

AperTO - Archivio Istituzionale Open Access dell'Università di Torino

Orthorexia Nervosa, a challenging evaluation: analysis of a sample of customers from organic food stores

This is the author's manuscript

Original Citation:

Availability:

This version is available <http://hdl.handle.net/2318/1769820> since 2021-01-28T14:50:59Z

Published version:

DOI:10.1080/13548506.2020.1771386

Terms of use:

Open Access

Anyone can freely access the full text of works made available as "Open Access". Works made available under a Creative Commons license can be used according to the terms and conditions of said license. Use of all other works requires consent of the right holder (author or publisher) if not exempted from copyright protection by the applicable law.

(Article begins on next page)

Title

Orthorexia Nervosa, a challenging evaluation: analysis of a sample of customers from Organic Food Stores.

Authors

Vogolino Gianluca¹, Parente Ernestina², Bert Fabrizio¹, Lo Moro Giuseppina¹, Corradi Alessio¹, Lapicciarella Monica², Gualano Maria Rosaria¹, Siliquini Roberta¹

Affiliations

¹Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Turin, Italy

²Degree Course in Dietetics, University of Turin, Italy

Corresponding Author

Dr. Bert Fabrizio

Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Turin, Italy

Via Santena 5 bis, 10126, Turin, Italy

Mail: fabrizio.bert@unito.it

Tel: 011-6705816

Fax: 011-6705889

Words count

Full text: 1500 words

Abstract

An excessive control of quality of food can turn into Orthorexia Nervosa (ON). The organic store customers (OSCs) can be a population at risk of developing ON. Main objectives of this study were to assess ON symptoms prevalence among them, make a comparison with non-OSCs and investigate potential predictors of ON. For this purpose, a cross-sectional survey was carried among 121 OSCs and 119 non-OSCs. The questionnaire comprehended questions assessing socio-demographic characteristics and others investigating current dietary habits. A two-tailed $p < 0.05$ was considered significant. The main outcome measures used were ORTO-15 and Eating Habits Questionnaire (EHQ). Chi-squared analyses were performed to assess differences between groups (OSCs and non-OSCs). Logistic and linear regressions were performed to evaluate potential predictors of ON symptoms and to compare questionnaires. As main results, OSCs had a higher probability to result positive at ORTO-15 compared to non-OSCs, both with 40 and 35 cut-off ($p = 0.009$, $p = 0.004$). The positivity at ORTO-15 among OSCs was 69.4% and 23.1% (40 and 35 cut-off). Lower ORTO-15 and higher EHQ scores were reported among OSCs ($p < 0.001$). Potential predictors were mainly being an OSC or following food restrictions. Predictors varied using different cut-off of ORTO-15 and EHQ. These results suggest association between OSCs and ON symptoms. Some differences were found between ORTO-15 and EHQ. Further studies need to be performed to improve diagnostic tools.

Key Words

Eating Disorder; Food, Organic; Healthy Diet; Diet, Vegetarian

Introduction

Orthorexia Nervosa (ON) represents an emerging condition. People with ON symptoms transform a careful approach to nutrition into an obsession, indeed their attention to a healthy and balanced diet may lead to risky food restrictions and eating disorders (Costa, Hardan-Khalil, & Gibbs, 2017). Firstly described by Bratman in 1997 (Bratman, 1997), ON is mostly defined by these criteria: obsessional/pathological preoccupation with healthy diet; emotional repercussions of non-adherence to self-imposed rules; psychosocial damages in relevant areas of life along with malnutrition and weight loss (Cena et al., 2019). One of the main characteristics is abstaining from eating food treated with chemicals, artificial substances, or important fat amounts, salt or sugar (Moroze, Dunn, Craig Holland, Yager, & Weintraub, 2015). Although ON has already been reported, no enough data exist to declare ON an official eating disorder to be included in the latest *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-5) (Fairburn & Cooper, 2011; Varga, Thege, Dukay-Szabó, Túry, & van Furth, 2014).

Different studies tried to assess ON prevalence giving a broad variety of results, from 6.9% to 57.6% in general population (Donini, Marsili, Graziani, Imbriale, & Cannella, 2004; Ramacciotti et al., 2011), reaching 86% in high-risk populations (Herranz Valera, Acuña Ruiz, Romero Valdespino, & Visioli, 2014). Since no diagnostic criteria exist, the wide variety of tools could explain such different findings. Presently, the most used scale is the ORTO-15, which has several translations available (Arusoğlu, Kabakçı, Köksal, & Merdol, 2008; Asil & Sürücüoğlu, 2015; Bağcı Bosi et al., 2007; Barcelos Pontes & Montagner, 2014; Brytek-Matera, Krupa, Poggiogalle, & Donini, 2014; Missbach et al., 2015; Stochel et al., 2015; Varga et al., 2014). Moreover, to analyse awareness, behaviours and perceptions connected to excessive attention for healthy eating, the Eating Habits Questionnaire (EHQ) was created (Bert et al., 2019; Brytek-Matera, Czepczor-Bernat, Jurzak, Kornacka, &

Kołodziejczyk, 2019; Gleaves, C. Graham, & Ambwani, 2013).

This study evaluated the organic store customers (OSCs) population, which might be at risk. Indeed, according to recent ON definitions, the suitable food is mainly described as healthy/proper/correct, organic and biologically pure (Cena, 2019). Although a U.S. study reported that people engaged with alternative food network (including organic shops) were more prone to ON tendencies (Barnett, Dripps, Blomquist, 2016), few literature about OSCs exists. Additionally, recent Italian data revealed that organic food consumption has increased since 2010 and OSCs showed an interest in healthy and sustainable food (Sistema d'Informazione Nazionale sull'Agricoltura Biologica, 2017). Therefore, we aimed to assess ON symptoms prevalence among OSCs, compared to non-OSCs, and explore possible ON symptoms predictors considering potential well-documented confounders, e.g. vegetarian diet (Brytek-Matera, 2019). To our knowledge, no other study assessed the risk of developing ON in this specific population in the Italian context or in similar realities.

Materials and Methods

A cross-sectional survey was conducted in Northern Italy (Piedmont) between January and June 2018. The Internal Review Board of the Department of Public Health Sciences (University of Torino) approved the protocol. The main inclusion criterion was deciding personally for own nutrition habits (e.g. excluded students living with parents), the exclusion criteria were being underage or not able to understand the questionnaire. The researchers collected the questionnaires at the entrance of organic stores and non-organic stores (e.g. supermarkets) through convenience sampling, ensured anonymity and, before the administration, explained the aims of the study. Informed consents were obtained. Participation was voluntary and without compensation. Collected questionnaires were 245, 5 (2%) were excluded because ORTO-15 or EHQ were not properly filled leading to a final sample of 121 OSCs and 119 non-OSCs.

The 47-item questionnaire was developed considering ON studies and was validated by a pilot study on 10 subjects. Items 1 to 11 investigated socio-demographic and health-related characteristics. Body Mass Index (BMI) was categorized in WHO classes (WHO - World Health Organization, n.d.). Some items assessed: food allergy/intolerance, persons who diagnosed allergy/intolerance (then categorized in specialists and non-specialists) and specific eating habits. Eating habits were grouped according to frequencies in our sample: No food restriction, Vegetarian diet, Vegan diet, Healthy diet (i.e. diet with the purpose of a better health), Other (e.g. gluten-free, lactose-free, meat-free).

Items from 12 to 26 were the ORTO-15 (Arusoğlu et al., 2008; Asil & Sürücüoğlu, 2015; Bağcı Bosi et al., 2007; Barcelos Pontes et al., 2014; Brytek-Matera et al., 2014; Missbach et al., 2015; Stochel et al., 2015; Varga et al., 2014). The sum of each item (score from 1 to 4) gives the ORTO-15 score, from 15 to 60. Several cut-offs exist and none is widely accepted as standard, although the 40 and 35 cut-offs are the most employed (Donini et al., 2004; Donini, Marsili, Graziani, Imbriale, & Cannella, 2005). Scores below the cut-off indicate ON symptoms presence. As ORTO-15 was criticized for low specificity (Dell'Osso et al., 2016; Ramacciotti et al., 2011), we added the EHQ, a 21-item tool that showed good performances (Bert et al., 2019; Gleaves et al., 2013). Each item has a score from 1 to 4. The final score ranges from 21 to 84. ON symptoms probability rises with higher EHQ scores, but a widely accepted cut-off is not available. We refer to previous studies for in depth discussion on the questionnaire used.

Descriptive analyses, chi-squared and Mann–Whitney U tests to compare OSCs and non-OSCs were conducted. Continuous variables had non-normal distributions (Shapiro-Wilk test).

ORTO-15 and EHQ scores were analyzed as continuous. Then, ORTO-15 most common cut-offs (40 and 35) delineated ON symptoms positive and negative groups. Univariable and

multivariable models were performed to explore predictors, using linear (EHQ score, ORTO-15 score) or logistic (ORTO-15 positive/negative) regression. Covariates were included using the ENTER method.

Analyses were performed using SPSS® (v25) and a two-tailed p-value<0.05 as significant.

Results

Females were 68.8% and median age was 44 (IQR=23). ORTO-15 median score was 38 (IQR=5), 61.3% scored below 40 while 16.3% below 35. EHQ median score was 35 (IQR=10). The complete description is in Table 1.

Age distribution varied significantly across OSCs and non-OSCs. Chi-squared analyses showed significant differences between OSCs and non-OSCs. For instance, OSCs were more frequently employed, had less frequently high education level, reported a higher frequency of food allergy diagnosed by non-specialists and were more likely to follow food restrictions. OSCs had a higher probability to result positive at ORTO-15 (both cut-offs). The ON symptoms prevalence among OSCs was 69.4% and 23.1% (40 and 35 cut-offs), while among non-OSCs was 52.9% and 9.2%. ORTO-15 and EHQ score distributions varied significantly across the two groups, with lower ORTO-15 and higher EHQ scores among OSCs. Data are presented in Table 1. [Table 1 near here]

Considering the ORTO-15 cut-off at 40, the multivariable logistic regression showed as risk factors for ON symptoms: being an OSC and following food restrictions other than vegetarian, vegan and healthy diet. Females had a lower probability of ON symptoms. Data are presented in Table 2. [Table 2 near here]

Differently, the multivariable model with the cut-off at 35 showed only following vegetarian diet as a risk factor. Being an OSC resulted a risk factor only in the univariable regression. Data are presented in Table 3. [Table 3 near here]

The multivariable linear regression showed a negative association with the ORTO-15 score for OSCs and those who followed vegan or other food restrictions. Being overweight had a positive association. Data are presented in Table 4. [Table 4 near here]

Finally, the EHQ multivariable linear regression showed a positive association with having a food allergy diagnosed by a specialist and following vegetarian or vegan diet. The univariable regression showed a positive association with being an OSC, however it was not verified by the multivariable model. Data are presented in Table 5. [Table 5 near here]

Discussion

ON is an emerging condition that has been extensively studied (Bağcı Bosı et al., 2007; Brytek-Matera et al., 2014; Donini et al., 2004, 2005; Dunn & Bratman, 2016; Ramacciotti et al., 2011; Strahler, 2019; Varga et al., 2014), but much remains to be investigated.

Therefore, analyses to identify high-risk sub-groups were performed. OSCs resulted significantly associated to an increased probability to present ON symptoms. A previous study outlined how subjects consuming alternative and organic food were more prone to ON behaviour (Barnett, Dripps, Blomquist, 2016), but none assessed ON symptoms prevalence in OSCs, turning the present work in a first step to identify a possible high-risk population.

Additionally, possible predictors of ON symptoms were assessed. Having food restrictions, especially vegetarian or vegan diet, resulted a significant predictor. These results, coherent with the literature (Brytek-Matera et al., 2019; Dunn & Bratman, 2016; Herranz Valera et al., 2014), could represent a confounding, making hard to discriminate between strict eating habit and pathological condition.

In our work, females were significantly associated with a reduced probability of ON behaviour only using ORTO-15 (40 cut-off), coherently with the review published in 2019, reporting no sex differences (Strahler, 2019).

Higher BMIs were positively associated to ON symptoms. Interestingly, no association was found for low BMI. Indeed, low BMI is associated with Anorexia Nervosa (Bert et al., 2019; Oberle et al., 2017) and this could represent a difference between these two disorders.

Around a quarter declared intolerances or food allergies. Moreover, few recurred to specialists for the diagnosis with a significant difference between OSCs and non-OSCs. These data confirmed previous investigations of the Italian Ministry of Health (Ministero della Salute, 2014)

This study had some limitations, firstly the use of convenience sampling. This choice was made considering the struggle to define an a priori representative sample. We enrolled all the voluntary customers in the study period, since no prevalence data were available. Therefore, our results must be interpreted with caution as our aim was to make hypotheses that need to be verified with subsequent studies. Moreover, no data about people who refused to participate were collected causing a potential loss of information and making impossible to calculate the response rate. The tools used, despite their ease to be used, have been extensively discussed. Previous studies raised concerns on ORTO-15 reliability, considering its internal consistency (Dell'Osso et al., 2016; Ramacciotti et al., 2011, Oberle, Samaghabadi, & Hughes, 2017). Thus, the EHQ was developed, but no threshold was suggested (Bert et al., 2019; Gleaves et al., 2013, Brytek-Matera et al., 2019), making possible only to highlight a greater propensity to 'orthorexic behaviors'. This lack of tools is among the main reasons of the failure to recognize ON in the DSM-5.

Conclusions

ON is under study, but definitive evaluation and diagnostic tools have yet to be identified. The available evaluation tools are not useful in the complete description of people's behaviour towards food and a narrative approach could be a way to overcome this. Further studies are needed to confirm OSCs as a higher-risk group and develop more precise

evaluation tools.

Acknowledgements

The study was approved by the Internal Review Board of the Department of Public Health Sciences of the University of Torino, Italy. The Authors would like to thank all the organic food stores who kindly permitted data collection among their customers.

Declaration of Interest Statement

The Authors declare that no funding or grants were received from other organizations for the conduction of this study. The Authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Data availability statement

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author, BF, upon reasonable request.

References

- Arusoğlu, G., Kabakçı, E., Köksal, G., & Merdol, T. K. (2008). [Orthorexia nervosa and adaptation of ORTO-11 into Turkish]. *Türk Psikiyatri Dergisi = Turkish Journal of Psychiatry*, 19(3), 283–291.
- Asil, E., & Sürücüoğlu, M. S. (2015). Orthorexia Nervosa in Turkish Dietitians. *Ecology of Food and Nutrition*, 54(4), 303–313. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03670244.2014.987920>
- Bağcı Bosi, A. T., Camur, D., & Güler, C. (2007). Prevalence of orthorexia nervosa in resident medical doctors in the faculty of medicine (Ankara, Turkey). *Appetite*, 49(3), 661–666. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.appet.2007.04.007>
- Barcelos Pontes, J., & Montagner, M. (2014). ORTOREXIA NERVOSA: ADAPTAÇÃO CULTURAL DO ORTO-15. *DEMETRA: Alimentação, Nutrição & Saúde*, 9. <https://doi.org/10.12957/demetra.2014.8576>
- Barnett, M. J., Dripps, W. R., Blomquist, K. K. (2016). Organivore or organorexic? Examining the relationship between alternative food network engagement, disordered eating, and special diets. *Appetite*, 1;105:713-20. doi: 10.1016/j.appet.2016.07.008
- Bert, F., Gualano, M. R., Voglino, G., Rossello, P., Perret, J. P., & Siliquini, R. (2019). Orthorexia Nervosa: A cross-sectional study among athletes competing in endurance sports in Northern Italy. *PLOS ONE*, 14(8), e0221399. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0221399>
- Bratman, S. (1997). Health Food Junkie. *Yoga Journal*, (September/October), 42–50.
- Brytek-Matera, A. (2019) Vegetarian diet and orthorexia nervosa: a review of the literature. *Eat Weight Disord*. doi: 10.1007/s40519-019-00816-3.
- Brytek-Matera, A., Czepczor-Bernat, K., Jurzak, H., Kornacka, M., & Kołodziejczyk, N. (2019). Strict health-oriented eating patterns (orthorexic eating behaviours) and their connection with a vegetarian and vegan diet. *Eating and Weight Disorders - Studies on Anorexia, Bulimia and Obesity*, 24(3), 441–452. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40519-018-0563-5>
- Brytek-Matera, A., Krupa, M., Poggiogalle, E., & Donini, L. M. (2014). Adaptation of the ORTHO-15 test to Polish women and men. *Eating and Weight Disorders: EWD*, 19(1), 69–76. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40519-014-0100-0>
- Cena, H., Barthels, F., Cuzzolaro, M., Bratman, S., Brytek-Matera, A., Dunn, T., ... Donini, L. M. (2019) Definition and diagnostic criteria for orthorexia nervosa: a narrative review of the literature. *Eat Weight Disord* 24, 209–246. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40519-018-0606-y>
- Costa, C. B., Hardan-Khalil, K., & Gibbs, K. (2017). Orthorexia Nervosa: A Review of the Literature. *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*, 38(12), 980–988.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/01612840.2017.1371816>

- Dell'Osso, L., Abelli, M., Carpita, B., Massimetti, G., Pini, S., Rivetti, L., ... Carmassi, C. (2016). Orthorexia nervosa in a sample of Italian university population. *Rivista Di Psichiatria*, *51*(5), 190–196. <https://doi.org/10.1708/2476.25888>
- Donini, L. M., Marsili, D., Graziani, M. P., Imbriale, M., & Cannella, C. (2004). Orthorexia nervosa: a preliminary study with a proposal for diagnosis and an attempt to measure the dimension of the phenomenon. *Eating and Weight Disorders: EWD*, *9*(2), 151–157.
- Donini, L. M., Marsili, D., Graziani, M. P., Imbriale, M., & Cannella, C. (2005). Orthorexia nervosa: validation of a diagnosis questionnaire. *Eating and Weight Disorders: EWD*, *10*(2), e28-32.
- Dunn, T. M., & Bratman, S. (2016). On orthorexia nervosa: A review of the literature and proposed diagnostic criteria. *Eating Behaviors*, *21*, 11–17. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eatbeh.2015.12.006>
- Fairburn, C. G., & Cooper, Z. (2011). Eating disorders, DSM-5 and clinical reality. *The British Journal of Psychiatry: The Journal of Mental Science*, *198*(1), 8–10. <https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.bp.110.083881>
- Gleaves, D., C. Graham, E., & Ambwani, S. (2013). Measuring “Orthorexia.” Development of the Eating Habits Questionnaire. *The International Journal of Educational and Psychological Assessment*, *12*.
- Herranz Valera, J., Acuña Ruiz, P., Romero Valdespino, B., & Visioli, F. (2014). Prevalence of orthorexia nervosa among ashtanga yoga practitioners: a pilot study. *Eating and Weight Disorders: EWD*, *19*(4), 469–472. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40519-014-0131-6>
- Ministero della Salute. (2014). *Allergie alimentari e sicurezza del consumatore*. Retrieved from http://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C_17_pubblicazioni_2134_allegato.pdf
- Missbach, B., Hinterbuchinger, B., Dreiseitl, V., Zellhofer, S., Kurz, C., & König, J. (2015). When Eating Right, Is Measured Wrong! A Validation and Critical Examination of the ORTO-15 Questionnaire in German. *PLOS ONE*, *10*(8), e0135772. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0135772>
- Moroze, R. M., Dunn, T. M., Craig Holland, J., Yager, J., & Weintraub, P. (2015). Microthinking about micronutrients: a case of transition from obsessions about healthy eating to near-fatal “orthorexia nervosa” and proposed diagnostic criteria. *Psychosomatics*, *56*(4), 397–403. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psych.2014.03.003>
- Oberle, C. D., Samaghabadi, R. O., & Hughes, E. M. (2017). Orthorexia nervosa: Assessment and correlates with gender, BMI, and personality. *Appetite*, *108*, 303–310.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.appet.2016.10.021>

- Ramacciotti, C. E., Perrone, P., Coli, E., Burgalassi, A., Conversano, C., Massimetti, G., & Dell'Osso, L. (2011). Orthorexia nervosa in the general population: a preliminary screening using a self-administered questionnaire (ORTO-15). *Eating and Weight Disorders: EWD*, *16*(2), e127-130.
- Sistema d'Informazione Nazionale sull'Agricoltura Biologica. (2017). BIO IN CIFRE 2017: aggiornamento al 23 ottobre.
- Stochel, M., Janas-Kozik, M., Zejda, J., Hyrnik, J., Jelonek, I., & Siwiec, A. (2015). [Validation of ORTO-15 Questionnaire in the group of urban youth aged 15-21]. *Psychiatria Polska*, *49*(1), 119–134. <https://doi.org/10.12740/PP/25962>
- Strahler, J. (2019). Sex differences in orthorexic eating behaviors: A systematic review and meta-analytical integration. *Nutrition*, *67–68*, 110534. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nut.2019.06.015>
- Varga, M., Thege, B. K., Dukay-Szabó, S., Túry, F., & van Furth, E. F. (2014). When eating healthy is not healthy: orthorexia nervosa and its measurement with the ORTO-15 in Hungary. *BMC Psychiatry*, *14*, 59. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-244X-14-59>
- WHO - World Health Organization. (n.d.). Body mass index - BMI. Retrieved August 21, 2019, from <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/disease-prevention/nutrition/a-healthy-lifestyle/body-mass-index-bmi>

Table 1

Characteristics of the sample stratified by Organic Store utilization.

Characteristic		Overall N (%) (n=240)	OSC		p
			No (n=119)	Yes (n=121)	
Gender	<i>Male</i>	75 (31.3)	44 (58.7)	31 (41.3)	.058*
	<i>Female</i>	165 (68.8)	75 (45.5)	90 (54.5)	
Age		44 (23)	37 (24)	47 (20)	.001**
BMI	<i>Underweight</i>	20 (8.3)	7 (35)	13 (65)	.146*
	<i>Normal</i>	165 (68.8)	79 (47.9)	86 (52.1)	
	<i>Overweight</i>	38 (15.8)	21 (55.3)	17 (44.7)	
	<i>Obese</i>	17 (7.1)	12 (70.6)	5 (29.4)	
Employment status	<i>Unemployed</i>	40 (17.0)	28 (70) ^a	12 (30) ^b	.004*
	<i>Employed</i>	195 (83.0)	88 (45.1) ^b	107 (54.9) ^a	
Education level	<i>Middle School</i>	11 (4.6)	4 (36.4)	7 (63.6)	<.001*
	<i>High School</i>	87 (36.3)	29 (33.3) ^b	58 (66.7) ^a	
	<i>University degree or higher</i>	142 (59.2)	86 (60.6) ^a	56 (39.4) ^b	
Food Allergy	<i>No</i>	181 (75.7)	93 (51.4)	88 (48.6)	.012*
	<i>Yes, diagnosed by a specialist</i>	25 (10.5)	16 (64)	9 (36)	
	<i>Yes, diagnosed by other health professional (or self-diagnosed)</i>	33 (13.8)	9 (27.3) ^b	24 (72.7) ^a	
Food restriction	<i>None</i>	160 (66.7)	102 (63.7) ^a	58 (47.9) ^b	<.001*
	<i>Vegetarian</i>	22 (9.2)	3 (13.6) ^b	19 (86.4) ^a	
	<i>Vegan</i>	16 (6.7)	1 (6.3) ^b	15 (93.8) ^a	
	<i>Healthy Diet</i>	14 (5.8)	2 (14.3) ^b	12 (85.7) ^a	
	<i>Other</i>	28 (11.7)	11 (39.3)	17 (60.7)	
Perceived Health Status	<i>Poor</i>	64 (26.9)	35 (54.7)	29 (45.3)	.301*
	<i>Good</i>	174 (73.1)	82 (47.1)	92 (52.9)	
ORTO-15 (linear)		38 (5)	39 (4)	37 (5)	<.001**
ORTO-15 (40 cut-off)	<i>Negative</i>	93 (38.8)	56 (60.2) ^a	37 (39.8) ^b	.009*
	<i>Positive</i>	147 (61.3)	63 (42.9) ^b	84 (57.1) ^a	
ORTO-15 (35 cut-off)	<i>Negative</i>	201 (83.8)	108 (53.7) ^a	93 (46.3) ^b	.004*
	<i>Positive</i>	39 (16.3)	11 (28.2) ^b	28 (71.8) ^a	
EHQ		35 (10)	33 (9)	37 (10)	<.001**

Figures are median (IQR) or number (row %).

* Obtained via Chi-Squared test

**Obtained via Mann–Whitney U test

^a adjusted residual >1.96^b adjusted residual < -1.96

BMI: Body Mass Index; EHQ: Eating Habits Questionnaire

Table 2

Predictors of Orthorexia Nervosa symptoms using ORTO-15 scale with the cut-off at 40, logistic regression analysis.

	Univariable				Multivariable				
	OR	CI 95%		<i>p</i>	OR	CI 95%		<i>p</i>	
OSC	2.02	1.20	3.42	.009	2.11	1.06	4.21	.034	
Age	.99	.98	1.01	.586	.99	.96	1.01	.272	
Female	.71	.40	1.26	.246	.49	.25	.95	.034	
BMI									
	<i>Normal</i>	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	-	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	
(Body	<i>Underweight</i>	1.81	.63	5.21	.274	2.06	.61	7.01	.246
Mass	<i>Overweight</i>	.49	.24	.99	.048	.48	.21	1.11	.087
Index)	<i>Obese</i>	1.45	.49	4.30	.508	1.75	.53	5.82	.358
Unemployed		1.79	.90	3.54	.097	1.18	.52	2.65	.692
Education	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	-	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	-
level	<i>High School</i>	.56	.14	2.25	.411	.38	.08	1.85	.233
	<i>University degree or higher</i>	.59	.15	2.33	.455	.52	.11	2.52	.419
Food	<i>No</i>	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	-	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	-
Allergy	<i>Yes, diagnosed by a specialist</i>	.86	.37	2.00	.727	.57	.21	1.54	.268
	<i>Yes, diagnosed by other health professional (or self-diagnosed)</i>	1.80	.79	4.10	.160	1.22	.48	3.07	.674
Food	<i>None</i>	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	-	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	-
restrictio	<i>Vegetarian</i>	1.47	.58	3.70	.414	1.10	.39	3.15	.854
n	<i>Vegan</i>	2.52	.78	8.140	.123	3.23	.79	13.29	.104
	<i>Healthy Diet</i>	2.10	.63	6.97	.226	1.71	.47	6.24	.421
	<i>Other</i>	5.03	1.67	15.17	.004	4.45	1.38	14.37	.012
Good perceived health status		.69	.38	1.26	.231	.55	.25	1.19	.127

Table 3

Predictors of Orthorexia Nervosa symptoms using ORTO-15 scale with the cut-off at 35, logistic regression analysis.

		Univariable			Multivariable				
		OR	CI 95%	<i>p</i>	OR	CI 95%	<i>p</i>		
OSC		2.96	1.40	6.26	.005	2.33	.87	6.24	.092
Age		1.01	.99	1.04	.283	1.01	.97	1.04	.580
Female		1.19	.56	2.54	.654	.78	.32	1.93	.593
BMI	<i>Normal</i>	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	-	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	-
(Body	<i>Underweight</i>	2.29	.81	6.51	.120	2.37	.72	7.79	.156
Mass	<i>Overweight</i>	.63	.21	1.92	.416	.78	.23	2.60	.683
Index)	<i>Obese</i>	1.15	.31	4.27	.839	1.33	.31	5.76	.703
Unemployed		1.48	.54	4.05	.447	1.08	.34	3.45	.901
Education	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	-	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	-
level	<i>High School</i>	1.01	.20	5.15	.987	1.19	.19	7.41	.854
	<i>University degree or higher</i>	.78	.16	3.87	.762	1.39	.22	8.64	.723
Food	<i>No</i>	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	-	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	-
Allergy	<i>Yes. diagnosed by a specialist</i>	2.43	.92	6.40	.073	2.76	.89	8.56	.078
	<i>Yes. diagnosed by other health professional (or self-diagnosed)</i>	1.68	.66	4.28	.277	1.36	.48	3.86	.563
Food	<i>None</i>	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	-	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	-
restriction	<i>Vegetarian</i>	3.93	1.40	10.98	.009	3.40	1.08	10.70	.036
	<i>Vegan</i>	3.82	1.19	12.33	.025	3.54	.92	13.65	.067
	<i>Healthy Diet</i>	2.29	.58	9.05	.236	1.68	.37	7.51	.501
	<i>Other</i>	2.80	1.04	7.56	.042	1.96	.66	5.84	.230
Good perceived health status		.76	.36	1.62	.478	.70	.27	1.81	.462

Table 4

Predictors of Orthorexia Nervosa symptoms using ORTO-15 scale, linear regression analysis.

		Univariable			Multivariable		
		Beta	CI 95%	<i>p</i>	Beta	CI 95%	<i>p</i>
OSC		-1.98	-2.80 -1.17	<.001	-1.77	-2.72 -.81	<.001
Age		.01	-.02 .04	.563	.02	-.02 .05	.270
Female		.05	-.87 .97	.920	.68	-.21 1.58	.133
BMI	<i>Normal</i>	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	<i>Ref</i>	-	-
(Body	<i>Underweight</i>	-1.16	-2.83 .52	.175	-.50	-2.13 1.13	.544
Mass	<i>Overweight</i>	1.99	.83 3.15	.001	1.79	.62 2.97	.003
Index)	<i>Obese</i>	-.36	-2.10 1.37	.682	-.65	-2.32 1.01	.441
Unemployed		-1.53	-2.70 -.35	.011	-.34	-1.51 .84	.576
Education	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	<i>Ref</i>	-	-
level	<i>High School</i>	.25	-.65 1.14	.592	2.13	-.29 4.55	.085
	<i>University degree or higher</i>	-.10	-.98 .78	.822	1.47	-.96 3.91	.235
Food	<i>No</i>	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	<i>Ref</i>	-	-
Allergy	<i>Yes. diagnosed by a specialist</i>	.13	-1.32 1.57	.861	.17	-1.28 1.52	.871
	<i>Yes. diagnosed by other health professional (or self-diagnosed)</i>	-.79	-2.04 .46	.213	-.18	-1.41 1.05	.777
Food	<i>None</i>	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	<i>Ref</i>	-	-
restriction	<i>Vegetarian</i>	-1.20	-2.70 .30	.116	-.93	-2.43 .58	.227
	<i>Vegan</i>	-2.16	-3.93 -.38	.017	-1.94	-3.72 -.17	.032
	<i>Healthy Diet</i>	-.61	-2.47 1.25	.520	-.73	-2.55 1.10	.434
	<i>Other</i>	-1.99	-3.40 -.57	.006	-1.88	-3.28 -.48	.009
Good perceived health status		-.26	-1.27 .75	.608	.15	-.91 1.21	.784

Table 5

Predictors of Orthorexia Nervosa symptoms using Eating Habits Questionnaire (EHQ), linear regression analysis.

		Univariable			Multivariable		
		Beta	CI 95%	<i>p</i>	Beta	CI 95%	<i>p</i>
OSC		2.90	1.29 4.51	<.001	.84	-1.02 2.69	.374
Age		.04	-.02 .10	.203	.02	-.04 .09	.490
Female		1.36	-.41 3.14	.131	-.24	-1.94 1.46	.782
BMI	<i>Normal</i>	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	<i>Ref</i>	-	-
(Body	<i>Underweight</i>	2.68	-.39 5.75	.087	1.60	-1.33 4.52	.282
Mass	<i>Overweight</i>	-1.00	-3.21 1.20	.371	-.37	-2.54 1.79	.735
Index)	<i>Obese</i>	1.91	-1.47 5.28	.266	2.63	-.54 5.81	.104
Unemployed		1.49	-.71 3.69	.183	1.35	-.80 3.50	.217
Education	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	<i>Ref</i>	-	-
level	<i>High School</i>	1.21	-.50 2.92	.164	-1.67	-5.59 2.26	.403
	<i>University degree or higher</i>	-1.76	-3.42 -.09	.039	-2.36	-6.28 1.57	.238
Food	<i>No</i>	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	<i>Ref</i>	-	-
Allergy	<i>Yes. diagnosed by a specialist</i>	4.40	1.65 7.14	.002	5.01	2.34 7.68	<.001
	<i>Yes. diagnosed by other health professional (or self-diagnosed)</i>	1.43	-.94 3.80	.235	1.03	-1.26 3.32	.375
Food	<i>None</i>	<i>Ref</i>	-	-	<i>Ref</i>	-	-
restriction	<i>Vegetarian</i>	3.13	.36 5.91	.027	3.55	.80 6.30	.012
	<i>Vegan</i>	8.15	4.82 11.47	<.001	8.78	5.34 12.21	<.001
	<i>Healthy Diet</i>	.46	-3.04 3.96	.796	.93	-2.47 4.33	.589
	<i>Other</i>	2.27	-.36 4.90	.090	1.94	-.62 4.50	.137
Good perceived health status		-1.09	-2.94 .76	.248	-.68	-2.61 1.26	.492