

New research suggests that high dietary intake of polyphenols are associated with longevity

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It is the first time that a scientific study associates high polyphenols intake with a 30% reduction in mortality in older adults. The research, published on *Journal of Nutrition*, is the first to evaluate the total dietary polyphenol intake by using a nutritional biomarker and not only a food frequency questionnaire.

Polyphenols: diet improves health

Polyphenols are naturally occurring compounds found largely in fruits, vegetables, coffee, tea, nuts, legumes and cereals. More than 8,000 different phenolic compounds have been identified in plants. Polyphenols have antioxidant, antiinflammatory, anticarcinogenic, etc. effects.

The research published on *Journal of Nutrition* is based on a 12-year follow-up of a population sample composed by 807 men and women aged 65 or over from Greve and Bagno (Tuscany, Italy), within the InCHIANTI study. The group of the UB analysed the effect of polyphenol-rich diets by means of a nutritional biomarker —the total urinary polyphenol (TUP) concentration— as a proxy measure of intake. To be exact, UB researchers contributes to first literature references on TUP application to epidemiological or clinical studies.

New biomarkers for nutritional studies

Professor Cristina Andrés Lacueva, head of the Biomarkers and Nutritional & Food Metabolomics Research Group of the UB and coordinator of the study, explains that "the development and use of nutritional biomarkers enables to make a more precise and, particularly, more objective estimation of intake as it is not only based on participants' memory when answering questionnaire. Nutritional biomarkers take into account bioavailability and individual differences. According to the expert, "this

methodology makes a more reliable and accurate evaluation of the association between [food intake](#) and mortality or disease risk".

In conclusion, the research proves that overall mortality was reduced by 30% in participants who had rich-polyphenol diets (>650 mg/day) in comparison with the participants who had low-polyphenol intakes (650 mg/day) in comparison with the [participants](#) who had low-polyphenol intakes (

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