (Bureau et al., 2015). Mazzeo et al. (2011) have reported that β -carotene (2) was more susceptible to heat damage than α -carotene (3) during boiling, however, phytoene and phytofluene were considered to be increased. Less carotenes have been reported to be present in steamed carrot, but similar phytoene and phytofluene concentrations were observed with respect to the uncooked samples. Lutein (4) was only little affected by cooking processes. This behaviour was similar to the previous reports on fresh carrot and frozen Brussels sprouts (Pellegrini et al., 2010). The decrease may be due to their liposolubility and thermal sensitivity when treated with heat and oil.

On the other hand, according to some other researchers, domestic cooking may increase the carotenoids in comparison with the fresh-uncooked samples (Table 2). Higher carotenoid values have been reported for *Brassica* vegetables such as broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and cauliflower upon boiling and steaming (Bernhardt & Schlich, 2006; Gliszczynska-Swiglo et al., 2006). This phenomenon can be explained by the breakdown of cellulose in the plant cell wall, as well as improved extractability of carotenoids from carotenoid-containing plant material as a result of the denaturation of carotenoid-protein complexes during thermal

processing (De Sa & Rodriguez-Amaya, 2003). Similarly, Burmeister et al. (2011) derived the same conclusion that carotenoids bonded with proteins in potatoes (*e.g.*, protein-xanthophyll aggregates) have been dissociated with a detectible increase in the carotenoids of cooked potatoes. According to their results, carotenoids were not adversely affected by heat treatments in some selected vegetables.

3.5 Ascorbic acid

Wide differences may occur in the ascorbic acid (*I*) content of foods because of variations in variety, cultivar, genetics, maturity stage, fertilization and environmental growing conditions on field. The ascorbic acid (*I*) concentration was reduced by processing conditions and cooking methods in vegetables (Table 2). The highest decrease was observed after boiling owing to its great water solubility (Bureau et al., 2015). However, Lachman et al. (2013) found that the highest decrease was observed in baked non-peeled cut potatoes, while the lowest was in boiled peeled ones. Its content decreased in average of all cultivars to 69% (boiling) of the original value of the raw non-peeled tubers. However, steaming and microwave heating did not cause any significant loss of ascorbic acid (*I*) compared with the fresh control (Bureau et al., 2015; Chuah et al., 2008; Xu et al., 2014). Thermal treatments can accelerate oxidation of ascorbic acid (*I*) to dehydroascorbic acid, followed by the hydrolysis to 2,3-diketogulonic acid and eventually polymerization to other nutritionally inactive components (Chuah et al., 2008). A decrease was observed in the ascorbic acid content in green and red peppers after stir-frying on account of high temperatures, long cooking times and enzymatic oxidation during preparation and cooking processes and frequent stirring that expose the materials to atmospheric oxidation (Somsu, Kongkachuichai, Sungpuag, & Charoensiri, 2008).

3.6 Glucosinolates

Glucosinolates (*7*) are a group of sulfur rich and important cancer chemo-preventive anionic secondary metabolites found principally in Brassicaceae vegetables (Wu et al., 2017). Stir-frying and boiling led to the highest loss of total glucosinolates (*7*), while microwaving and steaming had a subtle effect on glucosinolate (*7*) concentrations (Table 2). The decrease in the amount of glucosinolates (*7*) is caused by a range of stresses during postharvest handlings of vegetables (Jia et al., 2009). Cutting could let myrosinase get in contact with

glucosinolates (7) before cooking, which lead to the hydrolysis of glucosinolates (7) more easily. Blanching also could lead to the depletion of water-soluble glucosinolates (7) in vegetables (Gliszczyńska-Swigło et al., 2006). The modification in the enzyme activity promoted the breakdown processes (Jones, 2007; Palermo, Pellegrini, & Fogliano, 2014). The loss of total glucosinolates during boiling will be enhanced with increased cooking time and water volume (Dekke, Verkerk, & Jongen, 2000; Jones, 2007). However, microwaving and steaming showed no significant difference and a minor loss of glucosinolate (7) levels (Table 2), which is most likely due to denaturation and subsequent deactivation of the glucosinolate-degrading enzyme myrosinase, and depletes the hydrolysis of glucosinolates (7) to isothiocyanates. However, differently, an increase in the total glucosinolate (7) content was observed in red cabbage subjected to microwave (Verkerk & Dekker, 2004). Increase in other glucosinolates (7) in cooked *Brassica* vegetables by steaming was also reported (Pellegrini et al., 2010; Vallejo, Tomás-Barberán, & Garcia-Viguera., 2002). These inconsistent results regarding the effect of microwave and steaming on total glucosinolates (7) were probably as a result of different cultivars used and the time and power of the treatment (Xu et al., 2014). In addition, the environment in cells or cell compounds of the various cultivars and plant parts can exert a significant influence on the losses ranged from 6.6% to 77% and thermal stability of glucosinolates (Kapusta-Duch, Kusznierevich, Leszczyńska, & Borczak, 2016; Song & Thornalley, 2007). Song & Thornalley (2007) demonstrated a progressive decrease in total glucosinolates content after boiling for 30 min of 58% in Brussels sprouts, 65% in green cabbage, 75% in cauliflower, and 77% in broccoli. Furthermore, the content of glucosinolates depends the plant cultivars, growing condition, climate, and the tissue-specific distribution in the plant parts.

3.7 Chlorophyll

Effect of cooking methods on chlorophylls (21 and 22) was investigated (Table 2). The content of chlorophylls in broccoli was increased after boiling, steaming, microwaving and sous vide, in which boiling is the most appropriate cooking method for broccoli inflorescences (Reis et al., 2015). The rate was 207% higher after boiling than in the fresh vegetable. However, green vegetables exhibit poor color quality and the chlorophyll content reduces after thermal processing (Adebooye, Vijayalakshmi, & Singh, 2008). Microwaving

and frying treatments caused a significant loss of chlorophyll *a* (21) and chlorophyll *b* (22). On the other hand, they remained almost unchanged with steaming and baking methods (Barakat & Rohn, 2014). Chlorophylls *a* (21) and *b* (22) were also analyzed both in fresh broccoli inflorescences and after cooking (high pressure alone or high pressure and temperature). For chlorophyll *a*, high-pressure treatment caused no significant difference relative to the fresh vegetable. However, for chlorophyll *b*, high pressure at 70°C yielded higher amounts of chlorophyll *b* than that measured for fresh inflorescences (Sánchez, Baranda, & Marañón, 2014). For chlorophyll *a* (21), boiling for 2 min produced higher concentrations than steaming, pressure and water, or pressure and steaming processes, even higher than that measured for fresh broccoli. For chlorophyll *b* (22) and total chlorophylls, raw material showed higher concentrations.

4. Effect of cooking process on biological properties of dietary phytochemicals

4.1 Antioxidant activity

Fruits are rich in important phytochemicals, such as ascorbic acid (1), mineral elements, flavonoids, carotenoids, and other compounds. These phytochemicals have a variety of biological properties including antioxidant, anti-inflammation, anti-mutagenicity, anti-carcinogenicity, and anti-aging activities (Ke, Pan, Xu, Nie, & Zhou, 2015; Rajendran et al., 2014), among which, antioxidant activity is a foundation of anti-cancer, anti-inflammation and anti-aging properties (Cai, Luo, Sun, & Corke, 2004; Ke, Pan, Xu, Nie, & Zhou, 2015). Effects of different cooking methods on antioxidant activities are shown in Table 3. The antioxidant activity was measured by DPPH (1,1-diphenyl-2-picryl-hydrazyl), ABTS (3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid) or FRAP (Ferric reducing antioxidant power) methods. DPPH is a free radical that has an unpaired valence electron on one atom of the nitrogen bridge, while ABTS is another free radical. Both of them have been considered as a tool for estimating free radical scavenging activities of antioxidants (Krishnaiah, Sarbatly, & Nithyanandam, 2010). The FRAP method was developed by Benzie & Strain (1996) which is also widely used in the measurement of antioxidant activity. The antioxidant activities of different phytochemicals are closely related to their chemical structures.

Antioxidants play a critical role in preventing many chronic diseases (Poljsak & Milisav,

2014), and the antioxidant capacity is associated with the phytochemicals (*i.e.*, phenolic, carotenoid, and anthocyanin) in fruits and vegetables (Tian, Chen, Ye, & Chen, 2016; Tian et al., 2016). The antioxidant responses and cellular adjustments are depicted in Fig. 3 (Embuscado, 2015; Espinosa-Diez et al., 2015; Rajendran et al., 2014). Mitochondria and NADPH oxidases (NOXs) are the two main sources of producing reactive oxygen species (ROS) (Lambeth, 2004). Mitochondrion releases either superoxide (O_2^-) or H_2O_2 and NADPH oxidases can generate O_2^- in the cytosol. The NF- κ B interacts with the inhibitory κ -B (I κ -B) proteins, which is phosphorylated by the I κ B kinase (IKK) complex, leads to the ubiquitination and proteasomal degradation of the I κ -B protein. NF- κ B is released after stimulation and then can enter the nucleus and contribute to both survival and innate immune functions (Rius et al., 2008). Activation of IKK also occurs by phosphorylation and is catalyzed by an IKK kinase (Espinosa-Diez et al., 2015). The Nrf2-Keap1 pathway is the main regulator of cytoprotective responses to oxidative and electrophilic stress (Motohashi & Yamamoto, 2004), The Nrf2 protein is kept inactive by Keap1. During redox imbalance, ROS disrupt the Keap1-Nrf2 association (Kim, Cha, & Surh, 2010). Nrf2 can dissociate from Keap1 and enter the nucleus to combine with small Maf proteins and bind to the antioxidant response element, which is leading to activate the expression of a battery of cytoprotective genes. Ascorbic acid (*I*) has a direct role in scavenging reactive oxygen species (ROS), which can effectively scavenge a variety species of ROS and give off semi dehydroascorbic acid, clearing 1O_2 and reducing sulfur radicals (Amitava & Kimberly, 2014). Flavonoids can counteract lipid oxidation *in vitro* and improve the body's antioxidant enzyme activity, and decrease peroxide formation *in vivo* (Nakao et al., 2011). Carotenoids have antioxidant activities through quenching 1O_2 and eliminating harmful free radicals. They can also ensure communication signals between cells and receptors on the cell membrane to maintain normal cell function and enhance human immunity by protecting immune cell membrane lipids from oxidative damage. Phytochemicals are influenced by cooking methods, and as a result the antioxidant activity is also affected during cooking procedures (Ezekiel, Singh, Sharma, & Kaur, 2013; Lemos, Aliyu, & Hungerford, 2015). Some studies reported that the antioxidant activity was related with the presence of phenolic constituents because of their abilities to scavenge free radicals (Ravichandran, Ahmed, Knnor, & Smetanska, 2012).

The antioxidant activity modestly reduced after boiling, and the decrease might be due to the leaching of antioxidant compounds into the cooking water (Giallourou, Oruna-Concha, & Harbourne, 2016; Girgin & Nehir, 2015). Whereas Burgos et al. (2013) found that the antioxidant activity has been increased by 10.67% in boiled purple-fleshed potatoes compared with the raw tuber. A decrease in anthocyanin (6) and polyphenol levels of purple potatoes after frying, but potato crisps still showed increased antioxidant activity (Kita, Bąkowska-Barczak, Hamouz, Kułakowska, & Lisińska, 2013). The reasons why the antioxidant activity was increased could be various. Two hypotheses have been proposed to explain this phenomenon. Firstly, heating may induce numerous chemical reactions, such as Maillard reaction, caramelization, Strecker degradation and hydrolysis of esters and glycosides which result in the production of new antioxidants (Kita, Bąkowska-Barczak, Hamouz, Kułakowska, & Lisińska, 2013). Maillard reaction occurs between an amino group and a sugar moiety, and can result with the formation of new substances which have been associated with increased antioxidant activity (Manzocco, Calligaris, Mastrocola, Nicoli, & Lerici, 2001). Secondly, the increased antioxidant activity on baked samples can be attributed to the heat leading to the denaturation of the endogenous enzymes, degrading the antioxidants (Kamiloglu et al., 2014). Generally speaking, the changes in the antioxidant activity during cooking arise from the changes in phytochemicals according to most of the studies.

4.2 Protective activity against cancer

In recent years, researchers have been attracted with the health effects of dietary polyphenols which contain at least one aromatic ring bearing one or more hydroxyl groups whose antioxidant action is mainly due to their high tendency to chelate metals by the referred groups. Their potent antioxidant properties are associated with inhibition of diseases, such as cancer. They can also modulate the activity of a wide range of enzymes and cell receptors. Therefore, polyphenols have been considered to have anticancer properties. The plant-derived food extracts with identified phenolic antioxidants showed anti-proliferative activities in different cancer cell lines (Fernanda et al., 2015). Since evidences suggesting that the higher intake of saturated fat can increase the incidence of cancer, obesity is frequently associated with many types of cancer (Kushi et al., 2012). It can be concluded that a healthier diet composed of higher intake of fruits and vegetables, and lower intake of red and processed

meat, could be protective against colorectal adenoma and cancer incidence. The lower levels of some carotenoids in the blood may link to the higher risk of breast cancer, suggesting that consuming colored plant foods could prevent breast cancer (Kabat et al., 2009). Another study reported that the higher intake of isoflavones which are abundant in soybeans can lower the risk of endocrine-related gynecological cancers (Myung, Ju, Choi, & Kim, 2009). Consuming more vegetables, fruits and other foods rich in phenolic antioxidants may reduce the risk of some types of cancer.

Evidence from epidemiological studies showed that diets rich in fruits and vegetables show a lower incidence of human cancers. Fruits and vegetables contain inhibitors of carcinogenesis including potent antimutagens such as flavonoids and coumarins. Curcumin is a kind of well-known dietary polyphenol which has also been shown to be a potent inhibitor of several environmental mutagens requiring metabolic activation (Shishu & Kaur, 2008). Some previous studies have shown that the antimutagenic activity is affected by cooking methods. The antimutagenic activity was reduced using high pressure processing as well as steaming and boiling in cauliflowers and tomatoes (Girgin & Sedef, 2015).

4.3 Anti-inflammatory activity

Phytochemicals have received much attention due to their many health benefits, including anti-inflammatory activity. The anti-inflammatory potential of cooked navy and black bean was assessed in C57BL/6 mice model (Zhang et al., 2014b). The bean-fed mice showed a reduction in the expression of colonic inflammatory cytokines IL-6, IL-9, IFN- γ and IL-17A and an augmentation in the anti-inflammatory cytokine IL-10, which suggest that it might have the potential to improve health. Cooked chickpeas from Desi variety had high anti-inflammatory activities. Phenolic compounds were the most potent anti-inflammatory compounds in cooked chickpeas protein digests and inhibited much more effectively and dose-dependently the production of NO in LPS-challenged macrophages (Milán-Noris, Gutiérrez-Urbe, Santacruz, Serna-Saldívar, & Martínez-Villaluenga, 2018). Besides, sea cucumbers contain many bioactive compounds with potential health benefits. The anti-inflammatory properties of sea cucumber (*Isostichopus badiotus*) extracts were evaluated after being processed by cooking in water for 1 h at 100 °C followed by lyophilizing, or oven-drying at 70 °C for 12 h. Cooked and lyophilised, or oven-dried sea

cucumber meals all exert anti-inflammatory effects on a mouse ear induced skin inflammation model (Olivera-Castillo et al., 2018).

5. Conclusions

The application of domestic cooking methods (boiling, frying, steaming, baking, microwaving, and extrusion) of fruits and vegetables can affect the nutritional values and functional properties of foods at different degrees. Although thermal processing partially results in the degradation of intrinsic phytochemicals and the denaturation of endogenous antioxidants, the nutritional dietary phytochemicals and their biological properties are well retained and protected with the appropriate cooking methods. In particular, numerous studies have been devoted to the effects of domestic cooking methods on phytochemicals and antioxidant activities. However, the effect of structural changes with the release of nutrients and phytochemicals during cooking was mostly ignored. As the changes in bioactive compounds can be beneficial or detrimental depending on the processing conditions, an assessment of their various physiological effects is necessary to be determined whether they should be preserved or eliminated. Meanwhile, the gentlest cooking methods for preserving the nutrients should still be investigated in future studies. Furthermore, even though both oriental and western people are accustomed to include flavorings, in most of the previous studies the effect of these flavorings, such as salt or vinegar was not considered. Since cooking is an essential part of our daily life, the mechanism of action by which various cooking processes exert their effects on phytochemicals which are related with human health merits further investigations in long-term operation. Based on profound research interest in food processing with dietary phytochemicals, the above directions in the future could be pursued.

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Table 1. Effects of different domestic cooking methods on proximate composition.

Cooking methods	Cooking condition	Proximate composition changes	References
Boiling	100°C, 20 min, penetrated easily	No significant changes in the crude fiber, ash, protein, and fat contents; Greatest losses were baking, followed by boiling, steaming and microwaving.	Tian, Chen, Ye, & Chen, 2016; Tian et al., 2016
Steaming	15 min, penetrated easily		
Microwaving	1000 W, 6 min, penetrated easily	Significantly increase the crude fat and crude fiber contents; Significantly decrease in the contents of ash; No significant change in the crude protein.	
Baking	210°C, 30 min, penetrated easily		
Frying	191°C, 2 min; 300 g/3000 mL		
Extrusion	Two barrel temperature profiles were selected: 40, 60, 80, 120, 120°C or 40, 60, 80, 120, 140°C, from Zone 1 (feed port) to Zone 5 (exit die); Feed rate, screw speed, and total moisture content of the powder into the extruder were set at 2 kg/h, 100-200 rpm, and 25-30% using a water pump, respectively.	Reduce the content of protein; Crude fiber and ash were not determined.	Ai, Cichy, Harte, Kelly, & Perry, 2016
High-pressure	Fully dipped in 1500 mL of cold water and cooked during 5 min under high-pressure in a pressure cooker.	Reduce the ascorbic acid; The protein, ash and fiber were not determined.	Francisco, Velasco, Moreno, Cristina, & Cartea, 2010

Table 2. Effects of different domestic cooking methods on natural dietary phytochemicals

Vegetables	Cooking methods	Phytochemicals changes	References
Cilantro, Thai basil leaf, Sweet potato leaf, Choy sum	Boiling	□TCC of vegetables increased until it reached a maximum with the increase in boiling time and then decreased except choy sum . TCC of choy sum was not affected by boiling for 30 min cooking. □TPC↓ for cilantro and choy sum. TPC↑ for Thai basil leaf and sweet potato leaf during 1-5 min. The TPC decreased as the boiling time increased. □AAC↓.	Kao, Chiu, & Chiang, 2014
Green bean, Pea, Brussels sprout, Leek (slices), Broccoli, Zucchini (slices), Spinach branch, Hashed spinach, Yellow French bean, Cauliflower, Mushroom, Carrot (slices), Salsify	Boiling	□TCC↓; □AAC↓	Bureau et al., 2015
Purple-fleshed potatoes	Pressure cooking, steaming, microwaves	□TCC↑; □AAC↓	
Purple-fleshed potatoes	Boiling, steaming, microwaving, baking, frying	□TPC↓: The maximum losses were treated by baking, followed by frying, steaming, boiling, and microwaving. □TCC↓: The maximum losses were treated by frying, followed by microwaving, baking, steaming, and boiling. □TAC↓: The maximum losses were treated by frying, followed by steaming, boiling, microwaving, and baking.	Tian, Chen, Ye, & Chen, 2016; Tian et al., 2016
Cilantro, Thai basil leaf, Sweet potato leaf, Choy sum	Stir-frying, deep-frying	TCC↓	Kao, Chiu, Tsou, & Chiang, 2012
Potatoes	Baked non-peeled cut, microwaved non-peeled cut, boiled peeled	AAC↓: The maximum losses were treated by baked non-peeled cut, followed by microwaved non-peeled cut and boiled peeled.	Lachman et al., 2013
Red cabbages	Stir-frying, boiling, steaming, microwaving	□TAC↓: The maximum losses were treated by stir-frying, followed by boiling, microwaving, and steaming. □TPC and AAC↓: By stir-frying and boiling, while no changes with steaming and microwaving. □TGC↓: The maximum losses were treated by stir-frying and boiling, followed by microwaving and steaming.	Xu et al., 2014
Cauliflower	Steaming	TPC↑	Girgin & Nehir, 2015
Broccoli	Boiling	TPC↓	
Broccoli	Boiling, steaming, microwaving,	□TCH (“a” and “b”) ↑; □TCC↑.	Reis et al., 2015

Watercress	sous vide Boiling Steaming, microwaving	□TFC↓; □TCC↑ and TGC↓ No significant impacts for TFC, TCC, and TGC.	Giallourou, Oruna-Concha, & Harbourne, 2016
Potato tubers	Baking, microwaving	TFC↓	Perla, Holm, & Jayanty, 2012
Peppers	Boiling, microwaving, stir-fry	□AAC↓: The maximum losses were treated by boiling, followed by stir-fry and microwaving. □TCC↓.	Chuah et al., 2008
Spinach, Carrot	Boiling, steaming	TCC↓	Mazzeo, N'Dri, Chiavaro, Visconti, Fogliano, & Pellegrini, 2011
Pineapples	Extrusion	□TPC↓. □AAC↑ at initial stage; AAC↓: until temperature up to 82°C ③TFC↓.	Sharma, Ramchiary, Samyori, & Das, 2016
Broccoli	Frying, microwaving, frying/microwaving, Steaming, baking	□TCH (“a” & “b”); □TCC↓ No significant impacts for TCH (“a” and “b”) and TCC.	Barakat & Rohn, 2014

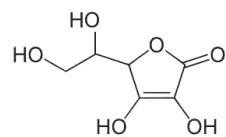
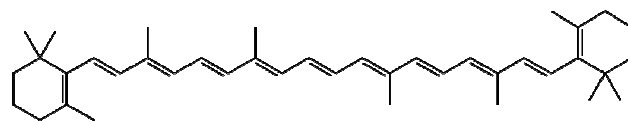
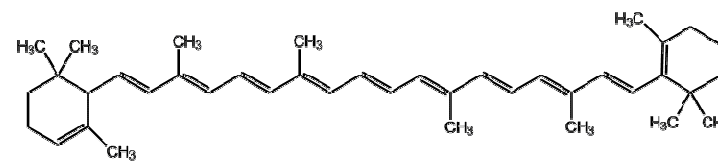
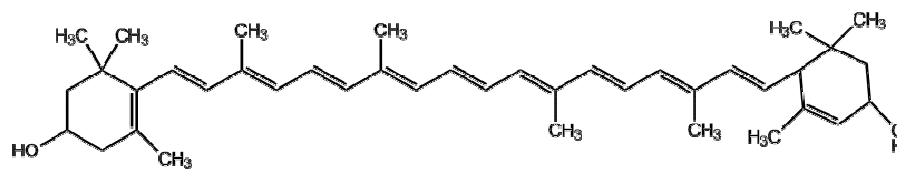
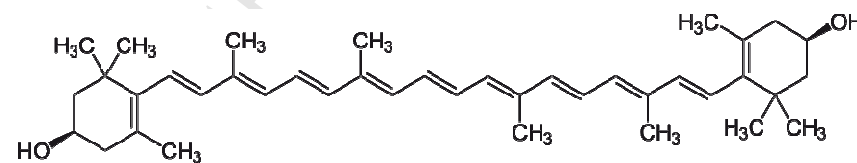
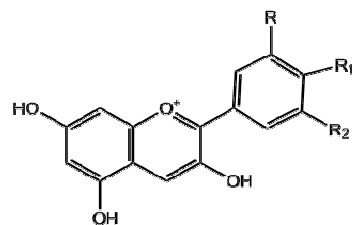
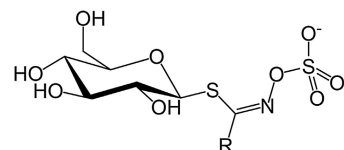
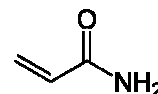
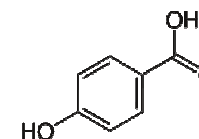
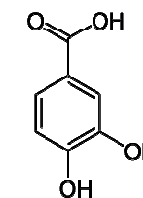
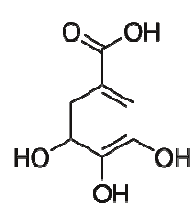
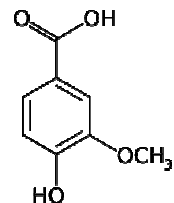
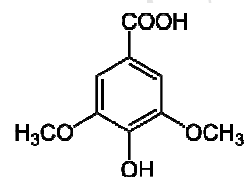
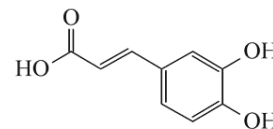
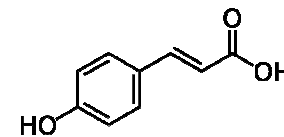
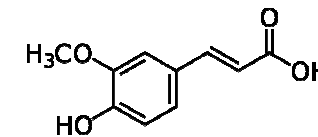
Note: “↑” and “↓” mean increase and decrease in contents of phytochemicals, respectively. TCC: Total carotenoid content; TPC: Total phenolic content; AAC: Ascorbic acid content; TGC: Total glucosinolates content; TAC: Total anthocyanin content; TFC: Total flavonoid content; TCH: Total chlorophylls content.

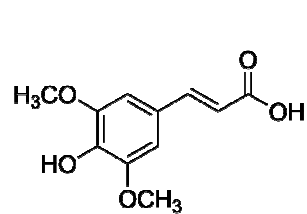
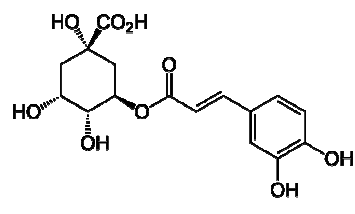
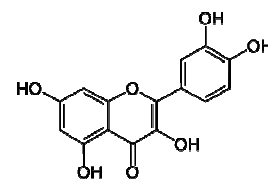
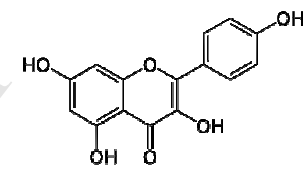
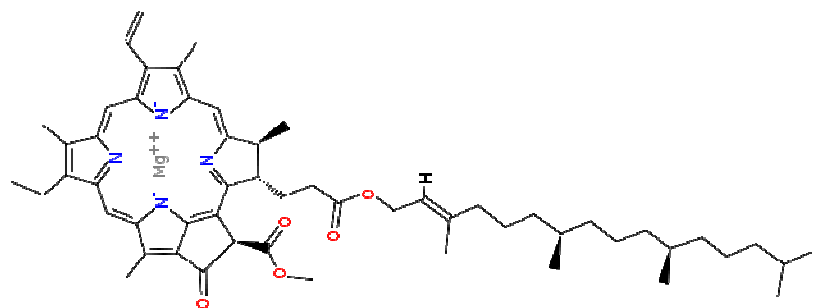
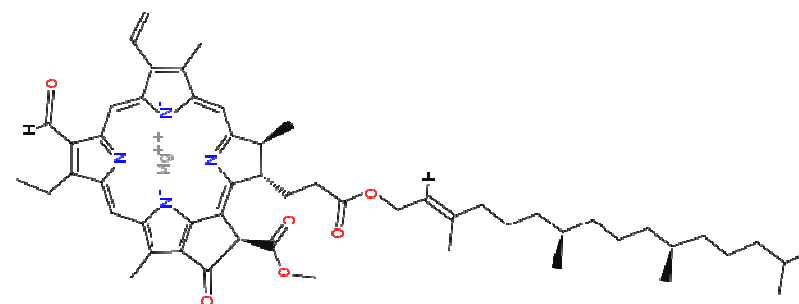
Table 3. Effects of different domestic cooking methods on antioxidant activities (AA) of foods.

Vegetables	Measuring methods	Cooking methods	Antioxidant activity changes	References
Purple-fleshed potatoes	DPPH assay	Boiling; Microwaving; Frying; Steaming; Baking; Stir-frying Air-frying	AA↓ AA↑	Tian, Chen, Ye, & Chen, 2016; Tian et al., 2016
Purple waxy corn	ABTS	Boiling Steaming	AA↓ AA↑	Harakotr, Suriharn, Tangwongchai, Scott, & Lertrat, 2014
Lentils (<i>Lens culinaris</i>)	DPPH and ORAC assays	Boiling	A properly designed cooking protocol will not cause significant loss of the phytochemical antioxidants.	Zhang et al., 2014a
Edible mushrooms (<i>Agaricus bisporus</i> , <i>Flammulina velutipes</i> , <i>Lentinula edodes</i> , <i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i> and <i>Pleurotus eryngii</i>)	FRAP, TEAC and DPPH assays	Steaming Microwaving Pressure cooking	AA↑: for <i>F. velutipes</i> , <i>P. ostreatus</i> and <i>L. edodes</i> AA↑: for <i>A. Bisporus</i> AA↑: for <i>P. eryngii</i>	Ng & Tan, 2017
Perah seeds	DPPH and β -Carotene bleaching assays	Microwaving	AA↑: caused by solubilization of phenolic compounds and formation of Maillard reaction products.	Li, Ali, & Muhammad, 2017
Green leafy vegetables (garden spinach leaf, water spinach leaf, Indian spinach leaf, and green leaved amaranth)	DPPH assay	Boiling; Frying	AA↑: both cooking processes enhanced significantly the radical scavenging ability.	Hossain, Khatun, Islam, & Islam, 2017

Brussels sprouts, pumpkin cubes	DPPH assay	Air-steam cooking	AA↑	Paciulli et al., 2018
Cactus cladodes	ABTS and DPPH assays	Microwaving; Griddling Boiling	AA↑ AA↓	De Santiago, Domínguez-Fernández, Cid, & De Peña, 2018
Carrot, Onion, Potato, Broccoli, White cabbage	DPPH assay	Boiling; Microwaving; Steaming	AA↓: for carrot, onion, and white cabbage AA↑: for potato and broccoli	Faller & Fialho, 2009
Cauliflower	ABTS, DPPH and phosphomolybdenum assays	Boiling Steaming	AA↓ AA↑	Girgin & Sedef, 2015
Watercress	FRAP assay	Boiling Steaming; Microwaving	AA↓ No significant losses for AA	Giallourou, Oruna-Concha, & Harbourne, 2016
Pineapple fruit leather	DPPH assay	Extrusion	AA↑	Sharma, Ramchiary, Samyor, & Das, 2016
Pepper	ABTS and DPPH assays	Frying	AA was no significantly decrease with DPPH assay, however, it has a drastically decrease by ABTS method.	Loizzo et al., 2013
Broccoli	DPPH assay	Boiling; Microwaving	AA↓	Zhang & Hamauzu, 2004

Note: “↑” and “↓” mean increase and decrease in contents of phytochemicals, respectively. ORAC, oxygen radical absorption capacity assay; FRAP, Ferric reducing antioxidant power; TEAC, Trolox equivalent antioxidant capacity.

Ascorbic acid **1** β -carotene **2** α -carotene **3**Lutein **4**Zeaxanthin **5**Anthocyanin **6**Glucosinolate **7**Acrylamide **8***p*-Hydroxybenzoic acid **9**Protocatechuic acid **10**Gallic acid **11**Vanillic acid **12**Syringic acid **13**Caffeic acid **14***p*-Coumaric acid **15**Ferulic acid **16**

Sinapic acid *17*Chlorogenic acid *18*Quercetin *19*Kaempferol *20*Chlorophyll *a* *21*Chlorophyll *b* *22***Fig. 1.** Chemical structures of dietary compounds.

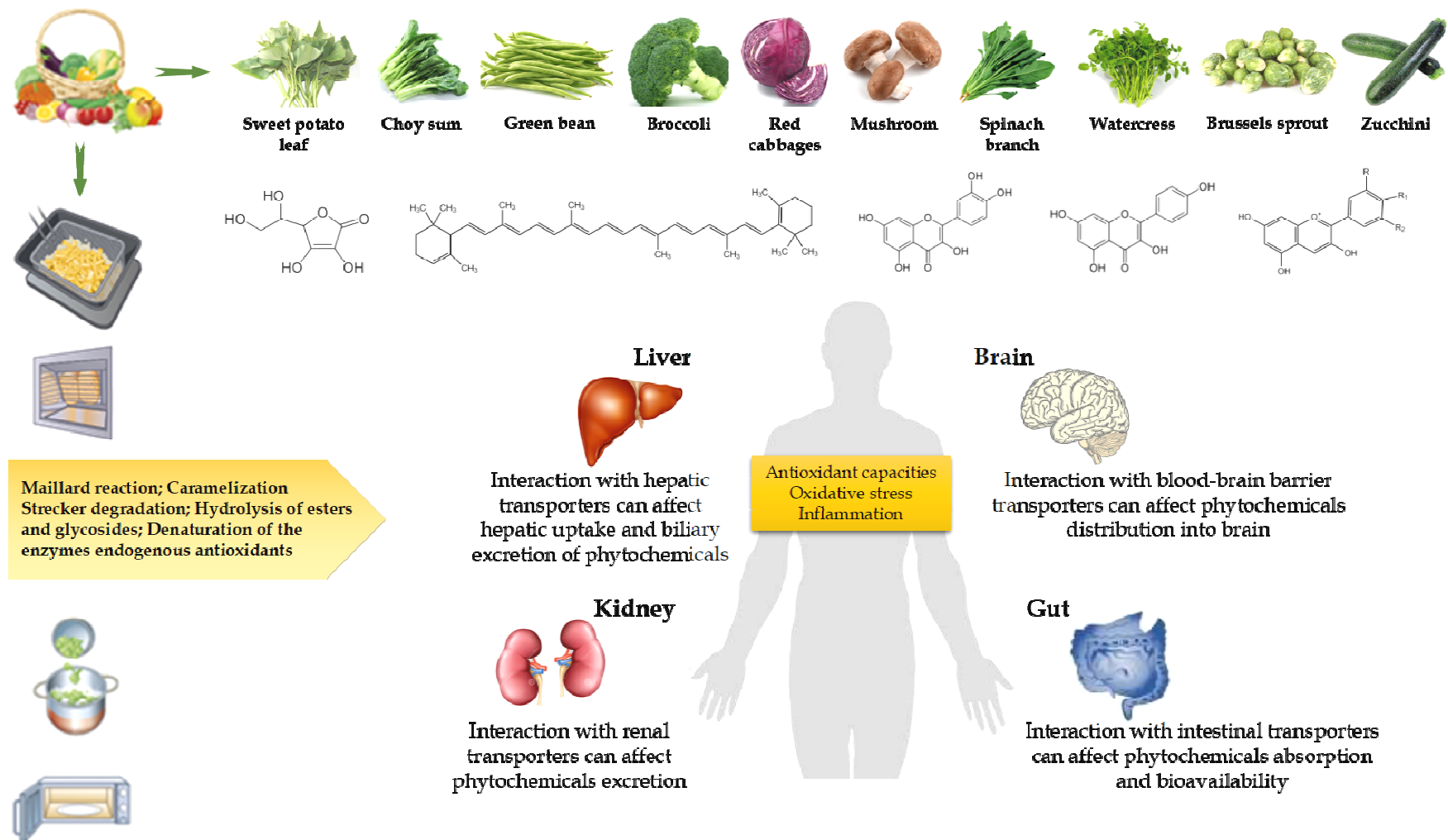


Fig. 2. Absorption and disposition of natural phytochemicals after food processing in humans. Vegetables and their associated phytochemicals appear to increase antioxidant capacities and concomitantly suppress oxidative stress and inflammation.

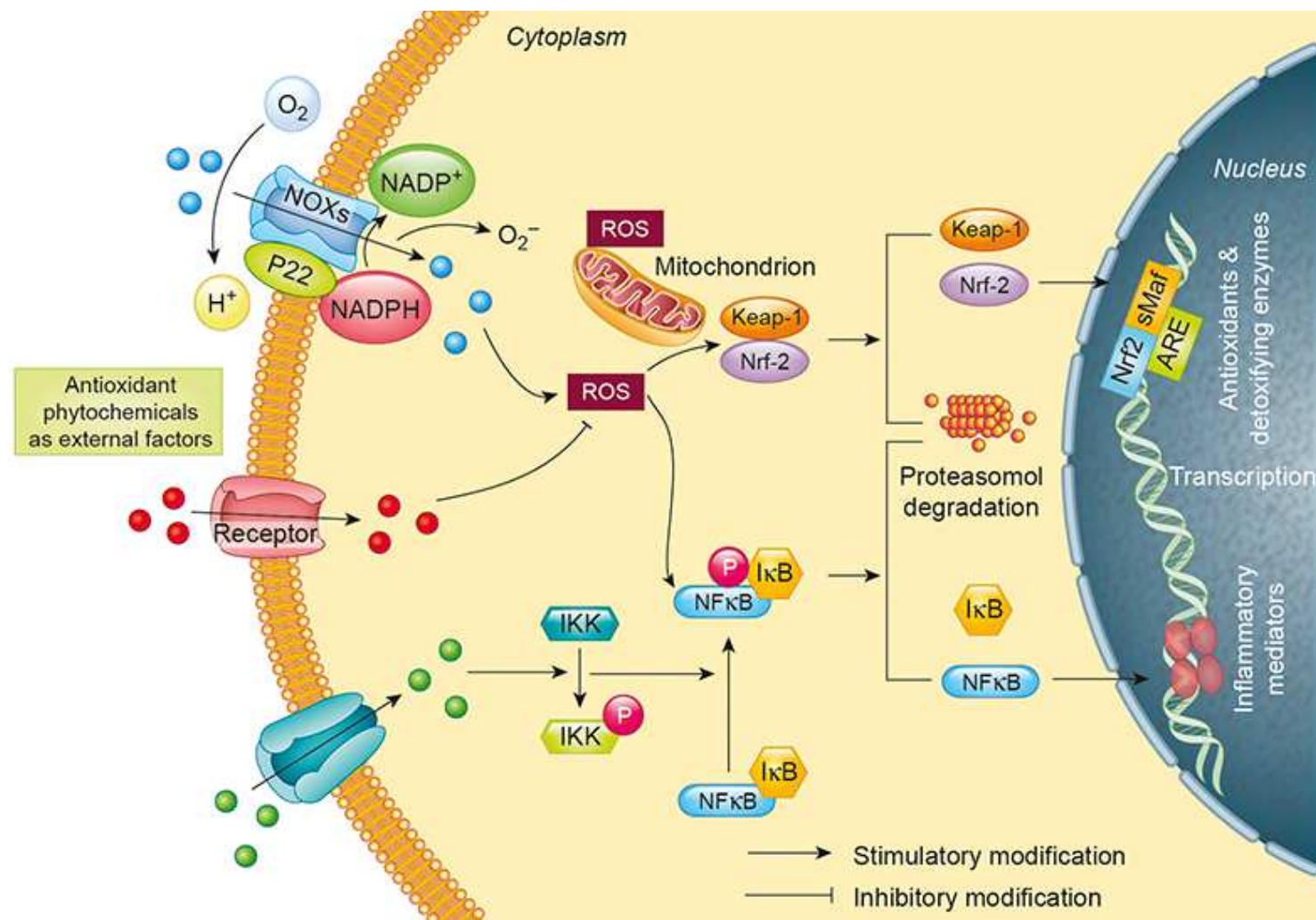


Fig. 3. The antioxidant responses and cellular adjustments with natural phytochemicals as antioxidants.

1. The domestic cooking methods affect the nutritional values and functional properties of foods.
2. The effect of structural changes with the release of nutrients and phytochemicals during cooking was mostly ignored.
3. The bioactive compounds can be beneficial or detrimental depending on the processing conditions.