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1 **The Effect of Resveratrol Supplementation on Serum Levels of Asymmetric De-Methyl-**
2 **Arginine and Paraoxonase 1 Activity in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes: A Randomized,**
3 **Double-Blind Controlled Trial**

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29 **ABSTRACT**

30 **Objective:** The present study sought to investigate the effect of micronized resveratrol
31 supplementation on serum levels of asymmetric de-methyl-arginine (ADMA) and paraoxonase-1
32 (PON1) activity in patients with type 2 diabetes (T2D).

33 **Methods:** In this double-blinded randomized trial, 76 patients with T2D were recruited.
34 Participants were randomly assigned to consume 1000 mg resveratrol or placebo capsules
35 (methylcellulose) per day, for 8 weeks. Serum levels of ADMA and PON1 enzyme activity were
36 measured at the beginning and end of the intervention using the ELISA method. In total, 71
37 participants completed the study.

38 **Results:** Our results showed that resveratrol significantly decreased serum levels of ADMA (-
39 0.16 ± 0.11 , $P<0.001$) and improved PON1 enzyme activity (15.39 ± 13.99 , $P<0.001$) compared with
40 placebo, after adjusting for confounding factors (age, sex and baseline body mass index).

41 **Conclusion:** Our findings suggest that 8-week resveratrol supplementation may produce
42 beneficial effects on serum levels of ADMA and PON1 enzyme activity in patients with T2DM.
43 However, further research is needed to confirm the veracity of these results.

44 **Keywords:** *Resveratrol, ADMA, PON1 protein, Type 2 diabetes mellitus*

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48 INTRODUCTION

49 Type 2 diabetes (T2D), the most prevalent endocrine disease, represents one of the most important
50 health issues affecting people globally (1, 2). Empirical evidence indicates that cardiovascular
51 disease is a major cause of mortality and morbidity in patients with diabetes (3). Obesity,
52 dysglycemia, dyslipidemia, and hypertension represent the most important risk factors for
53 cardiovascular diseases, which are especially common in diabetic patients (4). The vascular
54 endothelium plays a pivotal role in maintaining the vascular tone and mediates production (5). One
55 of the mediators is nitric oxide (NO), which is produced in response to stress, and has an important
56 function in vasodilatation and increases circulation (6). Asymmetric dimethylarginine (ADMA) is
57 a competitive endogenous inhibitor for nitric oxide synthase (NOS) and inhibits the production of
58 NO in pathological concentrations (7). Increased serum levels of ADMA have been reported in
59 patients with diabetes, renal failure, hypercholesterolemia, cardiovascular diseases, and
60 hypertension (8).

61 Chronic hyperglycemia in T2D induces oxidative stress in various pathways, such as; glucose
62 auto-oxidation, glycosylation of operational proteins, activation of the polyol pathway, endothelial
63 NOS (eNOS) uncoupling and oxidative phosphorylation (9-12). Paraoxonases (aryl dialkyl
64 phosphatase) as antioxidant factors, also initially identified as hydrolyzing enzymes of
65 organophosphorus compounds such as, paraoxon, or diazoxone insecticides (13, 14). Paraoxonase-
66 1 (PON1) is an esterase which is produced in the liver and is transported with circulating high-
67 density lipoprotein (HDL) (15, 16). It seems that PON1 is partly responsible for the antioxidant
68 property of HDL (17). Some studies have shown that the PON1 activity is independent of the
69 amount of Apo-lipoprotein HDL (18); PON1 also inhibits LDL peroxidation and oxidized LDL
70 synthesis (19), and hydrolyzes homo-cysteine, which is an important risk factor for cardiovascular

71 disease (20). PON1 activity is important in the prevention of atherosclerosis progression by
72 inhibition of MCP-1 production (Monocyte Chemoattractant Peptide 1), which is stimulated by
73 oxidized LDL in the endothelial cells (21). Some previous studies have reported that PON1
74 enzyme activity may be decreased in diabetic patients (22-24), whilst high serum levels of glucose
75 can lead to PON1 separation from HDL (25). Furthermore, it seems that serum levels of ADMA
76 and PON1 activity are affected by antioxidants (26).

77 Resveratrol is a polyphenol found mostly in grapes and nuts and has been shown to elicit beneficial
78 effects on diabetes and cardiovascular diseases (27, 28). The cardiovascular protective effects of
79 resveratrol have been widely investigated; however, the exact mechanisms are far from
80 consensual. The results of some meta-analytical studies have shown that resveratrol
81 supplementation can elicit improvements in endothelial function (29), and reductions in
82 inflammatory markers (30-32); however, a previous meta-analysis concluded that resveratrol
83 supplementation has no significant effects on cardiovascular risk factors (33). In the present study,
84 we investigated the effects of resveratrol supplementation on serum levels of ADMA and PON1
85 activity in patients with type 2 diabetes.

86

87 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

88 **Study Design and Participants**

89 Patients with T2D were selected from a diabetes center (Yazd, Iran), and the diagnosis of
90 diabetes was confirmed by an endocrinologist (34). The protocol of the present double-blind
91 randomized controlled trial was approved by the Ethics Committee of Shahid Sadoughi
92 University of Medical Sciences in Yazd (IR.SSU.SPH.REC.1397.073) and registered in the

93 Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials (www.irct.ir) as IRCT20171118037528N1). Informed consent
94 was provided by all participants prior to study commencement.

95 **Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria**

96 Detailed information about the study design has been previously described in detail (35). Briefly,
97 men and women with T2D aged 30-60 years old, body mass index (BMI) of 25-30 kg/m², and
98 glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c) lower than 8% were enrolled in the study. Exclusion criteria
99 included; diagnosed kidney or liver disease, cancer, Alzheimer's, gastrointestinal ulcer,
100 inflammatory and autoimmune diseases, and/or history of myocardial infarction, treatment with
101 any supplement containing antioxidants, insulin, fibrates, warfarin, aspirin or any drugs that inhibit
102 platelet aggregation in the 6 months preceding the study. Patients who consumed alcoholic
103 beverages habitually, and pregnant or lactating women were also excluded.

104 **Setting**

105 A stratified randomized method, using a computer random generated number based on sex and age
106 (30-45, 45-60 years old), was used to assign participants into the intervention or control group,
107 respectively. Patients in the intervention group received two capsules per day, which provided
108 1000 mg/day purified resveratrol (Mega-Resveratrol, Danbury, USA) for 8 weeks. Two capsules
109 containing methyl cellulose (Barij essence, Kashan, Iran) were taken by patients in the control
110 group for the same duration. The placebo was similar in appearance and taste with the resveratrol
111 supplement. Patients were not deprived of their usual treatment for diabetes.

112 A person outside the research team performed the packing and labeling (A or B) of the bottles
113 containing resveratrol and placebo. The researchers and participants were not aware of the contents
114 until the end of the intervention. Patients were asked to report any suspected adverse events. The
115 compliance rate of the participants was evaluated using the remaining capsule counts at the end of

116 the study, and participants were asked to maintain their habitual diet and physical activity
117 throughout the study.

118 **Nutritional and Physical Activity Assessment**

119 To assess nutrient intake, two, 3-day dietary food records (one weekend day and two weekdays)
120 were completed by the participants in the first and last week of the intervention. Data were
121 analyzed using Nutritionist IV software (The Hearst Corporation, San Bruno, California, USA).

122 To assess the physical activity level, metabolic equivalent (MET) was calculated using a validated
123 questionnaire at the beginning and end of the study (36). In this questionnaire, information on
124 physical activity is classified based on the intensity of each activity in nine different categories
125 (ranging from inactivity to severe sports activities). The duration of each activity was multiplied
126 by the coefficient for each activity, and the values obtained in the nine different classes were
127 summed in order to provide MET/h per day.

128 **Anthropometric and Biochemical Measurements**

129 Anthropometric measures, including height, body weight, waist and hip circumferences, BMI, fat
130 and, fat-free masses, were assessed before and after the intervention using a segmental body
131 composition analyzer (Tanita BC-418, Tokyo, Japan). The results of the anthropometric measures,
132 as well as cardio-metabolic biochemical factors (glycemic indices and lipid profile), have been
133 reported elsewhere (37).

134 Blood samples for biochemical parameters were collected at the beginning and end of the study
135 after 12h nocturnal fasting. Blood samples were centrifuged for 10 minutes at room temperature
136 (3000 g; Eppendorf AG, Hamburg), and then the serum samples were frozen at -70 ° C until
137 analyses. Serum levels of ADMA were measured applying enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
138 (ELISA) method using a commercially available kit (Zellbio, Germany) with inter-and intra-

139 assay <12% and <10%, respectively. The PON1 activity also determined by the ELISA method
140 using a commercially available kit (Zellbio, Germany, inter-and intra-assay: CVs were 4.8% and
141 4.1%, respectively).

142 **Sample Size and Statistical Analysis**

143 This report is part of a previous study that calculated the sample size based on the *PPAR α* gene
144 expression in peripheral blood mononuclear cells (35). Although, a retrospective power analysis
145 was performed to assess the quantity of the sample size for our interested outcomes. The results
146 showed adequate power for ADMA levels (observed power= 1.0).

147 SPSS software for windows version 23.0 (SPSS, Chicago, IL, USA) was used for all data entry
148 and statistical analyses. The values were expressed as mean \pm standard deviation for continuous
149 and proportions for categorical data. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used to evaluate the
150 distribution of variables. To compare the quantitative values between the two groups, an
151 independent samples t-test and within groups paired t-test were used, respectively. Analysis of
152 covariance (ANCOVA) was used to modify possible confounding factors including age, gender,
153 and baseline BMI. Statistical significance was accepted, *a priori*, at $P < 0.05$.

154 **RESULTS**

155 Of the 76 participants enrolled in the study, five patients did not complete the intervention due to
156 pregnancy (n=1), traveling (n=1) and withdrawal of consent (n=3). Finally, data from 71
157 participants (35 patients in resveratrol and 36 patients in placebo groups) were included in the
158 analysis (**Figure 1**). More than 90% compliance (92.6% in placebo and 93.1% in resveratrol) was
159 detected through capsule counting, and no adverse side effects were reported.

160 **Table 1** details the general characteristics of the participants before the intervention, and there
161 were no significant differences in baseline variables between the two groups. The mean age of

162 participants in resveratrol and placebo groups was 50.14 ± 7.38 and 50.06 ± 7.69 years,
163 respectively. No significant between-group differences for dietary intake and physical activity
164 were observed at the baseline and they also did not change following the 8-week intervention
165 (**Table 2**).

166 Resveratrol significantly reduced ADMA levels compared with baseline and the placebo group ($-$
167 0.16 ± 0.11 (ng/ml); all P-values < 0.001). PON1 activity was also significantly increased after
168 supplementation in the resveratrol group (15.39 ± 13.99 (U/L); $P < 0.001$) and compared with the
169 placebo group ($P = 0.04$). These findings remained significant after adjusting for confounding
170 variables (all P-values < 0.001) (**Table 3**).

171 **DISCUSSION**

172 The results of the current study showed a significant reduction in serum levels of ADMA, and
173 significant increase in PON1 activity, following 8-week resveratrol supplementation. In line with
174 our findings, previous studies have reported a significant increase in PON1 activity after
175 resveratrol (38), pomegranate juice (39), eicosapentaenoic acid (40), barberry juice (41), and
176 vitamin E supplementation (42) in patients with type 2 diabetes. Furthermore, one study reported
177 a higher intake of fruit and vegetable leads to an increase in PON1 activity (43). The findings of
178 some in-vitro studies have also showed that resveratrol increases PON1 gene expression and
179 activity in different human cells (44-46).

180 PON1 is a HDL-associated enzyme that hydrolyzes oxidized LDL-cholesterol, and is known for
181 its atheroprotective capabilities (47). Furthermore, this enzyme plays a critical role in the
182 protection against oxidative stress-related diseases (48, 49); including cardiovascular diseases, the

183 major cause of mortality among patients with diabetes (50). Moreover, the activity and
184 concentration of PON1 are reported to decrease in these patients (23).

185 Resveratrol is an antioxidant that appears to affect PON1 activity through several pathways.
186 Resveratrol can result in an increase in carnitine palmitoyl transferase-1, decrease in acetyl-CoA
187 carboxylase and fatty acid synthase genes expression, and, consequently, an elevation in HDL
188 levels (38). The results of the present study also support the beneficial effect of resveratrol on HDL
189 levels (37). Furthermore, it seems that resveratrol might regulate gene expression by binding to
190 the estrogen response element-2 sequences (51). There are similar sequences in the promoter
191 region of PON1 gene, suggesting that PON1 gene expression upregulation induced by resveratrol
192 may be related to the presented sequences (52). Moreover, resveratrol is known as a ligand for
193 aryl-hydro carbon receptors (AhR) and can increase PON1 gene expression and activity through
194 AhR-dependent mechanisms (53).

195 In the present study, we also observed a significant reduction in serum levels of ADMA following
196 resveratrol supplementation. Previous reports have identified that increased ADMA levels are
197 associated with oxidative stress related diseases, such as diabetes (54-56). ADMA is produced via
198 protein arginine methyl transferase and breaks down to citrulline and dimethyl amine by dimethyl
199 arginine dimethyl amino hydrolase (DDAH). Oxidative stress reduces the gene expression and
200 activity of DDAH resulting in endothelial dysfunction (57, 58), whilst there is substantive evidence
201 that increased ADMA levels contribute to injuries induced by oxidative stress (59). There are
202 numerous reports in the literature asserting that resveratrol can stimulate eNO synthesis and inhibit
203 its degradation in several mechanisms (60-62). However, one study suggested that the levels of
204 eNOS did not significantly change following resveratrol supplementation (63); conceivably due to
205 the small sample size (n=48). Resveratrol activates sirtuin-1 (SIRT1) through AMP-activated

206 protein kinase (AMPK) pathway (64), and SIRT-1 increases eNOS gene expression by
207 deacetylating Forkhead box O (FOXO) transcription factors (65). It has been shown that elevated
208 NO levels can upregulate DDAH by cyclic GMP induction and subsequently decreased ADMA
209 levels (66). There is also some evidence that resveratrol can independently upregulate DDAH gene
210 expression (67); however, the molecular mechanisms are not well identified. Moreover, DDAH
211 upregulation causes decreases ADMA levels and increases NO production and bioavailability (58,
212 68).

213 A number of in-vitro studies in endothelial cells have reported significant decreases in ADMA
214 levels after red wine consumption as a source of resveratrol (58). Some RCTs have also shown
215 that ADMA levels are reduced after coenzyme Q10 (69), alpha-lipoic acid (70, 71),
216 eicosapentaenoic acid (72), and DHA-enriched fish oil consumption (73) in patients with type 2
217 diabetes, respectively, and also vitamin E supplementation in chronic kidney disease patients (74).
218 Moreover, one animal study indicated DDAH activity increased after intervention with *trans*-3, 5,
219 4'-trihydroxystilbene as an analog of resveratrol on gastric mucosal injury (67). However, the
220 results of some studies are inconsistent with our results. For instance, one study indicated that
221 vitamin C and E did not affect ADMA levels in children with hyperlipidemia (75), whilst another
222 study reported no significant differences in PON1 activity when omega-3 was administered (76).
223 However, the small number of participants may justify the aforementioned findings.

224 To the authors' knowledge, this is the first clinical trial study to investigate the effect of resveratrol
225 supplementation on serum levels of ADMA. Although there is one RCT investigating the effect of
226 resveratrol on PON1 activity in patients with diabetes (38), we utilized micronized resveratrol to
227 increase bioavailability, and included patients with overweight exclusively, to adjust oxidative
228 stress induced by obesity. Stratification by gender and age also permitted us to control confounders

229 related to these factors. Despite the novelty of the present study, there are some limitations that
230 must be considered. The present study was designed for short-term assessment of resveratrol
231 supplementation effects; thus, we have no information as to the longer-term effects, or dose-
232 response relationship beyond this time. Finally, we did not investigate the cellular pathways related
233 to the beneficial effects of resveratrol on our interested outcomes; which clearly represents an
234 avenue for future research.

235 **Conclusion**

236 The findings of the present study demonstrated that 8-week resveratrol supplementation can
237 significantly improve ADMA levels and enhance PON1 activity in patients with diabetes. These
238 findings may support the beneficial, atheroprotective, effects of resveratrol; although, more
239 research is needed to confirm the veracity of our findings.

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243 patients.

244 **Conflict of interest**

245 There is no conflict of interest in the present study.

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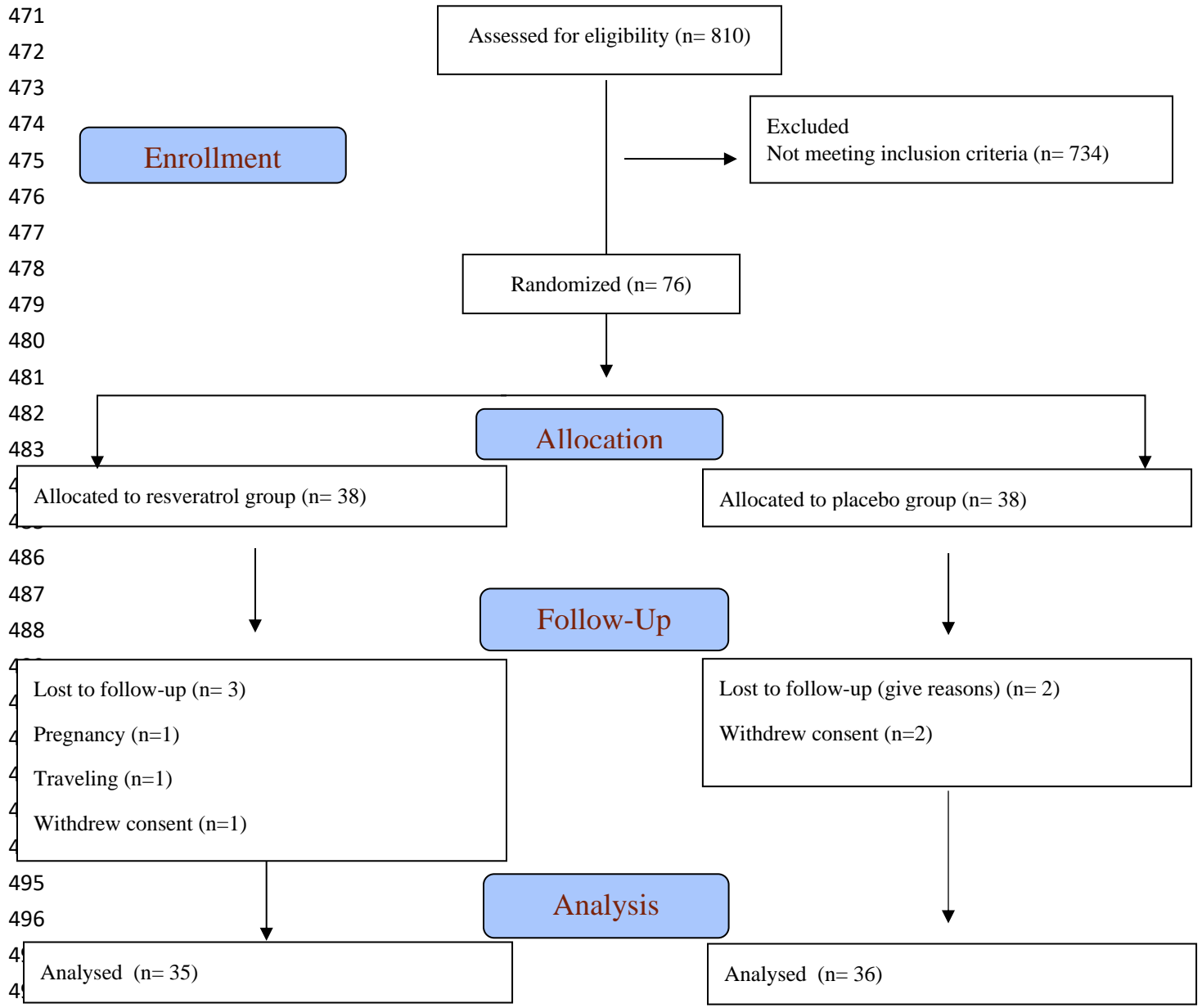
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Figure 1. CONSORT diagram outlining the number of subjects involved in enrollment, intervention allocation, follow-up, and data analysis.

507 **Table 1.** Baseline characteristics of the study participants¹

Variable	Resveratrol (n=35)	Placebo (n= 36)	P-value²
Age (years)	50.14 ± 7.38	50.06± 7.69	0.96
Diabetes duration (years)	9.40 ± 7.07	8.11 ± 6.90	0.44
Gender (female), n (%)	15 (42.9)	16 (44.4)	0.89
Menopause status, n (%)	4 (26.6)	3 (18.8)	0.68
Smoker, n (%)	5 (14.3)	2 (5.6)	0.21
HbA1C (%)	7.33± 0.65	7.33± 0.65	0.92
Complications			
Hypertension, n (%)	11 (31.4)	7 (19.4)	0.24
Kidney stone, n (%)	2 (5.7)	3 (8.3)	0.66
Non-alcoholic fatty liver, n (%)	3 (8.6)	2 (5.6)	0.62
Neuropathy, n (%)	2 (5.7)	2 (5.6)	0.97
Retinopathy, n (%)	5 (14.3)	5 (13.9)	0.96
Family T2DM History, n (%)	25 (71.4)	30 (83.3)	0.23
Medications			
Metformin, n (%)	30 (85.7)	31 (86.1)	0.96
Glibenclamide, n (%)	11 (31.4)	16 (44.4)	0.25
Statins, n (%)	3 (8.6)	4 (11.1)	0.70
Blood pressure lowering drugs, n (%)	6 (17.1)	5 (13.9)	0.72
Anthropometric measures			
Weight (kg)	73.69± 8.24	72.71± 10.52	0.66
Height (cm)	164.94 ± 7.22	162.08 ± 11.29	0.20
BMI (kg m ⁻²)	27.10± 2.69	27.66± 2.71	0.39
HC (cm)	101.97± 6.05	103.47± 8.04	0.37
WC (cm)	91.75± 7.4	92.58± 8.53	0.66
WHR	0.9± 0.06	0.89± 0.05	0.53
WHtR	0.55± 0.05	0.57± 0.07	0.25

508 ¹Data are expressed as mean ± SD for continuous variables or as frequency and percentage for categorical variables.509 ²Differences between the control and intervention groups were evaluated using the Independent sample t-test for continuous
510 variables and chi-square test for categorical variables. BMI, Body mass index; HbA1c, glycated hemoglobin; HC, Hip
511 circumference; WC, Waist circumference; WHR, Waist to hip ratio; WHtR, Waist to height ratio

512

513 **Table 2.** Dietary intake and physical activity during study in resveratrol and placebo groups (mean ± SD)

514 ¹The presented P-values are associated with within-group comparisons obtained paired t test.

Variable	Resveratrol (n=35)			Placebo (n= 36)			
	Before	After	P-value ¹	Before	After	P-value ¹	P-value ²
Energy (kcal)	1612.87± 587.87	1544.71± 597.37	0.45	1708.79± 515.39	1674.16±597.07	0.55	0.47
Carbohydrate (%)	59.76 ± 12.71	61.36± 11.2	0.43	60.82 ± 9.96	60.61± 8.76	0.88	0.7
Protein (%)	15.5 ± 4.65	16.28± 5.17	0.47	15.48 ± 3.48	15.84± 4.02	0.56	0.97
Fat (%)	25.34 ± 14.55	24.14± 11.02	0.58	24.61 ± 10.42	24.26± 9.63	0.77	0.81
Fiber (g/d)	9.43± 4.11	9.69± 4.32	0.81	10.44± 5.23	10.86±5.27	0.64	0.2
Cholesterol (mg/d)	219± 29	208± 47	0.77	189± 71	191± 63	0.61	0.75
PUFA (%)	8.22± 4.13	8.28± 4.24	0.81	9.13± 4.35	9.71± 5.12	0.43	0.76
MUFA (%)EPA	6.32± 4.21	6.12± 5.1	0.53	5.67± 3.72	5.82± 3.22	0.62	0.41
(%)	0.01± 0.69	96.62±571.66	0.32	0.0038± 0.0097	0.0007± 0.0014	0.14	0.17
Zinc	6.72± 2.64	6.79± 3.12	0.64	7.03± 2.83	7.73± 4.004	0.71	0.65
Vitamin E	3.45± 2.01	4.44± 5.44	0.25	3.75± 2.96	4.22± 3.82	0.28	0.64
Vitamin C	57.24± 49.18	53.09± 54.36	0.73	64.36± 44.64	51.31± 41.69	0.23	0.55
Selenium	0.09± 0.47	0.10± 0.06	0.15	0.08± 0.07	0.109± 0.1005	0.06	0.66
Beta-Carotene	365.67± 816.21	206.60± 424.54	0.25	289.63± 694± 62	348.61± 640.04	0.45	0.69
DHA	0.05± 0.18	19.20± 111.93	0.32	0.005± 0.01	0.007± 0.01	0.21	0.12
PA (MET-h/d)	35.61 ± 5.22	36.33± 5.7	0.14	37.54 ± 7.82	36.99± 5.87	0.31	0.24

515 ²The presented P-values are associated with baseline comparisons of the resveratrol and control groups obtained independent
516 sample t test

517 EPA, Eicosapentaenoic acid; DHA, Docosahexaenoic acid; MUFA, Mono-unsaturated fatty acid; PA, physical activity.

518 PUFA, Poly-unsaturated fatty acid.

Table3: Comparison of serum levels of ADMA and PON1 enzyme activity at baseline and after intervention in resveratrol and placebo groups (mean ± SD).

Variable	Resveratrol (n=35)				Placebo (n= 36)							
	Before	After	P-value ¹	Change	Before	After	P-value ¹	Change	P-value ²	P-value ³	P-value ⁴	P-value ⁵
ADMA (ng/ml)	0.61±0.47	0.44±0.38	0.000	-0.16±0.11	0.60±0.45	0.57±0.26	0.06	0.04±0.07	0.527	0.000	0.000	0.000
PON1 (U/L)	97.32±18.68	112.72±24.91	0.000	15.39±13.99	100.12±24.60	101.06±24.14	0.223	0.94±4.95	0.592	0.049	0.000	0.000

¹The presented P-values are associated with within-group comparisons obtained paired t test.

²The presented P-values are associated with baseline comparisons of the resveratrol and control groups obtained independent sample t test

³The presented P-values are associated with between groups comparisons after intervention obtained independent sample t test.

⁴ The presented P-values are associated with mean changes comparisons obtained from independent-sample t test.

⁵ The presented P-values are associated with mean changes comparisons adjusted for age, gender, and BMI obtained from analysis of covariance (ANCOVA).

ADMA, asymmetric de-methyl-arginine; PON1, paraoxonase 1.