

Role of retinol intake in nutritional status and  
metabolic syndrome in the Korean Genomic  
Rural Cohort

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Role of retinol intake in nutritional status and  
metabolic syndrome in the Korean Genomic  
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# Acknowledgement

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김 송 이

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# Abstract

**Background:** Numerous dietary factors are related to the development of metabolic syndrome (MS). Several studies suggest that antioxidant nutrients may play a protective role in this complex disorder. The goal of the present study was to characterize the relationship between retinol intake and the prevalence of metabolic syndrome in a defined population sample.

**Methods:** This cross-sectional study was conducted in a sample of 2983 men drawn from the Korean Genomic Rural Cohort Study. Dietary intake, including retinol intake, was assessed using a semiquantitative food frequency questionnaire. We evaluated the prevalence and odds ratios of metabolic syndrome by quartile of retinol intake.

**Results:** Participants with metabolic syndrome reported significantly lower retinol intake than normal subjects. The prevalence of metabolic syndrome and the adjusted odds ratio were both decreased in the highest quartile of retinol intake [OR: 0.64 (95% CI, 0.483–0.847)] compared with the lowest quartile. Participants in the highest quartile also had higher body mass indexes (BMI), and waist and hip circumferences, but lower systolic blood pressures and serum triglyceride levels than those in

the lowest quartile. Retinol intake showed significant negative correlations with each metabolic component except HDL cholesterol.

**Conclusion:** Our analysis revealed an inverse association between retinol consumption and the prevalence of metabolic syndrome in a large sample of Korean men. In this study, systolic blood pressure and serum triglycerides were the main risk factors associated with retinol intake.

Key Words: Retinol, Metabolic syndrome, Korean Genomic Rural Cohort



## Introduction

Metabolic syndrome (MS) is influenced by a cluster of risk factors that are associated to type 2 diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular disease, all of which may lead to mortality (1–4). Diabetes and cardiovascular disease are showed features of oxidative stress, and some studies suggests that antioxidant nutrients, which suppress oxidative injury by inactivating free radicals, may offer protection from these conditions (5).

Reports documented that various dietary factors are related not only to individual components of metabolic syndrome but also to the prevalence of metabolic syndrome. For example, higher intakes of fruits and vegetables are associated with lower prevalence of metabolic syndrome (6–8). But few studies have investigated the relationships between individual antioxidant nutrients and metabolic syndrome. In data from the Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), subjects with metabolic syndrome showed suboptimal concentrations of antioxidants such as vitamin A, C, E, carotenoids, and selenium (9). Another study reported an inverse correlation between metabolic syndrome and concentrations of dietary vitamin A and E (10). However, data regarding the relationship between dietary retinol intake and the prevalence of metabolic syndrome are lacking.

In this study, we investigated the relationship between dietary retinol intake and the prevalence of metabolic syndrome in a large sample of Korean men drawn from the Korean Genomic Rural Cohort (KGRC). In addition, we

evaluated the relationship between retinol intake and metabolic syndrome components.

# Subjects and methods

## 1. Study sample

For this cross-sectional study, we enrolled subjects from the Korean Rural Genomic Cohort (KGRC) of 2006. The 4089 male KGRC participants, ranging in age from 40 to 70 years, came from the five communities of Wonju, Pyeongchang, Naju, Keumsan, Kangreung in South Korea. We excluded participants who were taking medications for hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and diabetes mellitus, and subjects with missing data (n=1106). In total, we included 2983 participants in the present study.

## 2. Data collection

After obtaining written informed consent from participants, we conducted interviews and anthropometric examinations. Trained interviewers obtained basic demographic data, medical histories, and information about personal habits, including diet, smoking, alcohol intake, physical activity, family history and medication use. After eight hours of fasting, blood samples were collected for analysis of biochemical markers. Insulin resistance was calculated using the homeostasis model assessment (HOMA-IR) (11), using the following formula: fasting insulin ( $\mu\text{U/mL}$ ) x fasting plasma glucose (mg/dL) /22.5. The usual dietary intakes were assessed by a 103-item interviewer-administered semiquantitative food

frequency questionnaire (FFQ) (12). The dietary record was analyzed using the DS 24 (Human Nutrition Lab, Seoul National University and AI/DB Lab., Sookmyung Women' s University) with values drawn from the Food Composition Table of Korea, Seventh Edition (13).

### **3. Metabolic syndrome**

Metabolic syndrome was defined according to modified NCEP–ATP III guidelines, applying the Asia–Pacific waist circumference values (14,15). A diagnosis of metabolic syndrome was made if a subject showed three or more of the following abnormalities: waist circumference  $\geq 90$  cm in men or  $\geq 80$  cm in women, serum triglycerides  $\geq 150$  mg/dL, HDL cholesterol  $<40$  mg/dL in men or  $<50$  mg/dL in women, blood pressure  $\geq 130/85$  mm Hg, and fasting blood glucose  $\geq 100$  mg/dL.

### **4. Statistical analysis**

Statistical calculations were performed using SPSS for Windows (v.11). We used Student' s t–test to compare the dietary, anthropometric, and biochemical characteristics of subjects with and without metabolic syndrome. Multivariate stepwise logistic regression analyses were performed to estimate odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals for the prevalence of metabolic syndrome by quartile of retinol intake. We performed ANOVA to evaluate anthropometric and biochemical

characteristics by quartile of retinol intake.  $P$ -values less than 0.05 were considered statistically significant.

# Results

## 1. Anthropometric and biochemical characteristics of subjects

Subjects with metabolic syndrome had significantly higher BMIs, waist circumferences, hip circumferences, and waist-to-hip ratios (WHR) than normal subjects. Total cholesterol, triglyceride, LDL cholesterol, AST, ALT, GGT, HOMA-IR, fasting and postprandial glucose and insulin levels were significantly higher in subjects with metabolic syndrome, while HDL cholesterol and adiponectin levels were significantly lower than in normal subjects (Table 1).

Table 1. Characteristics of subjects with and without metabolic syndrome

	Non-MS (n=2178)	MS (n=805)
Age	56.76 ± 8.16	55.57 ± 8.02
Height (cm)	165.73 ± 5.64	166.94 ± 5.58
Weight (kg)	63.56 ± 8.48	72.09 ± 9.45
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	23.25 ± 2.61	25.92 ± 3.05*
Waist circumference (cm)	83.06 ± 7.12	90.68 ± 7.08*
Hip circumference (cm)	93.45 ± 5.80	97.96 ± 6.58*
WHR	0.88 ± 0.06	0.92 ± 0.06*
SBP (mmHg)	128.24 ± 16.38	139.28 ± 16.31
DBP (mmHg)	82.01 ± 10.74	88.53 ± 10.93
FPG (mg/dL)	93.27 ± 13.85	105.21 ± 29.36*
PPG (mg/dL)	105.42 ± 60.24	122.37 ± 87.31*
Fasting insulin (mIU/L)	6.94 ± 3.54	9.97 ± 6.19*

Table 1. Characteristics of subjects with and without metabolic syndrome  
(continued)

	Non-MS (n=2178)	MS (n=805)
Postprandial insulin (mIU/L)	20.06 ± 19.89	28.61 ± 28.34*
HOMA-IR	29.23 ± 18.49	47.82 ± 42.71*
HbA1C (%)	5.53 ± 0.69	5.81 ± 0.88
Adiponectin (μg/dL)	8.93 ± 4.46	6.60 ± 3.65*
AST (IU/L)	31.55 ± 18.75	34.48 ± 23.25*
ALT (IU/L)	27.82 ± 17.77	35.69 ± 22.38*
GGT (IU/L)	53.47 ± 97.03	87.03 ± 171.92*
Total cholesterol (mg/dL)	196.25 ± 36.16	204.26 ± 41.82*
Triglyceride (mg/dL)	135.99 ± 86.88	251.90 ± 178.56*
HDL-cholesterol (mg/dL)	47.92 ± 11.73	38.15 ± 8.47*
LDL-cholesterol (mg/dL)	112.89 ± 31.34	114.56 ± 33.36*
WBC (10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	7.29 ± 2.02	7.66 ± 2.00
CRP (mg/dL)	2.07 ± 5.43	2.55 ± 7.16
Alcohol (g/day)	31.32 ± 113.70	45.46 ± 213.89
Smoking (pack years)	19.99 ± 19.63	21.55 ± 21.45
Exercise (%)	22.6	26.0

Data are represented by mean ± SD. MS, metabolic syndrome; BMI, body mass index; WHR, waist-hip ratio; SBP, systolic blood pressure; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; FPG, fasting plasma glucose; PPG, postprandial glucose; HOMA-IR, homeostasis assessment model for insulin resistance; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; ALT, alanine aminotransferase; GGT, γ-glutamyltransferase; HDL, high density lipoprotein; LDL, low density lipoprotein; WBC, white blood cells; CRP, C-reactive protein. \*:  $p < 0.05$  compared with non-MS group.

## 2. Comparison of dietary factors between subjects with and without metabolic syndrome

Of all dietary factors analyzed, only retinol intake was significantly lower in subjects with metabolic syndrome than in those without metabolic syndrome (Table 2).

Table 2. Dietary factors in subjects with and without metabolic syndrome

	Non-MS (n=2178)	MS (n=805)
Total Energy (kcal/d)	1849.83±528.95	1889.04±552.85
Protein (g/d)	59.81±25.13	61.79±26.78
Fat (g/d)	27.48±25.79	27.55±21.56
Carbohydrates (g/d)	332.73±85.52	339.16±86.88
Calcium (mg/d)	418.65±260.46	419.54±264.39
Phosphorus (mg/d)	910.88±347.17	929.47±335.63
Iron (mg/d)	9.98±6.39	10.13±5.49
Sodium (g/d)	3137.22±1960.63	3157.66±1936.17
Potassium (g/d)	2200.27±1247.04	2235.22±1133.64
Fiber (g/d)	5.97±3.38	6.07±3.21
Vit A (mg/d)	500.87±477.73	503.66±410.94
Vit B1 (mg/d)	1.07±0.69	1.08±0.53
Vit B2 (mg/d)	0.88±0.57	0.89±0.48
Vit B12 (µg /d)	14.09±8.52	14.43±6.69
Vit C (mg/d)	99.86±75.54	102.43±6.69
Zinc (mg/d)	7.64±4.89	7.93±4.15
Folate (µg /d)	211.73±145.74	216.87±135.72
Retinol (µg /d)	52.24±53.80	51.18±58.14*
Carotene (mg/d)	2602.89±2529.11	2624.55±2258.14

Data are represented by mean ± SD. MS, metabolic syndrome; vit, vitamin.

\*:  $p < 0.05$  compared with non-MS group.



### 3. Prevalence of metabolic syndrome by the quartile of various dietary factors

The prevalence of metabolic syndrome decreased significantly with increasing quartile of retinol intake (Table 3). The distribution of retinol intake by quartile was less than 15.7  $\mu\text{g}$  in the lowest quartile; 15.7 to 35.05  $\mu\text{g}$  in the second quartile; 35.06 to 68.55  $\mu\text{g}$  in the third quartile; and more than 68.55  $\mu\text{g}$  in the highest quartile. Compared to the lowest quartile of retinol intake, multivariate-adjusted odds ratios for metabolic syndrome in the higher quartiles were as follows: 0.85 (95% CI, 0.67–1.08), 0.85 (95% CI, 0.66–1.09) and 0.64 (95% CI, 0.48–0.84), respectively.

Table 3. Prevalences and odds ratios of metabolic syndrome by the quartile of retinol intake

	Quartile of retinol intake				<i>P</i> for trend
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	
Prevalence of MS (%)	192/674 (28.5%)	216/801 (27.0%)	212/752 (28.2%)	185/756 (24.5%)	0.290
Odds ratio (95% CI)					
Model 1	1	0.91 (0.72–1.15)	0.95 (0.75–1.20)	0.78 (0.61–0.99)	0.154
Model 2	1	0.85 (0.67–1.08)	0.85 (0.66–1.09)	0.64 (0.48–0.84)	0.068

C.I., confidence interval; Q, quartile. Model 1 was adjusted for age. Model 2 was adjusted for Model 1 plus total energy, smoking, alcohol, and exercise.

#### **4. Metabolic risk factors in male participants by the quartile of retinol intake.**

Compared with participants in the lowest quartile, those in the highest quartile of retinol intake were younger and had higher body mass indexes (BMI), and waist and hip circumferences, but lower systolic blood pressures and serum triglyceride levels. Diastolic blood pressure, HDL cholesterol and fasting plasma glucose did not differ significantly by quartile. Interestingly, mean adiponectin concentrations decreased significantly with increasing quartile retinol intake but HOMA-IR did not change. Also, the prevalence of subjects who exercised increased significantly with quartile of retinol intake (Table 4).

Retinol intake was lower in participants with each components of metabolic syndrome as defined by the modified NCEP-ATP III guidelines except for waist circumference than in normal participants (Figure 1A), and proportionately lower in participants as the number of metabolic syndrome components increased (Figure 1B).

Table 4. Metabolic risk factors in male participants by the quartile of retinol intake

Characteristics	Quartile of retinol intake				<i>P value</i>
	1Q (n=674)	2Q (n=801)	3Q (n=752)	4Q (n=756)	
Total energy intake (kcal/d)	1522.49±318.08	1723.94±368.81	1918.46±456.84	2248.25±644.87	<0.001
Age (year)	58.36±7.74	56.31±7.93	55.88±8.19	55.42±8.38	<0.001
Height (cm)	165.27±5.69	166.12±5.30	166.19±5.87	166.56±5.66	<0.001
Weight (Kg)	64.63±7.95	66.13±8.91	65.74±9.79	66.88±9.99	<0.001
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	23.62±2.89	23.94±2.84	23.76±3.04	24.06±3.01	0.030
Waist (cm)	84.59±7.96	85.27±7.57	84.83±7.90	85.78±8.06	0.025
Hip (cm)	94.13±6.22	94.68±5.75	94.51±6.49	95.34±6.89	0.004
WHR	0.89±0.05	0.90±0.05	0.89±0.05	0.90±0.05	0.749
HOMA-IR	34.26±33.86	34.69±25.69	33.34±23.23	34.68±30.66	0.769
HbA1C(%)	5.62±0.72	5.62±0.81	5.59±0.74	5.57±0.71	0.482
SBP (mmHg)	132.53±17.77	131.13±16.80	132.05±19.65	129.87±16.44	0.030
DBP (mmHg)	84.37±11.52	83.43±10.73	83.47±11.25	83.72±11.25	0.434
FPG (mg/dL)	96.25±22.69	97.25±18.09	96.20±18.89	96.20±20.53	0.670
PPG (mg/dL)	113.59±66.18	112.78±69.65	105.17±70.35	108.63±69.17	0.069

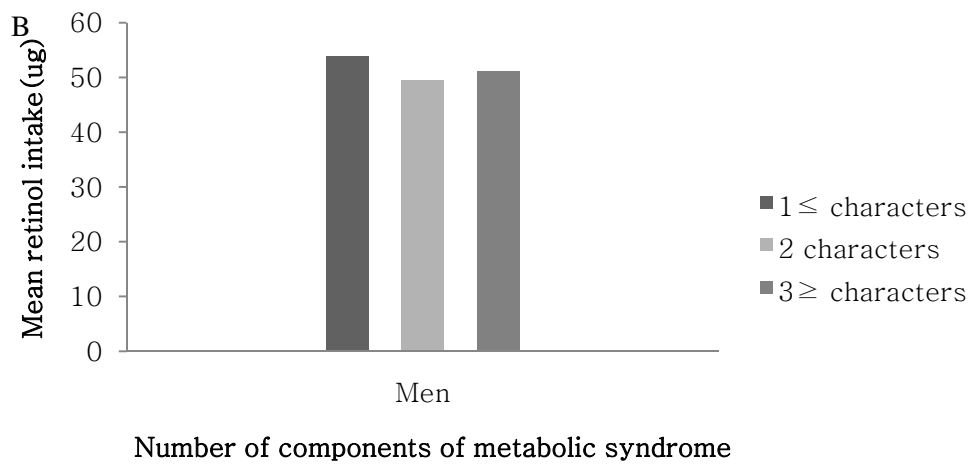
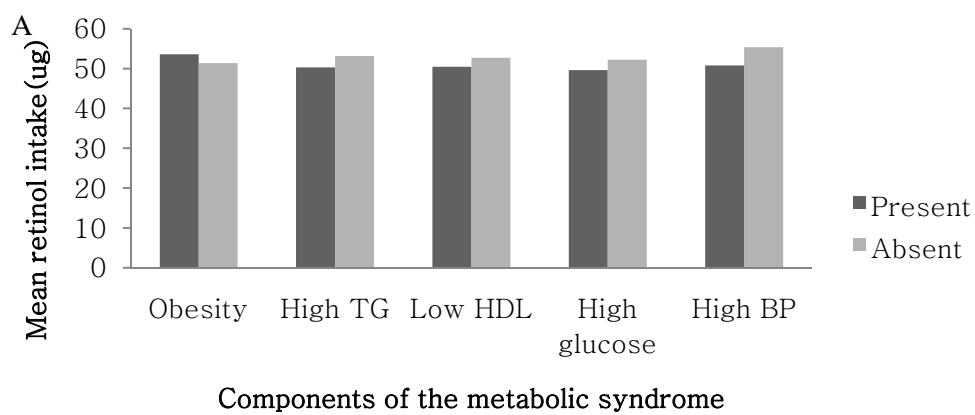
Table 4. Metabolic risk factors in male participants by the quartile of retinol intake (continued)

Characteristics	Quartile of retinol intake				<i>P</i> value
	1Q (n=674)	2Q (n=801)	3Q (n=752)	4Q (n=756)	
Fasting insulin (mIU/L)	7.69±4.28	7.83±4.53	7.64±4.29	7.87±5.27	0.731
Postprandial insulin	23.84±26.74	22.55±21.89	20.52±18.75	22.35±23.12	0.067
Adiponectin (μg/dL)	8.81±4.65	8.19±4.11	8.26±4.49	8.13±4.28	0.025
T. Cholesterol (mg/dL)	197.21±36.70	201.46±41.62	196.64±36.91	198.03±35.73	0.056
HDL-C (mg/dL)	45.23±12.15	45.34±12.29	44.90±11.13	45.66±11.52	0.654
LDL-C (mg/dL)	112.96±31.22	114.39±33.41	111.58±31.44	114.32±31.32	0.266
TG (mg/dL)	165.56±107.85	177.25±160.43	168.98±128.98	156.54±108.49	0.017
AST (IU/L)	32.83±20.95	32.06±17.10	32.23±21.23	32.33±21.13	0.902
ALT (IU/L)	29.88±20.33	29.96±18.84	29.85±18.80	30.07±19.92	0.996
GGT (IU/L)	68.19±176.58	59.27±92.98	65.04±127.77	58.45±79.09	0.370
WBC (10 <sup>9</sup> /L)	7.45±2.11	7.40±2.02	7.32±1.93	7.39±2.03	0.710
CRP (mg/dL)	2.04±4.64	2.28±7.20	2.50±6.73	1.97±4.51	0.306
Smoking (pack years)	21.32±20.47	20.74±19.73	19.92±19.81	19.44±20.59	0.310
Alcohol (g/day)	23.85±117.71	39.76±208.69	33.98±104.65	40.79±112.39	0.366
Exercise (%) †	15.8	21.9	23.8	31.7	<0.001

Data are represented by the mean  $\pm$  SD. BMI, body mass index; HOMA-IR, homeostasis assessment model for insulin resistance; SBP, systolic blood pressure; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; HDL-C, high density lipoprotein cholesterol; LDL-C, low density lipoprotein cholesterol; TG, triglyceride; FPG, fasting plasma glucose; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; ALT, alanine aminotransferase; GGT,  $\gamma$ -glutamyltransferase; WBC, white blood cells; CRP, C-reactive protein; Q, quartile.

†Percentage of the study participants who consistently exercised enough to perspire.

Figure 1. Mean retinol intake according to the presence or absence of multiple components of metabolic syndrome. (A) Mean retinol intake was lower in subjects who had components of metabolic syndrome than in normal subjects. (B) Increase in number of metabolic syndrome components corresponds to decreased mean retinol intake



## 5. Relationships between retinol intake and components of metabolic syndrome

Retinol intake showed inverse correlations with waist-hip ratio, HbA1c, LDL cholesterol, postprandial insulin, postprandial glucose and systolic blood pressure. The correlation with HDL cholesterol, however, was positive (Table 5).

Table 5. Correlations between retinol intake and components of metabolic syndrome

	<i>r</i>	<i>P value</i>
Waist-hip ratio	-0.071	<0.007
HbA1C	-0.045	0.009
LDL	-0.031	0.047
TG	-0.090	<0.001
HDL	0.068	<0.001
Postprandial insulin	-0.054	<0.001
Postprandial glucose	-0.075	<0.001
SBP	-0.039	0.014

*r*: coefficient of pearsons' correlation

## Discussion

In this study, we determined the prevalence of metabolic syndrome in a Korean male population with respect to intakes of various dietary factors, and detected a negative correlation between MS and retinol intake only.

Retinol, one of the most usable forms of vitamin A, is a fat-soluble vitamin that functions in vision and bone growth (16). Animal sources such as liver and eggs contain the retinyl ester precursor forms, which are converted to retinol in the small intestine (17). The pro-vitamin A carotenoids from darkly colored fruits and vegetables also serve as dietary retinol precursors.

Previous study supports an association between metabolic syndrome with increased oxidative stress (18), which is implicated in diabetes mellitus, obesity, and coronary vascular disease, and may also be involved in insulin resistance (19, 20). Oxidative stress may contribute to diabetes mellitus through impairment of insulin signaling or dysfunction in pancreatic  $\beta$ -cells, which contain only low concentrations of radical scavengers (21–24). Recent data show that specific nutrients or representative food groups can reduce the risk of oxidative stress-related chronic disease (25). Antioxidant components of these foods, including  $\beta$ -carotene, vitamin C, and vitamin E, can directly suppress oxidative stress by inactivating free radicals. From this, we hypothesized that retinol, as an antioxidant, may reduce the risk for metabolic syndrome. This is consistent with results of



prospective studies, which showed a lower prevalence of metabolic syndrome at higher carotenoid intake (26), and an association of metabolic syndrome or type 2 diabetes mellitus with lower concentrations of serum carotenoids (27,28).

The results of our study revealed a relationship between higher retinol consumption and decreased prevalence of metabolic syndrome. Subjects in the highest quartile of retinol intake showed a prevalence of metabolic syndrome 36% lower than in the lowest quartile. This inverse relationship extended to each component of the metabolic syndrome, including serum triglyceride concentration and systolic blood pressure. However, we also found that subjects in the highest retinol intake group had higher weight, body mass index (BMI), and waist and hip circumference compared with those who had lowest retinol intake. This discrepancy may reflect an increased intake of other nutrients in the highest quartile of retinol intake. Retinol intake was lower in subjects with each component of metabolic syndrome except for waist circumference than in normal subjects. Furthermore, retinol consumption in subjects with multiple components of metabolic syndrome was proportionately lower than in subjects with fewer components. From these findings, we surmised that retinol may have a protective effect in the development of metabolic syndrome.

Adiponectin is a novel adipose tissue-specific polypeptide that may counteract atherosclerosis and insulin resistance (29). Studies show lower adiponectin levels in type 2 diabetes mellitus, obesity and insulin resistance

(30). In this study, we found significantly lower mean adiponectin levels as retinol intake increased. HOMA-IR and CRP, which are predictive factors for diabetes mellitus and metabolic syndrome, also were not correlated with retinol intake. We suggest that the lower adiponectin level in subjects with the highest retinol intake is related to the proportionately higher waist circumference and BMI in this group, independent of metabolic syndrome status.

Although our findings support a protective role for retinol in metabolic syndrome, we did not measure oxidative stress markers, and thus could not test the relationship between oxidative stress and retinol intake. Studies show, however, that vitamin A supplementation may reduce hypertension by enhancing synthesis of prostaglandin E<sub>1</sub> and platelet aggregation inhibitors, and may also influence lipid metabolism (31). Barber *et al.* found significant changes in mitochondrial membrane lipid composition and function, and suggested that chronic vitamin A deficiency may decrease membrane lipid turnover (32). Based on measurements of lipid peroxidation in the mitochondria, they emphasized the antioxidant role of vitamin A in the maintenance of lipid composition (32).

In conclusion, of the nutritional factors we tested, only retinol intake showed a significant negative correlation with the prevalence of metabolic syndrome. Our findings suggest that higher retinol intake may reduce the risk for metabolic syndrome, and also for components of metabolic syndrome. We identified systolic blood pressure and serum triglyceride level as the

main risk factors associated with retinol intake in this study. However, to determine whether the antioxidant properties of retinol offer protection from metabolic abnormalities will require further cohort or intervention studies.

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## 국 문 요 약

**연구배경:** 대사증후군은 제 2 형 당뇨병 및 심혈관 질환과 연관되어 있고 세계적으로 그 유병률이 증가 추세에 있으나 대사증후군에서 영양 및 식사의 역할은 아직 논란이 많다. 저자들은 한국 지역사회 유전체 코호트에 참여한 남성을 대상으로 영양 및 식사패턴과 대사증후군과의 연관성을 규명하고자 하였다.

**방법:** 2006 년 한국 지역사회 유전체 코호트 중 원주, 평창, 강릉, 나주, 금산에 거주하는 40 세 이상 70 세 이하의 남자 4089 명을 대상으로 하였다. 이 중 식사패턴에 영향을 줄 수 있는 항고혈압약제, 혈당강하제, 고지혈증약제 처방을 받고 있는 환자를 제외한 총 2983 명이 참여하였다. 이들은 식품섭취빈도조사지를 비롯한 설문을 통하여 생활습관, 의학적 기왕력 및 식사력을 제공하였으며 신장, 체중, 혈압 및 허리-엉덩이 둘레의 비 등의 신체계측과 공복 및 식후 정맥채혈을 시행하였다. 대사증후군의 진단기준으로는 NCEP-ATP III 의 기준을 보완하여 이용하였다.

**결과:** 대사증후군이 있는 군에서 레티놀의 섭취량이 낮았다. 또한 각 영양소를 4 분위수로 나눈 후 레티놀의 섭취가 증가할수록 대사증후군의 비교위험률은 감소하였다[2nd quartile OR:0.85(95% CI: 0.67-1.08), 3rd quartile OR: 0.85(95% CI: 0.66-1.09), 4th quartile OR: 0.64 (95% CI: 0.48-0.84)]. 레티놀의 섭취가 많은 군에서 대사증후군의 구성요소 중 수축기 혈압과 혈중 중성지방의 수치가 의미있게 감소하였다. 또한 레티놀의 섭취량은 비만도와 당화혈색소, LDL 콜레스테롤, 식후혈당, 식후인슐린 및 수축기혈압과 음의 상관관계를 나타내었고 HDL 콜레스테롤과는 양의 상관관계를 보였다.

**결론:** 한국인 남성에서 레티놀 섭취는 대사증후군의 각 요소들과 상관관계를 보이고 특히 레티놀의 섭취가 많은 그룹에서 수축기혈압과 중성지방이 의미있게 감소함을 알 수 있었다. 이는 충분한 레티놀의 섭취는 대사증후군의 유병률을 감소시킬 수 있음을 시사한다. 따라서 이에 대한 대규모 임상 연구가 필요할 것으로 생각된다.

중심단어: 레티놀, 대사증후군, 지역사회 코호트