
Clinical Research

The effect of fiber-rich milk and equi-carbohydrate snack on glycemic and insulin response and satiety feeling

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ABSTRAK

Latar belakang: Salah satu pendekatan pola makan yang sehat adalah dengan penambahan serat makanan, yang dapat menurunkan respon glikemik melalui perlambatan digesti tanpa mengurangi ketersediaan kandungan karbohidrat. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk membandingkan respons glikemik dan insulin pasca-prandial, serta rasa lapar dan kenyang setelah mengonsumsi susu yang diperkaya serat dibandingkan dengan makanan ekui-karbohidrat sebagai camilan pagi pada dewasa sehat.

Metode: Penelitian uji klinis menyilang dilakukan pada 12 subjek sehat yang memenuhi kriteria penelitian. Makanan uji dikonsumsi setelah mendapat sarapan standar. Sampel darah vena untuk pemeriksaan insulin dan glukosa diambil sebelum mengonsumsi makanan uji, kemudian 30, 60, 120, dan 180 menit setelahnya. Hasilnya dibuat menjadi kurva berdasarkan waktu. Rasa lapar dan kenyang diperiksa dengan visual analog scale (VAS) setelah setiap pengambilan sampel darah.

Hasil: Rerata umur subjek adalah 30,8±4,3 tahun dengan indeks massa tubuh 20,6±1,6 kg/m². Tujuh dari 12 subjek adalah perempuan. Terdapat perbedaan yang signifikan dalam respons glikemik ($p<0,001$), insulin ($p=0,045$), dan rasa lapar pasca-prandial ($p=0,021$) antara kedua makanan uji. Tidak terdapat perbedaan signifikan rasa kenyang pasca-prandial ($p=0,357$). Area di bawah kurva untuk respons glikemik susu yang diperkaya serat lebih rendah secara signifikan dibandingkan camilan ekui-karbohidrat ($p=0,010$).

Kesimpulan: Dengan adanya perbedaan respons glikemik dan insulin, serta rasa lapar setelah mengonsumsi kedua makanan uji, maka susu yang diperkaya serat dapat dijadikan alternatif camilan bagi dewasa sehat. Dibutuhkan penelitian lebih lanjut terhadap susu yang diperkaya serat untuk dijadikan alternatif camilan bagi penyandang pre-diabetes.

ABSTRACT

Background: Additional dietary fibers which can decrease the glycemic response by slowing down digestion whilst maintaining the available carbohydrate content is one approach of healthy diet. This study aimed to compare post-prandial glycemic and insulin response, hunger and satiety feeling after consuming fiber-rich milk compare with equi-carbohydrate food as morning snack in healthy adults.

Methods: Cross-over study was conducted on 12 healthy subjects who fulfilled the criteria. Each test food was given after consuming standard breakfast. Venous blood samples for insulin and glucose level were taken before consuming test food, at 30, 60, 120, and 180 minutes after, and plotted against time to generate a curve. Hunger and satiety assessments were taken by visual analog scale (VAS) after each blood sampling.

Results: In average, age was 30.8±4.3 years old, body mass index was 20.6±1.6 kg/m². Seven of twelve subjects were females. There were significantly differences in postprandial glycemic response ($p<0.001$), insulin response ($p=0.045$) and hunger feeling ($p=0.021$) between the two foods. However, postprandial satiety feelings were not different significantly ($p=0.357$). The glycemic response area under the curve of fiber-rich milk was significantly lower than the equi-carbohydrate snack ($p=0.010$).

Conclusion: Differences in glycemic and insulin response, and hunger feeling between two test foods, suggesting that fiber-rich milk can be used as an alternative snack for healthy adults. Further study is needed for the use of fiber-rich milk as an alternative snack for pre-diabetic patients.

Keywords: dietary fiber, glucose, insulin, satiety, visual analog scale

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Healthy life style, among others is related to healthy eating of a balance diet, i.e. by balancing the variety of foods consumed proportionately in a regular eating schedule. It is becoming evident that modifying glycemic response of the diet is an element of the overall balanced diet and lifestyle.¹

Scientific evidences clearly show that glycemic response can influence health outcomes related to key public health priorities, such as type 2 diabetes and blood glucose control.² Worldwide, type 2 diabetes mellitus is increasing in its evidence, including in Indonesia, from 1.1% in 2007 to 2.1% in 2013.³ This health problem is associated with its fatal complication such as cardiovascular diseases and chronic kidney disease.^{4,5}

Dietary strategy is amongst the recommended approach aims to preventing its evidence.² However, as the major energy contribution to the diet, carbohydrate also leads to rises in blood glucose (glycemia). It is widely known that the glycemic response to food or meal is the effect that food or meals has on blood glucose levels after consumption. It is normal for blood glucose and insulin levels to rise after eating and then return again to fasting levels over a short period of time, particularly after consumption of meals rich in certain carbohydrates.⁶ Thus, reducing the size and duration of rises in blood glucose after meals is particularly beneficial to the general population.

High glycemic index (GI) foods are usually associated with high palatability and low satiety, encouraging overconsumption and therefore, as the onset of hyperglycemia and obesity.⁷ Evidence found that low GI foods or meals have a higher satiating effect than high GI foods or meals in short-term studies (one day or less).¹ Visual analogue scales have been validated to measure subjective feelings on satiety to measure the impact of energy intake at a subsequent meal measured three to four hours after consuming a low or a high GI meal.

An alternative approach in reducing the GI in products, among others is by the addition of more slowly digestible carbohydrates (e.g dietary fibers such as polydextrose and inulin) to elicit a negligible direct blood glucose response. Fiber has an effect on glycemic response due to its effect

in slowing down digestion whilst maintaining the available of carbohydrate content. Thus reducing the glycemic impact of the diet.¹ Inulin and other fructans are considered as functional foods used since they affect physiological and biochemical processes in human beings for better health and reduction of many diseases risk.⁸ Furthermore, several studies have shown their effects on several conditions including regulating carbohydrate and lipid metabolism by lowering blood glucose level.

The absorption and metabolism of different carbohydrates influence postprandial glucose, insulin and non-esterified fatty acid concentrations. These postprandial metabolisms mediate an important influence on disease risk including type 2 diabetes. Serum insulin concentration increases as carbohydrate intake increases, in which it is also influenced by various factors such as body mass index (BMI), age and gender,^{9,10} gastric emptying,¹¹ gut hormone release,¹² and viscosity of the gut contents.¹³ It is evident that lower versus higher GI foods tend to show an attenuated insulin response, except for dairy products because of whey protein stimulates insulin secretion.^{14,15}

However, there are not yet fully understood on the effect of non-digestible fiber on glycemic and insulin responses, in which the available data are still conflicting. This explains that the effect may depend on physiological (fasting versus postprandial state) or disease (diabetes).¹ The non-digestible ingredients surely will have only minimal impact on blood glucose and insulin levels, but may have a modulating effect on appetite. Therefore, there is a need to do a long-term study to evaluate that inulin have an effect on reducing metabolic disease risks. However, such studies are very expensive, and as surrogate this study aims to see the effect of fiber-rich milk on the glycemic and insulin response as well as satiety feeling among healthy subjects, as an alternative approach to prevent hyperglycemia and its serious impact.

METHODS

This cross-over design study was conducted by following good clinical practice (GCP) and in compliance with the protocol at the Indonesian

Nutrition Association head office in Central Jakarta from May to June 2015. The protocol of this study has been approved by Medical Ethics Committee, Faculty of Medicine Universitas Indonesia (No. 250/UN2.F1/ETIK/2015). Subjects were healthy male and female who were recruited by announcement to several offices in Central Jakarta. Subjects were screened on the following criterias, male and female, age range from 25 to 40 years, BMI between 18.5–22.9 kg/m², fasting glucose <100 mg/dL,¹⁶ total cholesterol of <200 mg/dL, normal liver function [serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase (SGPT) laboratory test within normal range], normal kidney function (creatinine laboratory test within normal range), and no lactose intolerance.

According to the 1998 FAO/WHO expert consultation on carbohydrates, six subjects would be required for glycemic index research. This study used 12 subjects based on Venn et al¹⁷ recommendation of 10 subjects with the addition of 20% for drop outs.

The screening process was done from May 12th to June 10th 2015, to get 35 males and females to be screened for the trial. Eight females and six males were eligible, and 12 subjects were chosen consecutively.

The fiber-rich milk and equi-carbohydrate snack were given to the subjects in a cross-over protocol with each subject served as his or her own control. Subjects attended each examination day after consumed the same breakfast (350 Kcal) supplied by the researcher team between 5:00 to 6:00 a.m. The subjects were instructed not to consume unusually large meals or performed vigorous exercise on the previous day. Each of the subjects consumed each of the two different tested meals, i.e. fiber-rich milk and an equi-carbohydrate snack (rice flour porridge), on separate occasions with a week wash out period.

On the first examination day, subjects were given the fiber-rich milk as snack and an equi-carbohydrate snack on the second examination day, a week after the first examination day. The fiber-rich milk was made up with 200 ml of warm water, and subjects were provided 600 ml of water to drink during each testing period. Each snack was given at 9:00 a.m and the subjects have to finish it in 12 minutes. The subjects were

not allowed to consumed any additional food or drink during the three hours testing period, and remained in the testing place with minimal physical activity.

Blood glucose and insulin levels were measured in venous whole blood, obtained by a trained phlebotomist from the cubital vein at before consuming the test snack and followed by at 30, 60, 120, and 180 minutes after consumption of each test snack to provide blood glucose and insulin levels. Blood glucose and insulin level measurement were performed by Prodia Laboratory. Hexokinase method was used for blood glucose determination and chemiluminescence method was used for the determination of serum insulin level.

The data were plotted against time to generate a curve. The incremental area under the curve (AUC) was calculated for glycemic and insulin response.¹⁸ The satiety and hunger data were obtained by clinical nutrition physician by using a visual analog scale (VAS) questionnaire after each blood sample withdrawn. Table 1 shows the compositions of the fiber-rich milk product.

The incremental area under the blood glucose response curves to each of the test snack was calculated geometrically using the trapezoid rule, ignoring the area below the baseline. Data were analyzed by using a general linier model (multiple measures ANOVA) for blood glucose response, insulin response, satiety and hunger VAS for each snack and time as fixed factors and subjects as random factors. The paired t test was used for comparing blood glucose AUC between two test snacks. The $p < 0.05$ was considered as statistical significance. Statistical analysis was performed with SPSS for Windows v.20.0. Data were presented in mean \pm SD if normally distributed and in median (minimum-maximum) if not normally distributed. Normality of all data distribution was analyzed using Saphiro-Wilk test.

RESULTS

On the first examination day, one male subject did not come because could not leave his job. He was then replaced by another male subject. The screening process can be seen in Figure 1.

Table 1. Nutrient information of the fiber-rich milk product per serving (serving size: 60 grams)

Nutrients	Amount per serving
Total energy	250 Kcal
Energy from fat	60 Kcal
Total fat	7 g
Saturated fatty acid	1.5 g
Mono-unsaturated fatty acid	3 g
Poly-unsaturated fatty acid	2 g
Trans fat	0 g
Cholesterol	2 mg
Protein	9 g
Total carbohydrate	38 g
Lactose	10 g
Sucrose	0 g
Glucose	0 g
Dietary fiber	3 g
Inulin	2 g
Sodium	103 mg
Potassium	456 mg
Vitamin A	254 mcg
Vitamin C	27 mg
Vitamin D	3 mcg
Vitamin E	4 mcg
Vitamin K	11 mcg
Thiamine	0.43 mg
Riboflavin	0.3 mg
Niacin	4.1 mg
Pantothenic acid	2.1 mg
Pyridoxine	0.5 mg
Folic acid	105 mcg
Vitamin B12	0.75 mcg
Calcium	585 mg
Phosphor	226 mg
Magnesium	130 mg
Iron	7 mg
Zinc	7.3 mg
Iodine	58 mcg
Selenium	14 mcg
Taurine	117 mg
L-Carnitine	35 mg
Choline	99 mg
Biotin	8 mcg
Copper	396 mcg
Chromium	55 mcg
Chloride	244 mg

From 12 recruited subjects, seven of the subjects were females. Average age of all the subjects was 30.8 ± 4.3 years old with average BMI of 20.6 ± 1.6 kg/m². Most of female subjects were housewives and most of male subjects were employees with senior high school graduated education. The subjects' characteristics can be seen in Table 2.

The postprandial blood glucose were different significantly between the two snacks at baseline, 30 minutes, and 120 minutes after meal. The serum insulin level was significantly difference at 30 minutes after meal between the two snacks. Furthermore, there were significantly differences between the two snacks in VAS of hunger and satiety at 180 minutes after meal. In addition, area under the curve of glycemic response of fiber-rich milk was significantly lower than the equi-carbohydrate snack ($p=0.010$). Table 3 shows the results of postprandial blood glucose and insulin response, satiety and hunger feeling of each test snack.

In this study, the pattern of the postprandial glycemic ($p<0.001$) and insulin ($p=0.045$) response were significantly different between the fiber-rich milk and equi-carbohydrate snack as shown in the Figures 2 and 3. The shape of the glucose response after consuming the fiber-rich milk was biphasic compared with the monophasic shape of the equi-carbohydrate snack. The peak of the blood glucose level in postprandial glycemic response at 30 minutes after meal was significantly lower after consuming the fiber-rich milk as compared to the equi-carbohydrate snack ($p=0.001$). There was no hypoglycemic episode after consuming fiber-rich milk. The same pattern was also shown for the postprandial insulin response. The highest insulin concentration after

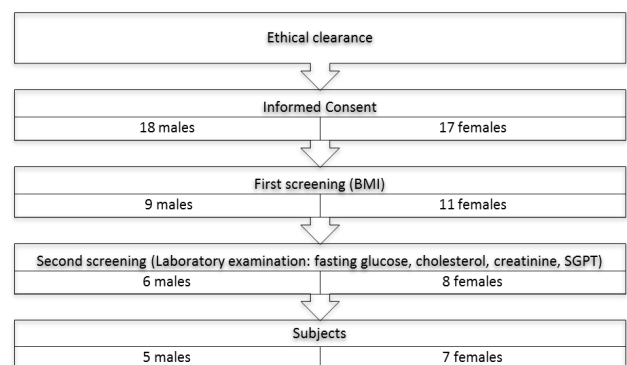


Figure 1. The screening process of the subjects

Table 2. Characteristics of subjects

	Male (n=5)	Female (n=7)	Total (n=12)
Age (years)	32.4±3.0	28 (25–40)	30.8±4.3
BMI (kg/m ²)	22.7 (18.6–22.8)	20.2±1.1	20.6±1.6
Screening laboratory examination			
Fasting glucose level (mg/dL)	83.4±4.0	81.7±3.7	82.4±3.8
Cholesterol level (mg/dL)	163.4±18.5	151.0±26.3	156.2±23.3
Creatinine level (mg/dL)	0.9±0.1	0.6±0.1	0.8±0.2
SGPT level (mg/dL)	19 (15–39)	18.0±5.7	18.5 (13–39)
Working status (n)			
Employee	3	1	4
Housewife		6	6
Others	2		2
Educational status (n)			
Elementary school graduated		2	2
Junior high school graduated		3	3
Senior high school graduated	4	2	6
Academy/university graduated	1		1

BMI= body mass index; SGPT= serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase. Data are presented as mean±SD or median (min-max)

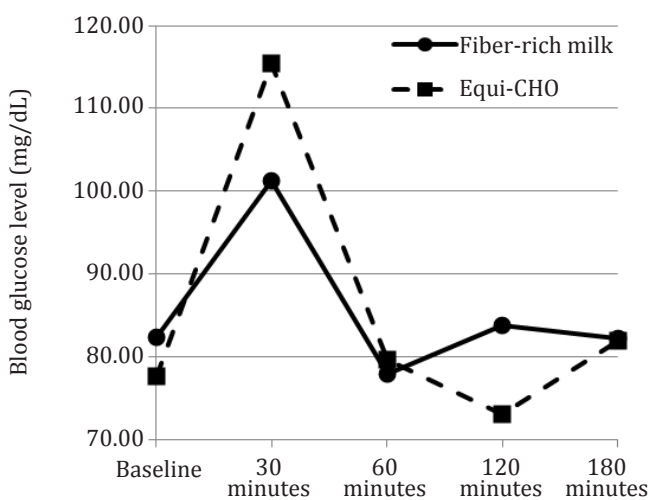


Figure 2. Blood glucose response pattern over time between two foods ($p<0.001$ using general linear model-multiple measures ANOVA statistical analysis)

consuming the fiber-rich milk at 30 minutes after meal was significantly lower than after consuming an equi-carbohydrate snack ($p=0.028$).

Figures 4 and 5 show patterns of the postprandial hunger and satiety feeling over three hours testing time. There was a significant difference between patterns of the hunger feeling after consuming the fiber-rich milk and equi-carbohydrate snack ($p=0.021$). There was no significant difference between patterns of satiety feeling between two

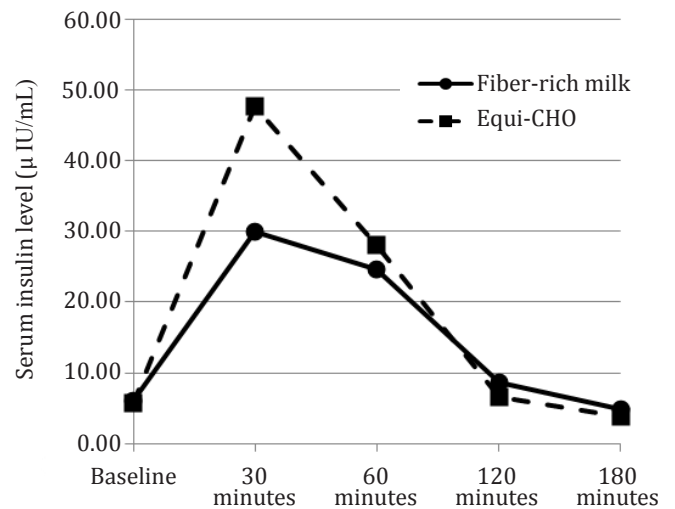


Figure 3. Serum insulin response pattern over time between two foods ($p=0.045$ using general linear model-multiple measures ANOVA statistical analysis)

test snacks ($p=0.357$). The patterns show that subjects' hunger and satiety feeling were stable and there was no surge of hunger during the three hours testing period in the fiber-rich milk intervention.

DISCUSSION

This study shows that the glycemic response of the fiber-rich milk was lower than the equi-carbohydrate

Table 3. Postprandial glycemic and insulin response, satiety and hunger feeling after consuming fiber-rich milk and equi-carbohydrate snack

Assessment	Fiber-rich milk	Equi-carbohydrate snack	p
Blood glucose response			
Baseline/0 minute (mg/dL)	80 (75–97)	75 (63–106)	0.039*
30 minutes after meal (mg/dL)	101.33±12.78	115.41±22.69	0.001†
60 minutes after meal (mg/dL)	78.00±9.08	79.58±21.96	0.494†
120 minutes after meal (mg/dL)	83.75±6.86	73.08±5.78	<0.001†
180 minutes after meal (mg/dL)	82.25±4.07	81.92±4.01	0.262†
Area under the curve of glycemic response (mg.mnt/dL)	889.62±490.33	1607.68±603.25	0.01†
Insulin response			
Baseline/0 minute (µIU/mL)	4.65 (2–13.3)	4.15 (2–15.6)	0.767*
30 minutes after meal (µIU/mL)	24.45 (12.9–70.7)	47.73±21.50	0.028*
60 minutes after meal (µIU/mL)	20.05 (15.2–42.5)	28.12±11.94	0.182*
120 minutes after meal (µIU/mL)	8.64±4.31	4.5 (2–17.9)	0.147*
180 minutes after meal (µIU/mL)	4.80±2.64	3.15 (2–13)	0.109*
Hunger visual analog scale			
Baseline/0 minute (cm)	3.25 (1.9–7.3)	3.56±1.82	0.683*
30 minutes after meal (cm)	2.15 (0.2–9.6)	1.96±1.68	0.158*
60 minutes after meal (cm)	2 (0–10)	3.15±2.47	0.721*
120 minutes after meal (cm)	3.86±3.22	5.14±3.09	0.107†
180 minutes after meal (cm)	4.05±3.25	7.05 (0.6–9.5)	0.008*
Satiety visual analog scale			
Baseline/0 minute (cm)	9.35 (3.8–10)	6.89±2.05	0.582*
30 minutes after meal (cm)	8.65 (4.5–10)	9.25 (4.3–10)	0.689*
60 minutes after meal (cm)	9.4 (3.4–10)	7.60±2.19	0.346*
120 minutes after meal (cm)	6.67±3.14	5.79±2.39	0.405†
180 minutes after meal (cm)	6.84±2.97	4.50 (1.5–9.3)	0.026*

*Wilcoxon test; † paired t-test. Data are presented as mean±SD or median (min-max)

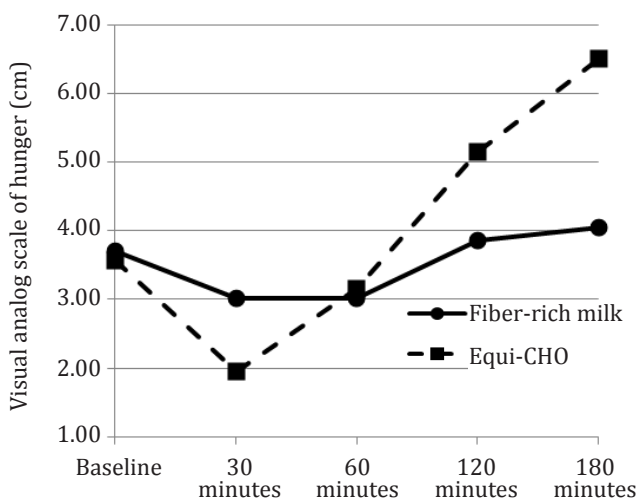


Figure 4. Hunger feeling pattern over time between two foods (p=0.021 using general linear model-multiple measures ANOVA statistical analysis)

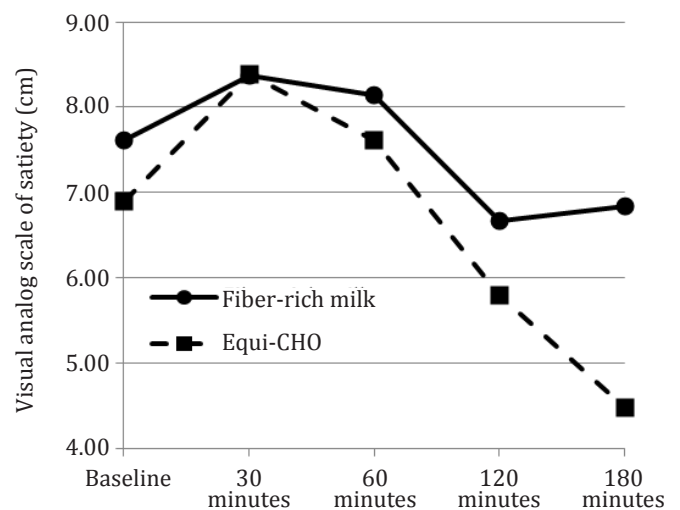


Figure 5. Satiety feeling pattern over time between two foods (p=0.357 using general linear model-multiple measures ANOVA statistical analysis)

snack. This is related to the low GI value of 30 for the dairy products,¹⁹ however, sweetener can increase the GI value of dairy products which are otherwise a low GI food. Brand-Miller et al¹⁸ concluded that dairy product containing maltodextrins, corn or glucose syrups that can increase the GI by more than two folds, and glycemic load (GL) by seven folds compared to milk powders with no added carbohydrates. Thus, the result of this study is aligned with the product composition, i.e. fiber-rich milk without added sugar.

In adults, the pattern of the glycemic response independently predicts the risk of type 2 diabetes. The incidence of type 2 diabetes can be reduced by decreasing insulin demand. A diet that produces higher blood glucose concentration and greater demand for insulin would increase the risk of type 2 diabetes.²⁰ The shape of glucose curve during an oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) can be used to identify metabolic dysregulation and the potential risk for future type 2 diabetes. Individual with a monophasic response (inverted U shape) exhibit greater insulin resistance and decreased β -cell function compared with individuals with a biphasic response (a second rise of plasma glucose after first decline).²¹ In this study, the glycemic response pattern in the fiber-rich milk product was a biphasic response compared with the inverted U shape in the equi-carbohydrate snack.

Serum insulin response pattern after consuming fiber-rich milk was significantly different as compared with the equi-carbohydrate snack, with lower peak. This finding was different as compared to Hoyt et al²² that dairy product (skimmed and whole milk) may increase serum insulin response. However, this result corresponded with the data of glycemic index foods that lactose as the source of carbohydrate has a low glycemic index with lower peak of insulin response as compared with glucose.²³

Many studies have been conducted to analyze the relationship between glycemic index and satiety with inconsistent results. Some studies found no effect of low GI food to suppress hunger while others found a significant increased in satiety feeling after consumption of the low GI diets. A review article by Bornet et al²⁴ found that 12 out of 18 studies supported an inverse relationship between GI diets and satiety, and concluded

that low glycemic index food produces high satiety feeling. This study showed no significant difference in the satiety and hunger feeling before consumption of the two snacks, and there was no significant difference in the satiety feeling after consumption between the two snacks. However, the hunger feeling after consumption was significantly different. LaCombe et al⁷ in their study found a significant difference between hunger scores before lunch in children four hours after consumption of breakfast meals differing in GI, indicating children were hungrier in the high GI group compared to the low GI group. No significant difference was observed between satiety scores after breakfast.

In conclusions, this study found that there are significant differences of the glycemic response, insulin response, and hunger feeling after consuming the fiber-rich milk compare with an equi-carbohydrate food. Thus, fiber-rich milk can be used as an alternative for snack in healthy adults to maintain stability of glycemic and insulin response to prevent the risk of type 2 diabetes, also to support diet program for those who tend to have a surge of hunger. However, there is still a need for further study using the fiber-rich milk as compare with milk without fiber as an alternative for snack to support blood glucose management in pre-diabetic patients for a longer period of time.

Conflicts of interest

Chandra and Bardosono reported grants from PT. Sasanacitta Husada during the conduct of the study.

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