# Binging on processed foods; do processed foods trick our brain into overeating?

Published: 07-12-2020 Last updated: 15-05-2024

The objective of the study is to determine the difference in brain responses after consumption of processed and unprocessed food between healthy lean subjects with a \*normal\* eating pattern with that of Binge Eating Disorder (BED) patients, who are...

**Ethical review** Approved WMO

**Status** Recruitment stopped

**Health condition type** Appetite and general nutritional disorders

**Study type** Observational non invasive

# **Summary**

## ID

NL-OMON55035

#### Source

**ToetsingOnline** 

## **Brief title**

Binging on processed foods

## **Condition**

- Appetite and general nutritional disorders
- Eating disorders and disturbances

## **Synonym**

Binge Eating Disorder

## Research involving

Human

# **Sponsors and support**

**Primary sponsor:** Leids Universitair Medisch Centrum **Source(s) of monetary or material Support:** NWO

## Intervention

**Keyword:** Binge eating disorder, Brain responses, Overeating, Processed foods

## **Outcome measures**

## **Primary outcome**

We will compare the response of the brain to a commercially available candy bar (processed) with a mix of peanuts and dried dates (unprocessed) matched for total calories, carbohydrates, fat, and protein content. Differences in brain responses between processed and unprocessed food as measured with functional Magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) will be the main study parameters.

## **Secondary outcome**

Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) scores for the level of hunger, thirst and satiety before and after ingestion of the food stimuli.

Questionnaire scores for normal eating habits

Questionnaire scores for normal physical activity habits

Weight

Height

Fat percentage

BMI

# **Study description**

## **Background summary**

Processed foods are foods that are produced industrially from substances derived from foods, often with many additives, but with little \*whole original food\* ingredients. These types of food tend to be high in calories, (saturated) fat, sugar, and salt, while being nutrient-poor compared to unprocessed foods.

2 - Binging on processed foods; do processed foods trick our brain into overeating? 11-05-2025

Not surprisingly, increased consumption of processed foods raises our daily calorie intake, as in addition to the higher calorie content, processed foods are also associated with a relatively short period of satiation, this is seen as an important cause of overweight an obesity. Even though most people are aware that processed foods are unhealthy, over 50% of our modern diet consists of these foods. The importance of the (subconscious) regulatory role of the brain in directing this eating behavior is increasingly recognized.

## Study objective

The objective of the study is to determine the difference in brain responses after consumption of processed and unprocessed food between healthy lean subjects with a \*normal\* eating pattern with that of Binge Eating Disorder (BED) patients, who are prone to overeating processed foods. We hypothesize that the brain responds much stronger to processed food in BED, whereas much smaller differences are expected after consuming unprocessed food.

## Study design

Cross-over trail study design with two study visits with a patient and a control group.

# Study burden and risks

The study will consist of two visits to the LUMC (1-2 weeks between visits). For each visit participants will undergo one MRI scan, the duration of this visit will be 1.5 hour excluding travel time (one hour for the MRI scan plus instructions and preparations and questionnaires). The potential risks are limited. The risks of MRI are minimal (risk of everyday life), because there are no consequences to the health of the participant. The potential risk of the food intervention are limited as these are commercially available products and participants with food allergies will not be included in the study. The questionnaires used during the study are also of a low burden nature.

# **Contacts**

#### **Public**

Leids Universitair Medisch Centrum

Albinusdreef 2 Leiden 2300RC NI

#### Scientific

Leids Universitair Medisch Centrum

3 - Binging on processed foods; do processed foods trick our brain into overeating? 11-05-2025

# **Trial sites**

# **Listed location countries**

**Netherlands** 

# **Eligibility criteria**

## Age

Adults (18-64 years) Elderly (65 years and older)

# Inclusion criteria

Control subjects:

- \* Aged >18
- \* BMI >18,5 and <25

BED patients:

- \* Aged 18>
- \* A primary diagnosis of BED according to DSM\*IV criteria or subthreshold BED (an average of one binge eating episode a week)
- \* BMI >30

# **Exclusion criteria**

- \* Age <18
- \* BMI not >18,5 and <25 for control subjects and BMI <30 for BED patients
- \* Diabetes
- \* Any know food allergy or intolerance
- \* Renal or hepatic disease
- \* Use of medication known to affect glucose (for example prednisone) or lipid metabolism
- \* A current history of self\*induced vomiting, misuse of laxatives, diuretics, enemas, diet pills or other weight controlling medications, fasting, or excessive exercise within the last 24 weeks;
- \* A comorbid diagnosis of psychotic disorder, self\*damaging behaviors or mental deficiency
  - 4 Binging on processed foods; do processed foods trick our brain into overeating? 11-05-2025

- \* Pregnancy
- \* Any contra-indication to MRI scanning

# Study design

# **Design**

Study type: Observational non invasive

Intervention model: Other

Allocation: Non-randomized controlled trial

Masking: Open (masking not used)

Control: Active

Primary purpose: Basic science

## Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Recruitment stopped

Start date (anticipated): 21-01-2021

Enrollment: 30

Type: Actual

# **Ethics review**

Approved WMO

Date: 07-12-2020

Application type: First submission

Review commission: METC Leiden-Den Haag-Delft (Leiden)

metc-ldd@lumc.nl

Approved WMO

Date: 26-02-2021
Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC Leiden-Den Haag-Delft (Leiden)

metc-ldd@lumc.nl

# **Study registrations**

# Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

# Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

ID: 29485 Source: NTR

Title:

# In other registers

Register ID

CCMO NL74714.058.20

Other NL8851 Netherlands Trial Register

OMON NL-OMON29485

# **Study results**

Date completed: 07-06-2021

Actual enrolment: 23