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Dietary Maillard Reaction Products and macronutrients have disparate effects on glucose homeostasis and pancreatic function in rodents^{1,2}

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Abbreviations used: AGE (advanced glycation end product), BIS (bioelectrical impedance spectroscopy), GLP-1 (glucagon-like peptide-1), HOMA-IR (homeostatic model assessment of insulin resistance), IVGTT (intravenous glucose tolerance test), ipITT (intra-peritoneal insulin tolerance test), MRP (Maillard reaction product).

1 Abstract

2 Maillard reaction products (MRPs) are generated when protein-rich foods are subjected
3 to intensive heat during cooking. Overconsumption of a Western diet, high in MRP has
4 been identified as a major risk factor for diabetes; yet precisely how MRPs contribute to
5 defects in glucose homeostasis independent of consumption of other macronutrients
6 remains unclear. Eight-week old male Sprague Dawley rats were randomized to feeding
7 with one of six semi-pure diets: control, heat processed (high MRPs), high protein, high
8 dextrose, high in saturated fat (of plant origin), or high in saturated fat (of animal origin).
9 After feeding for 24 weeks body composition was determined by bioelectrical impedance
10 spectroscopy and glucose homeostasis was assessed. When compared to the high
11 MRP diet, excess consumption of the diet high in saturated fat (from an animal source)
12 increased body weight and fat mass, and impaired insulin sensitivity, as defined by
13 impaired skeletal muscle insulin signaling and insulin hypersecretion in the context of
14 increased circulating glucagon-like peptide (GLP-1). Compared to the control diet,
15 chronic consumption of the high MRP diet increased fasting glucose, decreased fasting
16 insulin and insulin secretory capacity. It also resulted in lower GLP-1 and an increase in
17 urinary 15-isoprostane F_{2t} , a sensitive marker of oxidative stress status. These data
18 suggest that excessive consumption of heat-treated foodstuffs can impair glucose
19 homeostasis and pancreatic function in rodents independent of excesses in other
20 macronutrients. These data provide a link between over-consumption of processed
21 foods and the development of diabetes.

22

23 **Introduction**

24 Diabetes prevalence, now estimated as 171 million people worldwide, is expected
25 to double within the next 20 years (1). Diabetes is characterized by both hyperglycemia
26 and a relative deficiency in insulin secretion, required before development of overt
27 disease. In type 2 diabetes this is seen in the context of reduced insulin sensitivity,
28 whereas in type 1 diabetes, autoimmune destruction of the pancreatic beta cells leads to
29 absolute insulin deficiency. Reducing the global burden of diabetes is a high priority for
30 the WHO (1).

31 The global increase in diabetes has arisen in parallel with the increasing
32 popularity of Western-style diets, so that it has been argued that dietary factors and
33 diabetes are closely associated (2-5). The adverse effects of the Western diet are most
34 often attributed to its high energy density and poor nutrient profile with large amounts of
35 saturated and *trans* fatty acids and poor quality carbohydrate. Yet other adverse
36 features that derive from modern methods of food processing need also to be
37 considered, one of which is the high generation of Maillard reaction products (MRPs)
38 (6). MRPs, also known as advanced glycation end products (AGEs), are formed through
39 the non-enzymatic irreversible modification of free amino groups within proteins and
40 amino acids by reducing sugars and reactive aldehydes and can increase the shelf-life
41 and taste of manufactured foods (7). Once ingested, 10 to 30% of dietary MRPs are
42 thought to become absorbed into the circulation (8, 9) where they can form deleterious
43 cross-linkages with many body tissues before excretion into the urine via the kidneys
44 (9). Some MRPs can also arise endogenously under physiologic conditions within
45 tissues particularly in people with diabetes (7).

46 Recent studies in rodent models indicate that the restriction of dietary MRP intake
47 not only improves insulin sensitivity, but can also extend the lifespan (10, 11). Moreover,
48 other rodent studies suggest an association between AGEs and type 1 diabetes (12-14).
49 There remains a need however, to distinguish the effects pertaining to MRPs from
50 effects arising from other adverse dietary factors, particularly in relation to glucose
51 homeostasis, insulin sensitivity and pancreatic function. In this study, undertaken in
52 healthy rats, comparisons have therefore been made between the effect of a highly
53 processed, heat-treated rodent diet (high in MRPs) with unheated rodent diets that are
54 high in either saturated fatty acids, dietary protein or refined carbohydrates.

55

56 **Materials and Methods**

57 **Rodents**

58 All animal experiments were performed in accordance with the Alfred Medical
59 Research and Education Precinct Animal Ethics Committee. Rats were housed in
60 groups of three per cage with a 12 h light/dark cycle and *ad libitum* access to food and
61 water. Healthy male 8-week-old Sprague Dawley rats, weighing 250 to 300g, were
62 randomized into groups (n=10/group) and given one of the following diets: a control (C)
63 diet (unbaked AIN93G (15)); a baked diet high in MRP (MRP diet) (AIN93G baked at
64 160°C for 1 h); a high protein (Pr) diet with 48% of total energy (%E) as protein; a high
65 glucose (Glu) diet (with 636 g dextrose/kg); a high saturated fat diet of plant origin (Pla
66 Fat) (40%E from hydrogenated coconut oil) or a high saturated fat diet of animal origin
67 (Ani Fat) (40%E from clarified butter, ghee) and followed for a period of 24 weeks.

68 All diets were semi-pure formulations manufactured by Specialty Feeds (Western
69 Australia, Australia). Unlike the high MRP diet, the control, protein, dextrose, and high
70 fat diets were not heat treated (i.e., were kept raw) and were not dehydrated and formed
71 into pellets. The MRP diet thus had a five times higher MRP content than the control
72 diet, as determined by an ELISA specific to the AGE carboxymethyllysine (CML) (16).
73 CML was chosen as a surrogate marker of all MRPs because it is present in tissues and
74 serum from humans and rodents and correlates with other MRPs and oxidants (17).

75 At 23 weeks after feeding, rats were placed individually in metabolic cages
76 (Tecniplast, VA, Italy) to collect a single 24-hour urine sample and to measure water and
77 food intake. After 24 weeks, rats were anaesthetized with pentobarbitone sodium (50
78 mg/kg body weight) and perfused via the abdominal aorta with 0.1 mol/L PBS for 1-2

79 min to remove circulating blood. The liver, gastrocnemius skeletal muscle, fat pads and
80 pancreas were removed, frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C. Glycated
81 hemoglobin was determined by HPLC as previously described (18).

82

83 **Bioelectrical impedance spectroscopy (BIS)**

84 At 23 weeks and after feeding, bioelectrical impedance spectroscopy was
85 performed in rats anaesthetized with 2.5% isoflurane in 1.75 L/min of oxygen delivered
86 via nose cone using a bioelectrical impedance analyzer (ImpSFB7, Impedimed,
87 Brisbane, Australia) as previously described (19, 20).

88

89 **Intravenous glucose tolerance testing (IVGTT)**

90 After 24 weeks of feeding, intravenous glucose tolerance testing was performed
91 (21). In brief, rats (n=6/group) were anaesthetized and the left carotid artery cannulated.
92 After equilibration and a bolus glucose injection of 1 g/kg, 0.5 ml blood samples were
93 taken at 2, 5, 10, 15, 30 and 45 min for the measurement of plasma glucose (glucose
94 oxidase method using an autoanalyser, Beckman Coulter LX20PRO) and plasma insulin
95 by radioimmunoassay (Rat Sensitive RIA, Linco Research, MO, USA). Whole blood was
96 reconstituted in saline and returned to the rats after plasma was extracted. Area under
97 the curve (AUC) was calculated by the trapezoidal rule (GraphPad Prism, GraphPad
98 Software, San Diego, CA, USA).

99

100

101

102 Intra-peritoneal insulin tolerance testing (ipITT)

103 ipITT was performed after 23 weeks of feeding. After a fasting blood sample was
104 collected, a 0.5 U/kg insulin bolus (Humalog, Insulin Lispro, Eli Lilly, USA) was injected
105 intra-peritoneally into rats and blood samples were taken at 15, 30, 60 and 120 min
106 post-bolus. Plasma glucose was measured as described above.

107

108 Homeostatic model assessment of insulin resistance (HOMA-IR)

109 HOMA-IR was used calculated to determine the relative insulin sensitivity (22)
110 using the formula (insulin (μ U/ml) x glucose (mmol/L)) divided by 22.5.

111

112 pAKT/AKT immunoblotting

113 Western immuno-blotting was used to determine the ratio of phosphorylated Akt
114 (phosphoAkt) to total Akt as a marker of insulin signaling in both liver and skeletal
115 muscle. Thirty μ g of protein (liver or gastrocnemius skeletal muscle) was reduced with
116 2% β -mercaptoethanol and proteins were separated using polyacrylamide gel
117 electrophoresis (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Gladesville, Australia). Separated protein bands
118 were transferred onto a Hybond-P PVDF membrane (Millipore, Maryland, USA) using a
119 semi-dry blotting apparatus (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Gladesville, Australia). After
120 transfer, membranes were blocked with 5% skim milk powder diluted in a 1M Tris
121 buffered saline solution with 0.05% Tween-20 (TBS-T) for 1 h. After blocking,
122 membranes were washed in 1M TBS-T solution for 10 min before incubating overnight
123 with either Akt or phospho-Akt primary antibodies (rabbit anti-rat S473, Cell Signaling
124 Technologies, Massachusetts, USA, Akt antibody at a dilution of 1/10,000 and pAkt

125 antibody 1/5000). Akt and phosphoAkt membranes were washed six times in 1M TBS-T
126 solution before incubating for 1 h at room temperature with an anti rabbit, HRP-labeled
127 polymer secondary antibody (Dako, California, USA). Membranes were probed with
128 Chemiluminescent Peroxidase Substrate-3 (Sigma-Aldrich, St.Louis, USA) for 3 min.
129 Light emission was captured on CL-XPosure film (Thermo Scientific, Rockford, IL, USA).
130 The density of each band was quantitated using Adobe Photoshop. Results were
131 expressed as a ratio of phosphoAkt to Akt.

132

133 **GLP-1, glucagon and Urinary 15-isoprostane F_{2t}**

134 Plasma GLP-1 and glucagon were determined using ELISA kits from Wako
135 (Osaka, Japan). Urinary 15-isoprostane F_{2t} was measured using an EIA kit specifically
136 designed to assay urine samples (Oxford Biomedical Research, Rochester Hills, MI,
137 USA).

138

139 **Statistical analysis**

140 All statistical computations were performed using GraphPad Prism version 4.0a
141 for Mac OS X (GraphPad Software, San Diego, California, USA). Values for
142 experimental groups are given as mean, with bars showing the SEM, unless otherwise
143 stated. One-way ANOVA with Tukey's post-test analysis, or two-way ANOVA with
144 Bonferroni post-test analysis was used to determine statistical significance. Where
145 appropriate, two-tailed *t* tests were performed. A probability of $P < 0.05$ was considered
146 to be statistically significant.

147

148 Results

149 To determine the effects of excess consumption of macronutrients and heat
150 treated foodstuffs (MRPs) on glucose homeostasis and pancreatic function, healthy
151 Sprague Dawley rats were fed one of the following diets for 24 weeks: a MRP (baked;
152 MRP) or control (unbaked; C) diet, a high protein (Pr) diet, a high dextrose (Glu) diet, or
153 a high fat diet in saturated fat from either a plant (hydrogenated coconut oil; Pla Fat) or
154 animal fat (clarified butter; Ani Fat) source. The nutrient and energy content of each diet
155 are presented in Table 1. All diets were isoenergetic but differed in specific
156 macronutrients. The MRP content, specifically carboxymethyllysine (CML), was 5-fold
157 higher in the MRP diet than in the unbaked control diet (101.9 versus 20.9 nmol/mol
158 lysine/100 mg, respectively).

159

160 Body composition

161 After 24 weeks of chronic feeding, mean body weight was lower in rats that
162 consumed high protein (Pr) diet (Figure 1A) than in controls. Conversely, body weight
163 was significantly increased in rats fed the high saturated fat diet of animal origin (Ani
164 Fat) (15% increase, $P < 0.05$). Total visceral adipose tissue was also increased in these
165 rats (Figure 1B). In contrast, both the high protein (Pr) and high glucose (Glu) diets
166 resulted in a smaller accumulation of total visceral adipose tissue. Consumption of the
167 high saturated fat diet of animal origin (Ani fat) led to significant increases in both
168 absolute and relative (% of body weight) fat mass as determined by BIS, (28%, $P < 0.05$
169 and 10%, $P < 0.05$, Figures 1C and 1D respectively). Whereas both absolute and
170 relative fat mass was lower in rats consuming the high glucose diet (22%, $P < 0.05$ and

171 21%, $P < 0.05$, Figure 1C and 1D respectively) compared to those fed the control diet.
172 Relative fat mass was also lower in the MRP and high protein diet groups (Figure 1D).
173 Although absolute fat free mass was greater in rats fed high glucose diets and both high
174 fat diets (Figure 1E), when expressed as a % of body weight, fat free mass was
175 increased in MRP, protein and glucose-fed rats, and not significantly altered in the high
176 fat-fed rats (Figure 1F).

177

178 **Assessment of glucose homeostasis and insulin sensitivity**

179 Fasting plasma glucose was increased in rats that consumed excess MRPs
180 (10%, $P < 0.05$, Figure 2A) or saturated fat from plant (18%, $P < 0.05$, Figure 2A) or
181 animal sources (19%, $P < 0.05$, Figure 2A). Fasting plasma insulin was lower in rats fed
182 the high MRP diet or the high glucose diet and also showed a tendency to increase in
183 rats fed a diet high in animal fat (not of statistical significance) (Figure 2B). The diet high
184 in animal fat, however, increased HOMA-IR, a surrogate measure of insulin resistance,
185 (Figure 2C) and compromised long-term glucose control as reflected by the increase in
186 glycated hemoglobin (Figure 2D). Compared with the control group, rats consuming the
187 diet high in animal fat had lower insulin sensitivity, as plasma glucose did not normalize
188 to control levels over 120 minutes post-insulin injection (Figure 2E), confirmed by the
189 increased AUC calculated in this group (Figure 2F). Rats consuming all other diets had
190 normal insulin sensitivity.

191 Circulating GLP-1, a gut hormone responsive to macronutrient intake, which
192 stimulates pancreatic insulin secretion, was decreased in rats that consumed diets high
193 in excess MRP and glucose, whilst GLP-1 increased in rats consuming the high

194 saturated fat animal diet (Figure 3A). Consumption of both high fat diets led to a
195 decrease in circulating glucagon levels compared to the control diet (Figure 3B), an
196 effect not observed in other groups.

197 The ratio of phospho-AKT to total AKT protein in the insulin target tissues, liver
198 and skeletal muscle was also determined. AKT is a key protein of the insulin signaling
199 pathway and a decrease in the ratio of phospho-AKT to total AKT indicates impaired
200 insulin signaling. While there was no change in the ratio of phospho-AKT to total AKT in
201 liver (Figure 3C), in gastrocnemius skeletal muscle (Figure 3D), chronic consumption of
202 the high fat diet of animal origin led to a decrease in this ratio. Interestingly, urinary 15-
203 isoprostane F_{2t} , a sensitive marker of oxidative stress status, was increased in rats that
204 consumed the high MRP, high protein or high glucose diets, but not the high fat diets
205 (Figure 3E).

206

207 **Determination of pancreatic function**

208 To test the insulin secretory capacity of the pancreas, IVGTTs were performed
209 after 24 weeks of feeding. After glucose challenge, there were no differences in plasma
210 glucose concentrations over time between diet groups (Figure 4A). Plasma insulin,
211 however, during IVGTT, was reduced in rats that consumed the high MRP, high protein
212 or high glucose diets and this was confirmed by a decrease in total AUC for insulin in
213 these three groups (Figure 4C). In contrast, consumption of the high fat diet of animal
214 origin led to an increase in plasma insulin at 2, 5 and 10 min post-glucose injection
215 (Figure 4B), reflected by the elevated first phase AUC insulin (Figure 4D).

216

217 Discussion

218 While many studies now support the concept that dietary factors are involved in
219 the development of diabetes, controversy exists as to the relative contribution of single
220 dietary elements to disease pathogenesis. Before the development of agriculture,
221 dietary choices were limited to minimally processed plant and animal foods. With
222 advancing technology, and particularly since industrialization, original nutrient
223 characteristics have changed (23), so that highly processed foods now dominate the
224 typical western diet. In the current study, we examined the effects of raw unbaked diets
225 predominating in different macronutrients as compared with a processed diet subjected
226 to high heat to determine effects on pancreatic function, glucose homeostasis and
227 insulin sensitivity in healthy rodents.

228 Data obtained in this study indicate that in rodents, heat-treated food high in
229 MRPs can impair glucose homeostasis and pancreatic function independent of other
230 macronutrient excesses. These findings provide a clear association between
231 overconsumption of highly processed food and the development of diabetes. Indeed,
232 overt diabetes does not develop without pancreatic islet dysfunction (24). We found that
233 excess consumption of a heat treated diet (AIN93G baked at 160°C for 1 h), baked to
234 increase the content of MRPs, led to a decrease in relative fat mass and an increase in
235 fasting glucose in parallel with a decrease in fasting insulin concentrations when
236 compared to consumption of an unbaked diet (AIN93G, control). Further investigation
237 using an IVGTT revealed a defect in glucose-induced insulin secretion with chronic
238 consumption of a diet high in MRPs. The defects elicited by the high MRP diet appear
239 similar to those occurring in patients prior to the onset of type 1 diabetes. This is in line

240 with previous studies that have suggested that dietary MRPs may have direct effects on
241 beta cell function. Indeed, AGEs, formed by heat treatment, have been implicated to
242 mediate defects in insulin secretion in pancreatic beta cell lines (25, 26) and in rodent
243 models (10, 12-14, 27).

244 The delivery of nutrients from the stomach into the duodenum and the
245 subsequent interaction of these nutrients with the small intestine to stimulate incretin
246 hormone release are considered key determinants of acute insulin secretion in response
247 to food (28). The incretin effect has been attributed to the secretion of glucagon-like
248 peptide-1 (GLP-1) from cells in the intestinal epithelium with GLP-1 enhancing insulin
249 secretion (29). In the current study, it was interesting to note that plasma GLP-1 levels
250 were suppressed in rats that consumed diets high in either MRPs or glucose, both diets
251 that also elicited defective insulin secretion. Conversely, consumption of the high fat diet
252 of animal origin, which caused insulin hypersecretion, also resulted in an increase in
253 GLP-1 in the circulation. Other studies in rodents have demonstrated an increase in
254 GLP-1 secretion in response to high fat feeding (30). These data are consistent with the
255 view that GLP-1 plays a key role as a modulator of insulin secretion in response to
256 dietary intake. GLP-1 also strongly inhibits glucagon secretion (29) and it was
257 noteworthy that a decrease in plasma glucagon was observed in rats that consumed the
258 high fat plant or animal diets. These data suggest that further examination of the direct
259 effects of MRPs and saturated fats on gut incretins should be a focus of future studies.

260 Consumption of high protein or high glucose diets led to variable metabolic
261 responses, including lower accumulation of fat mass. Even though *ad libitum* feeding
262 was used, the effect of the high protein diet on smaller body weight and fat mass could

263 not be attributed to a decreased energy intake. Similarly, the increase in body fat mass
264 in the rats fed a high fat diet of animal origin was not accompanied by higher energy
265 intake. Differences in fat accumulation seem rather to relate to differences in
266 macronutrient metabolism and energy expenditure. Fasting plasma insulin was
267 decreased after 24 weeks of high glucose feeding in parallel with reduced plasma GLP-
268 1 concentrations. Impaired insulin secretion was also seen in rodents that consumed
269 high glucose or high protein diets. Interestingly, the diets that suppressed insulin
270 secretion, namely those high in MRP, protein or glucose, also increased urinary
271 excretion of 15-isoprostane F_{2t} , a biomarker of oxidative stress, suggesting that
272 oxidative stress may be a key mediator of diet-induced pancreatic dysfunction. Indeed,
273 there is a large body of evidence to implicate reactive oxygen species in beta cell
274 dysfunction, albeit in other contexts (31-33).

275 In the current study, we found that excess consumption for 24 weeks, of an
276 unbaked and unprocessed high saturated fat diet derived from clarified butter led to
277 increased body weight and fat mass, insulin resistance and an elevation in plasma
278 glucose and glycated haemoglobin. Although the high saturated fat diet derived from
279 hydrogenated coconut oil also increased fasting plasma glucose, it did not impair
280 glucose and insulin sensitivity, consistent with previous studies (34). It is also clear that
281 animal and coconut-sourced saturated fats exert differential effects on insulin sensitivity
282 and type 2 diabetes risk in humans. Polynesian islanders following a traditional diet with
283 a high proportion of total energy intake from coconut-sourced saturated fat
284 (approximately 40% of total energy) have very low prevalence rates of type 2 diabetes.
285 In contrast, Polynesians who migrate to countries which consume western style diets,

286 consume less saturated fat in total (<30% of total energy), but a larger quantity of that
287 saturated fat is derived from animal sources. In turn, their prevalence rate of type 2
288 diabetes is much higher (4, 35-37). It is possible that the differences in fatty acid
289 composition observed between plant and animal-sourced saturated fats, in addition to
290 the different metabolic fates of these fatty acids, may be responsible. For example, it is
291 known that long and medium chain saturated fatty acids undergo different pathways of
292 hydrolysis, absorption, storage, and oxidation (38, 39). However, although both high fat
293 diets were not heat processed, the clarified butter diet contained cholesterol. Our study
294 is unique, in assessing these effects in an unbaked diet where they are not confounded
295 by the introduction of MRPs, as would be the case in other studies where conventional
296 heat-treated rodent diets have been used.

297 In conclusion, data obtained from this study indicate that consumption of heat-
298 treated food can in itself impair glucose homeostasis and pancreatic function in
299 susceptible rodents. Further studies are now warranted to explore potential synergistic
300 effects between high dietary MRPs and other macronutrients, particularly simple sugars
301 and saturated fat, in the promotion of risk factors for diabetes.

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Statement of authors' contribution to manuscript

JMF and MTC designed the research; MTC, SPC, ALM and SA conducted the research; MTC analyzed the data; MTC, SPC and JMF wrote the paper; and MTC had primary responsibility for the final content; KZW and MEC had input into the manuscript. LCW analyzed the BIS data and had input into the manuscript. All authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

Table 1. Nutrient content of rodent diets, macronutrient and energy intake¹

	Control	MRP	Protein	Dextrose	Fat	
					Hydrogenated Coconut Oil	Clarified Butter
Protein, % of total energy	19.3	19.3	48.0	19.3	19.3	19.3
Fat, % of total energy	16.4	16.4	16.4	16.4	40	40
Carbohydrate, g/kg	100	100	100	636	340	340
Digestible Energy, MJ/kg	16.1	16.1	18.2	16.7	19.5	19.4
Energy intake, KJ/24h	350±68	357±63	440±26	385±97	368±67	397±50
Protein, g/24h	4.3±0.8	4.3±0.8	12.8±0.8 ²	4.5±1.1	3.7±0.7	4.0±0.5
Fat, g/24h	1.5±0.3	1.5±0.3	1.7±0.1	1.6±0.4	4.0±0.7 ²	4.3±0.5 ²
Carbohydrate, g/24h	2.2±0.4	2.2±0.4	2.4±0.2	14.7±3.7 ²	6.4±1.2	6.9±0.9

¹24 h intake data are mean±SD, n=10 rats per group.

²P<0.05 compared to control diet.

Figure Legends

Figure 1

Body weights (*A*), absolute total visceral depot fat pad weights (*B*), absolute fat mass (*C*), relative fat mass (*D*), absolute fat free mass (*E*) relative fat-free mass (*F*) were measured in rats after 24 weeks feeding of control (C), MRP, protein (Pr), glucose (Glu), saturated plant fat (Pla Fat) or saturated animal fat (Ani Fat) diets. Data are mean±SEM. * $p < 0.05$ compared to control, $n = 10$ rats/group.

Figure 2

Fasting glucose (*A*), fasting insulin (*B*), HOMA-IR (*C*), glycated Hb (GHb) (*D*), plasma glucose during ipITT (*E*), and corresponding AUC glucose (mmol/l) (*F*) were measured in rats after 24 weeks feeding of control, MRP, protein (Pr), glucose (Glu), saturated plant fat (Pla Fat) or saturated animal fat (Ani Fat) diets. Data are mean±SEM. * $p < 0.05$ compared to control, $n = 6-10$ rats/group.

Figure 3

Plasma GLP-1 (*A*), plasma glucagon (*B*), liver phospho-AKT to AKT ratio (*C*), gastrocnemius phospho-AKT to AKT ratio (GHb) (*D*), urinary excretion of 15-isoprostane F_{2t} (*E*) were measured in rats after 24 weeks feeding of control, MRP, protein (Pr), glucose (Glu), saturated plant fat (Pla Fat) or saturated animal fat (Ani Fat) diets. Data are mean±SEM. * $p < 0.05$ compared to control, $n = 10$ rats/group.

Figure 4

Plasma glucose during IVGTT (*A*), plasma insulin during IVGTT (*B*), total AUC insulin (ng/ml) (*C*), first phase AUC insulin (ng/ml) (*D*), were measured in rats after 24 weeks feeding of control, MRP, protein (Pr), glucose (Glu), saturated plant fat (Pla Fat) or saturated animal fat (Ani Fat) diets. Data are mean \pm SEM. * p <0.05 compared to control, $n=6$ rats/group.

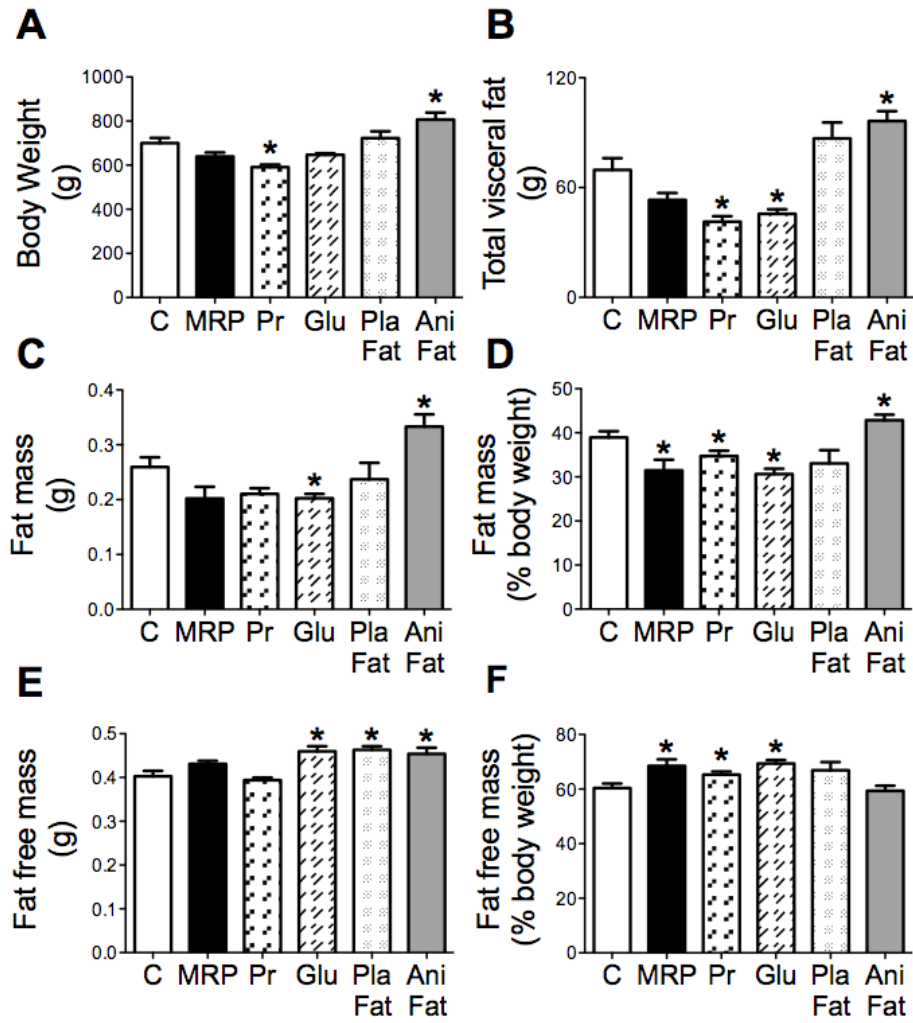


Figure 1

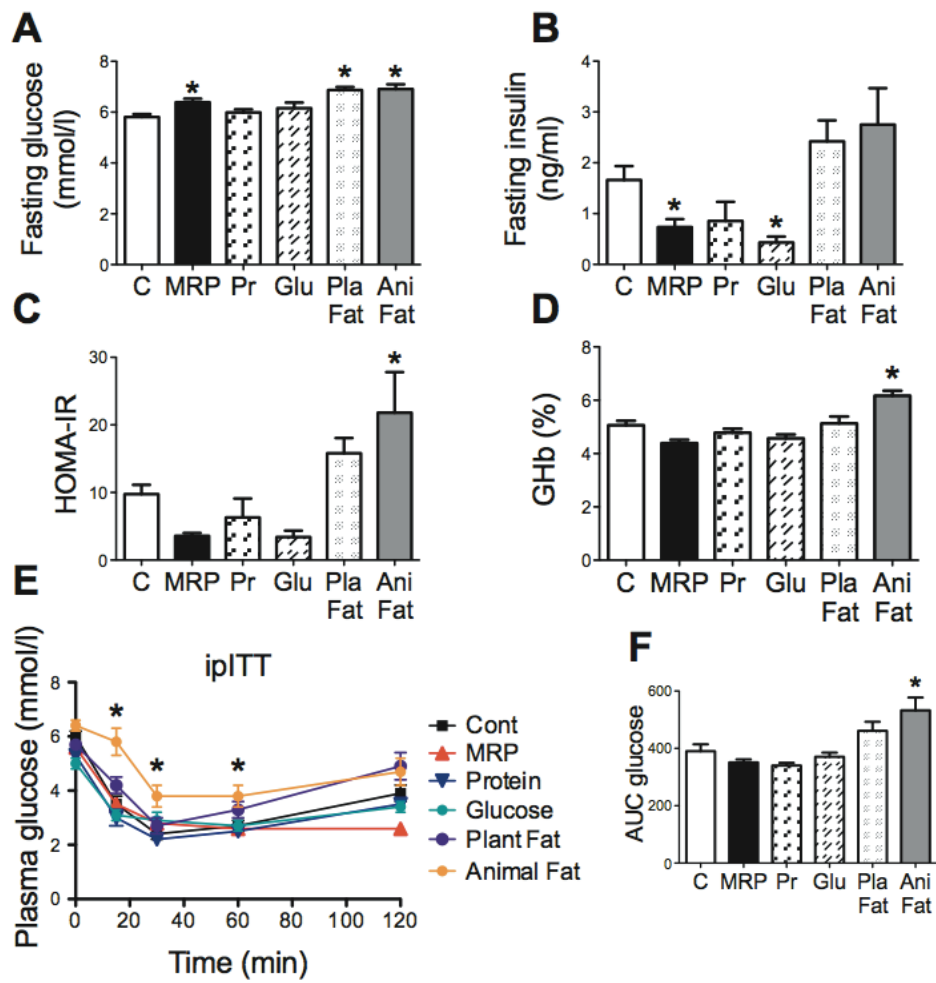


Figure 2

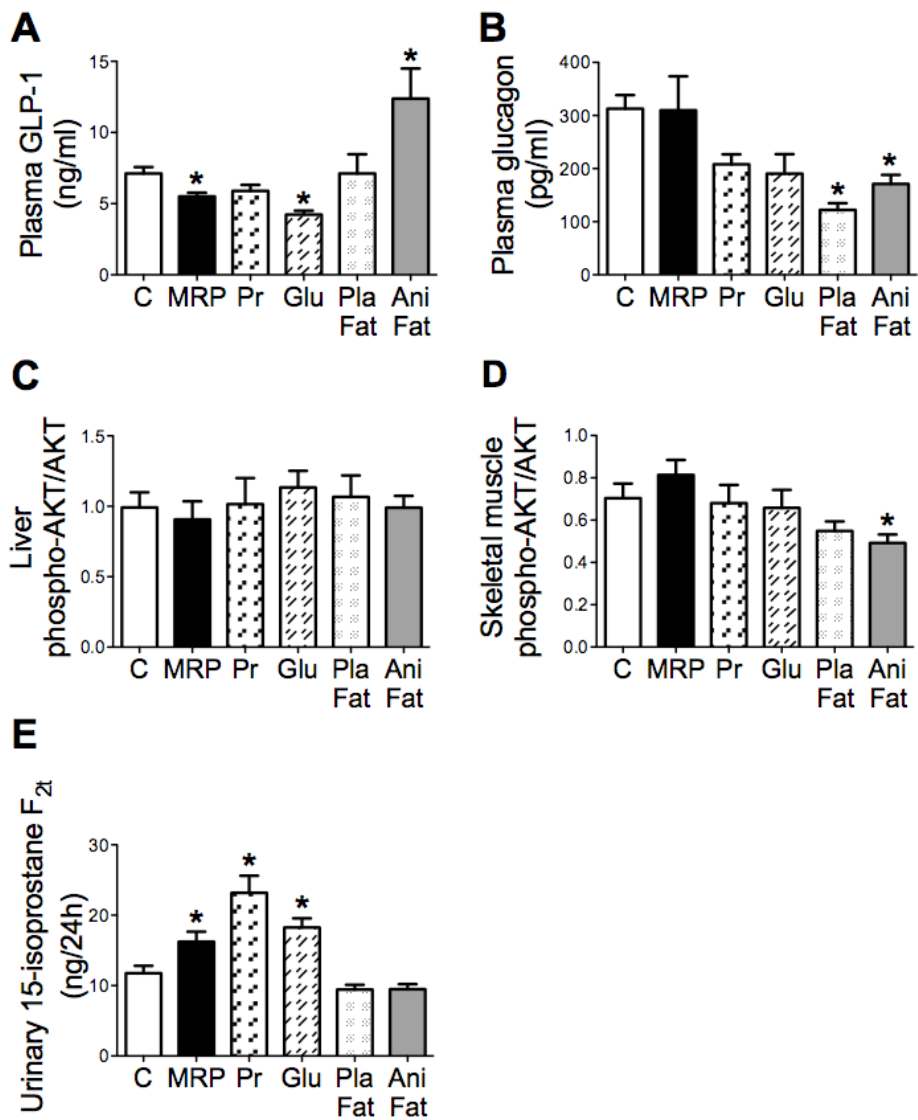


Figure 3

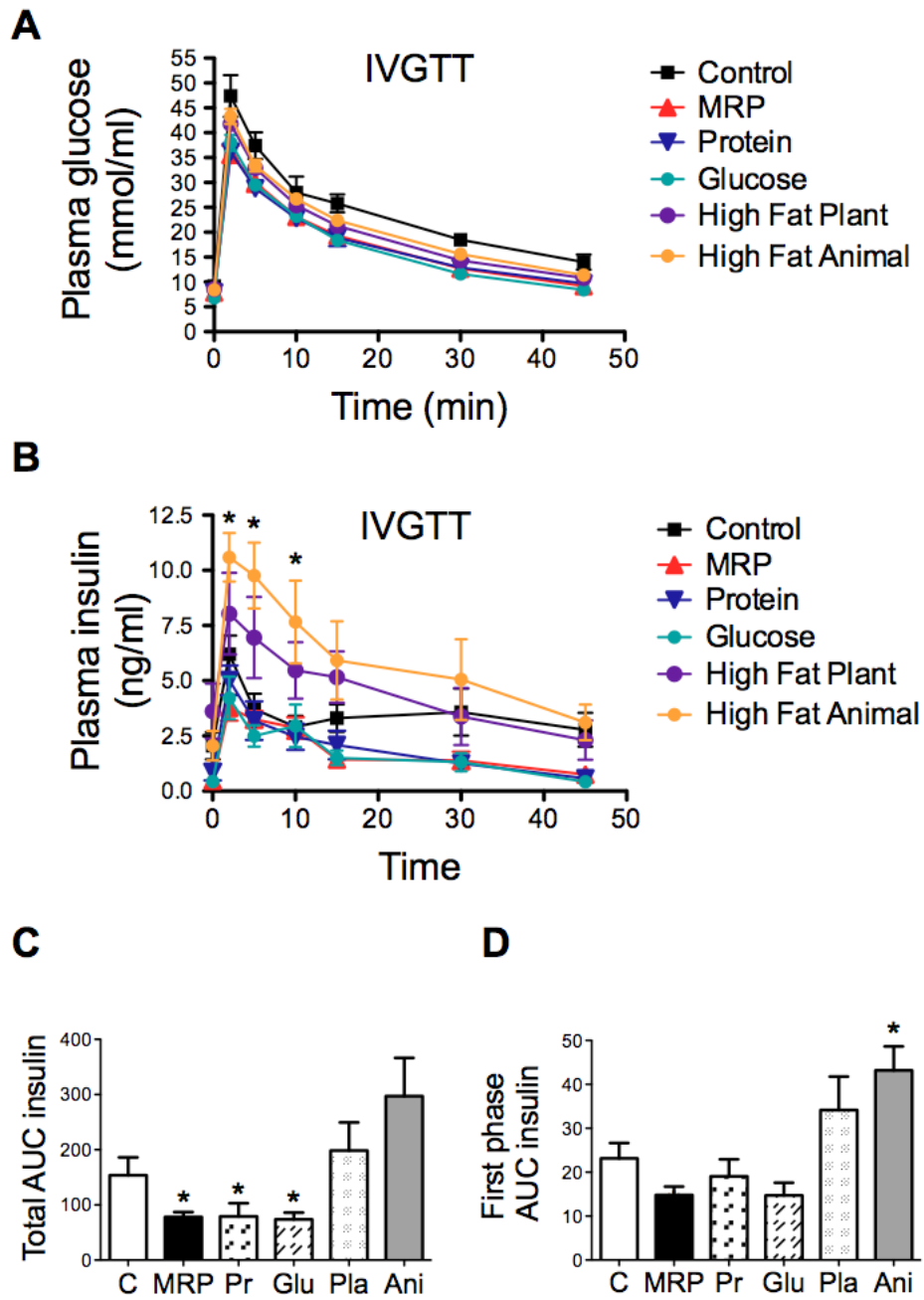


Figure 4