### It is illegal to post this copyrighted PDF on any website. Daily Dose Effects of Risperidone on Weight and Other Metabolic Parameters: A Prospective Cohort Study

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#### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Atypical antipsychotics can induce metabolic side effects, but whether they are dose-dependent remains unclear.

**Objective:** To assess the effect of risperidone and/or paliperidone dosing on weight gain and blood lipids, glucose, and blood pressure alterations.

*Methods:* Data for 438 patients taking risperidone and/or its metabolite (paliperidone) for up to 1 year were obtained between 2007 and 2018 from a longitudinal study monitoring metabolic parameters.

**Results:** For each milligram increase in dose, we observed a weight increase of 0.16% at 1 month of treatment (P=.002) and increases of 0.29%, 0.21%, and 0.25% at 3, 6, and 12 months of treatment, respectively (P<.001 for each). Moreover, dose increases of 1 mg raised the risk of a  $\geq$  5% weight gain after 1 month (OR=1.18; P=.012), a strong predictor of important weight gain in the long term. When we split the cohort into age categories, the dose had an effect on weight change after 3 months of treatment (up to 1.63%, P=.008) among adolescents (age  $\leq$  17 years), at 3 (0.13%, P=.013) and 12 (0.13%, P=.036) months among adults (age > 17 and <65 years), and at each timepoint (up to 1.58%, P<.001) among older patients (age  $\geq$  65 years). In the whole cohort, for each additional milligram we observed a 0.05 mmol/L increase in total cholesterol (P=.018) and a 0.04 mmol/L increase in LDL cholesterol (P=.011) after 1 year.

**Conclusions:** Although of small amplitude, these results show an effect of daily risperidone dose on weight gain and blood cholesterol levels. Particular attention should be given to the decision of increasing the drug dose, and minimum effective dosages should be preferred.

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ompared to the general population, psychiatric patients present a greater prevalence of metabolic disorders<sup>1</sup> such as dyslipidemia, diabetes, and/or visceral obesity, leading to cardiovascular diseases and contributing to decreased life expectancy of more than 10 years.<sup>2-4</sup> Several antipsychotics, antidepressants, and mood stabilizers can induce metabolic alterations, such as weight gain (WG) and blood lipid and/or glucose alterations.<sup>5,6</sup> Atypical antipsychotics (AAP), along with female gender, nonwhite ethnicity, low baseline body mass index  $(BMI < 25 \text{ kg/m}^2)$ , and young age,<sup>5,7–10</sup> represent the main risk factors for antipsychotic-induced weight gain (AIWG), which can lead to a clinically relevant threshold ( $\geq$ 7% increase from baseline).<sup>11,12</sup> Due to their metabolic adverse effects, which can drive patients into partial and/or total nonadherence to treatment, efforts to reduce the use of AAP have been made.<sup>13–15</sup> Nevertheless, they remain the reference medications in the treatment of schizophrenia.<sup>16</sup> Given the wide use of AAP, a deeper understanding of the mechanisms leading to AIWG and/or metabolic impairments is essential. Several studies examined the clinically relevant question of a dose-related effect of antipsychotics on metabolic parameters,<sup>17</sup> with some results suggesting that WG seems to develop even when low off-label doses are prescribed.<sup>18,19</sup> Since AAPs differ in their metabolic risk profile,<sup>20</sup> the dose effect for each individual AAP remains to be studied.

Risperidone is an AAP with a medium-to-high metabolic risk profile.<sup>20</sup> It is mainly metabolized in the liver by the cytochrome P450 2D6 (CYP2D6)<sup>21</sup> into 9-hydroxyrisperidone or paliperidone. The latter is also available for prescription and presents the same metabolic risk profile as risperidone.<sup>20</sup> In 2009, a literature review summarized 10 studies focusing on the effect of risperidone dosing on WG.<sup>17</sup> Two randomized controlled trials reported that WG was greater in high dose–fixed groups when compared with low dose–fixed groups (eg, 8 mg/d vs 1 mg/d) after 8 weeks of treatment.<sup>22,23</sup> This dose effect was then confirmed by 1 prospective open-label study, reporting an increase of 0.084 kg for each additional

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#### **Clinical Points**

- The atypical antipsychotics risperidone and paliperidone can lead to weight gain and blood lipids and/or glucose alterations, but it was unclear whether such metabolic adverse effects are dose-dependent.
- Despite a small dose effect of risperidone and paliperidone on weight gain and lipid alterations, particular attention should be given to the decision to prescribe high doses, and minimum effective doses should be preferred for minimizing metabolic effects.

mg of risperidone during 6 weeks of treatment.<sup>24</sup> The other studies either did not report or did not suggest a correlation between the dose and WG.<sup>25-28</sup> Both risperidone and paliperidone are available as depot formulations, and, in an open-label study with patients receiving different depot doses of risperidone every 2 weeks, no difference in WG was observed.<sup>29</sup> To our knowledge, only a few studies have so far examined the influence of risperidone dose on metabolic parameters other than WG, with no significant findings.<sup>30,31</sup> In the present study, we aimed to examine a dose-dependent effect of risperidone and/or paliperidone on WG and on other metabolic parameters (plasma lipid and glucose levels, blood pressure) in a large cohort of psychiatric patients in Switzerland.

#### **METHODS**

#### **Study Design**

Data were obtained from a longitudinal study (PsyMetab) that began in 2007 at the Department of Psychiatry of the University Hospital of Lausanne, in collaboration with a private mental health care center (Les Toises; Lausanne, Switzerland). The Ethics Committee of the Canton of Vaud (CER-VD) approved PsyMetab, and recruited patients gave their informed consent for research use of their clinical and genetic data. In addition, CER-VD granted access to data from patients who had a clinical follow-up of metabolic parameters in the Department of Psychiatry of the Lausanne University Hospital from 2007 to the end of 2015 (PsyClin) because of the non-interventional post hoc analysis design. Patients starting treatment with risperidone and/or paliperidone between 2007 and 2018 with at least 2 weight observations were selected in both cohorts. Clinical follow-up periods not longer than 1 year and not shorter than 3 weeks were used. Different time intervals were taken into account to appreciate the evolution of the metabolic parameters: 1 month ( $\leq$  45 days of treatment); 3 months  $(>45 \text{ days and} \le 105 \text{ days})$ ; 6 months  $(>105 \text{ days and} \le 190 \text{ days})$ days), and up to 1 year (>190 days and  $\leq$  380 days).

#### Measurements

As previously described,<sup>32</sup> within the first week of treatment, data on age, sex, comorbidities, antipsychotic dose, and date of first drug intake were collected. Clinical features, such as weight, height, waist circumference,

at baseline and at 1, 3, and 12 months and then yearly. In addition, weight, waist circumference, and blood pressure were also measured at 2 and 6 months. For hospitalized patients, additional observations collected during the stay were available for weight and/or metabolic parameters. Daily dose intake (DDI) information was extracted from medical files and reported in mg/d for both oral and depot formulations. Since there is approximately a 1:2 equivalence between risperidone and paliperidone doses, both oral and depot DDI were transformed into risperidone-equivalent doses.<sup>33</sup> For depot formulations (Supplementary Table 1), the administered dose was divided by the expected number of days between 2 injections. If patients were receiving both depot and oral forms, the sum between the 2 doses was used without accounting for the different bioavailabilities of the 2 formulations, since risperidone is metabolized mainly into paliperidone. To appreciate the evolution of weight gain, the change, expressed as the percentage of baseline value over time, was defined as (value - initial value)/initial value × 100. For the analysis of the evolution of blood metabolic parameters, all patients receiving comedications (Supplementary Table 2) for treating related somatic diseases were excluded (eg, patients taking lipid-lowering drugs were excluded when cholesterol levels were analyzed).

#### **Statistical Analysis**

Both demographic and metabolic variables were compared between patients with DDI below and above the median ( $\geq$ vs<3 mg/d) by Pearson  $\chi^2$  for categorical variables and t test for continuous variables. To evaluate the effect of the dose on weight change, a linear mixed effect model (Rstudio, package "nlme"<sup>34</sup>) was adjusted for age, sex, treatment duration, baseline weight, and DDI and performed at the 4 time intervals (1, 3, 6, and 12 months). To appreciate the dose effect, DDI outliers were excluded and doses < 10 mg/d were included. For total, low-density lipoprotein (LDL), and high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol; triglycerides; glucose; and blood pressure values, the same model was adjusted for age, sex, treatment duration, DDI, and baseline BMI and was performed at 12 months. The piecewise function was also applied to DDI, allowing us to estimate the weight changes for lower and higher values than 3 mg/d. Since the prescribed dose also depends on the diagnosis,<sup>35</sup> these models were also adjusted for this variable. Logistic regression was also used for analyzing the presence of important WG ( $\geq$  5% after 1 month<sup>36</sup> and  $\geq$  7% along the follow-up). Statistical significance was set at a *P* value  $\leq .05$ , and analyses were performed using Stata16.1 (StataCorp; College Station, Texas) and R environment for statistical computing version 3.6.0.

#### RESULTS

#### **Patient Characteristics**

Four hundred thirty-eight patients starting a follow-up (mean  $\pm$  SD duration, 153  $\pm$  108 days) on risperidone (374

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	$DDI < 3 mg/d^{b} (N = 201)$	$DDI \ge 3 \text{ mg/d}^{b} (N = 237)$	Р	Total (N = 438)
DDI (mg/d), mean (SD) Depot formulations <sup>c,d</sup>	1.6 (0.1)	3.0 (0.1)	<.001	3.3 (1.8)
Yes	61 (25.7)	19 (9.4)	<.001	80 (18.3)
No	176 (74.3)	182 (90.6)		358 (81.7)
Age, mean (SD), y	41.5 (22.7)	40.1 (16.7)	.48	40.7 (19.7)
Age category <sup>e</sup>	27 (12 1)	0 (2.0)		26 (0.2)
Adolescents	27 (13.4)	9 (3.8)	<.001	36 (8.2)
Adults Elderly	132 (65.7) 42 (20.9)	207 (87.3) 21 (8.9)		339 (77.4) 63 (14.4)
Sex	42 (20.9)	21 (8.9)		05 (14.4)
Male	96 (47.8)	126 (53.2)	0.30	222 (50.7)
Female	105 (52.2)	111 (46.8)	0.00	216 (49.3)
Follow-up duration (days), mean (SD)	148 (104)	157 (112)	.39	153 (108)
Medical environment				
Ambulatory	92 (45.8)	46 (19.4)	<.001	138 (31.5)
Hospital	99 (49.3)	174 (73.4)		273 (62.3)
Missing	10 (5.0)	17 (7.2)		27 (6.2)
Diagnoses <sup>t</sup> Schizophrenia	66 (32.8)	127 (53.6)	<.001	193 (44.1)
Schizoaffective disorder	10 (5.0)	44 (18.6)	<.001	54 (12.3)
Bipolar disorder	10 (5.0)	17 (7.2)		27 (6.2)
Depression	39 (19.4)	21 (8.9)		60 (13.7)
Other	55 (27.4)	23 (9.7)		78 (17.8)
Unknown	21 (10.4)	5 (2.1)		26 (5.9)
Smoker				
No	113 (56.2)	100 (42.2)	<.001	213 (48.6)
Yes	75 (37.3)	131 (55.3)		206 (47.0)
Missing	13 (6.5)	6 (2.5)		19 (4.3)
BMI at baseline (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) <sup>g</sup>	22.0 (5.21)	242(564)	10	24.2 (5.40)
Mean (SD)	23.9 (5.31)	24.3 (5.64) 16 (6.8)	.46	24.2 (5.49)
Missing Weight at baseline (kg), <sup>g</sup> mean (SD)	19 (9.5) 68.6 (19.0)	70.9 (17.4)	.18	35 (8.0) 69.8 (18.1)
BMI > 25 kg/m <sup>2</sup> at baseline <sup>g</sup>	08.0 (19.0)	70.9 (17.4)	.10	09.0 (10.1)
No	120 (59.7)	141 (59.5)	.73	261 (59.6)
Yes	62 (30.8)	80 (33.8)	., 5	142 (32.4)
Missing	19 (9.5)	16 (6.8)		35 (8.0)
BMI > 25 kg/m <sup>2</sup> at last observation	. ,			. ,
No	105 (52.2)	131 (55.3)	.83	236 (53.9)
Yes	77 (38.3)	90 (38.0)		167 (38.1)
Missing	19 (9.5)	16 (6.8)		35 (8.0)
Weight gain after 1 mo		470 (74 7)	10	222 (72 5)
<5%	152 (75.6)	170 (71.7)	.42	322 (73.5)
$\geq$ 5%	49 (24.4)	67 (28.3)		116 (26.5)
Important weight gain (≥7%) <sup>n</sup> <7%	131 (65.2)	141 (59.5)	.26	272 (62.1)
≥%7	70 (34.8)	96 (40.5)	.20	166 (37.9)
Previous psychotropic drug <sup>i,j</sup>	, e (3 1.6)	56 (10.5)		100 (37.5)
None	76 (37.8)	50 (21.1)	<.001	126 (28.8)
Low-risk profile	7 (3.5)	23 (9.7)		30 (6.8)
Medium-risk profile	23 (11.4)	31 (13.1)		54 (12.3)
High-risk profile	13 (6.5)	31 (13.1)		44 (10.0)
Missing	82 (40.8)	102 (43.0)		184 (42.0)
At risk psychotropic comedication <sup>i,k</sup>				227 (54 0)
No	124 (61.7)	103 (43.5)	<.001	227 (51.8)
Yes Antidenrossent compadicationk	77 (38.3)	134 (56.5)		211 (48.2)
Antidepressant comedication <sup>k,l</sup> No	137 (68.2)	168 (70.9)	.61	305 (69.6)
Yes	64 (31.8)	69 (29.1)	.01	133 (30.4)
Benzodiazepine comedication <sup>k,l</sup>	04 (51.0)	09 (29:1)		155 (50.4)
No	113 (56.2)	44 (18.6)	<.001	157 (35.8)
Yes	88 (43.8)	193 (81.4)		281 (64.2)
Antihypertensive comedication <sup>k,l</sup>				()
No	171 (85.1)	211 (89.0)	.27	382 (87.2)
Yes	30 (14.9)	26 (11.0)		56 (12.8)
Lipid-lowering comedication <sup>k,I</sup>				
No	184 (91.5)	223 (94.1)	.39	407 (92.9)
Yes	17 (8.5)	14 (5.9)		31 (7.1)
Antidiabetic comedication <sup>k,I</sup>	104 (06 5)	221 (07 F)	76	125 (07 0)
No	194 (96.5)	231 (97.5)	.76	425 (97.0)
Yes	7 (3.5)	6 (2.5)		13 (3.0)

<sup>a</sup>Values are reported as the number and percentage of patients unless otherwise noted. <sup>b</sup>Patients taking more or less than 3 mg/d for more than 50% of observations during the follow-up. <sup>c</sup>Among 80 patients receiving depot formulations (39 paliperidone and 41 risperidone), only 2 receiving risperidone depot did not have an oral supplementary dose. <sup>d</sup>See Supplementary Table 1 for the exact drug list. <sup>e</sup>Adolescents ≤ 17 years, adults > 17 years and <65 years, and elderly ≥ 65 years. <sup>f</sup>/*CD*-10 classification: organic disorders, anxiety, personality disorder, and intellectual disability were classified together as "other." <sup>g</sup>First observation in the dataset. <sup>h</sup>At any timepoint in the follow-up. <sup>i</sup>Low risk: haloperidol, pipamperone, flupenthixol, asenapine, amisulpride, aripiprazole, and lurasidone. Medium risk: zuclopenthixol, levomepromazine, quetiapine, lithium, and mirtazapine. High risk: valproate, olanzapine, and clozapine. <sup>j</sup>In the 30 days before starting risperidone and/or paliperidone. <sup>k</sup>Yes: people with comedication at least once during the follow-up. <sup>l</sup>See Supplementary Table 2 for the exact drug list. Abbreviation: BMI = body mass index.

	Estimate	95% Cl 1.48 to 4.82	P P	Estimate 5.05	95% Cl 3.02 to 7.08	Р <.001	Estimate 7.62	95% Cl 5.17 to 10.07	۹ د.001	Estimate 8.87	95% CI 6.19 to 11.55	Р С. С. С.
	0 1 E	1.48 to 4.82	, 001	5.05	3.02 to 7.08	<.001	7.62	5.17 to 10.07	<.001	8.87 75	6.19 to 11.55	<.001
(iday	c1.c		100.>		000 07 01 0				,001	10.05	200-1010	100
	0.16	0.06 to 0.27	.002	0.29	0.18 to 0.39	<.001	0.21	0.10 to 0.32	100.>	CZ.U	0.13 to 0.36	<.001
	1.58	1.32 to 1.84	<.001	1.20	1.06 to 1.34	<.001	0.80	0.70 to 0.89	<.001	0.57	0.51 to 0.63	<.001
emale)	-0.38	–1.10 to 0.34	.31	-0.60	–1.49 to 0.29	.19	-0.77	-1.86 to 0.32	.16	-1.01	-2.19 to 0.16	.092
		–0.02 to 0.01	.54	-0.02	-0.04 to 0.00	.058	-0.04	-0.06 to -0.01	.008	-0.04	-0.07 to -0.01	.003
		–0.07 to –0.03	<.001	-0.07	-0.10 to -0.05	<.001	-0.09	-0.12 to -0.06	<.001	-0.10	-0.13 to -0.07	<.001
isorder <sup>c</sup>	-0.13	–1.14 to 0.87	.80	-0.48	-1.73 to 0.77	.46	0.10	–1.40 to 1.61	.89	-0.25	–1.89 to 1.39	<b>t</b>
der	-0.70	–2.03 to 0.64	.31	-0.66	-2.35 to 1.02	<del>4</del> .	-1.08	–3.07 to 0.92	.29	-0.97	–3.17 to 1.22	.39
	0.20	–0.80 to 1.20	.70	0.77	-0.42 to 1.97	.20	0.43	-1.03 to 1.89	.56	0.65	-0.93 to 2.23	.42
Other diagnoses <sup>c</sup> 0	0.60	–0.37 to 1.56	.23	1.45	0.30 to 2.61	.014	1.48	0.08 to 2.89	.039	1.56	0.03 to 3.08	.046
N patients Observations		337 2,095			384 3,161			395 3,766			411 4,301	OS'
		CEN'7			101,6			00/'c			4,301	
<sup>a</sup> Linear mixed models performed for the entire cohort at the 4 time intervals: 1 month, 3 months, and 12 months. To understand the magnitude of the results, one can imagine a fictional patient who weighs 60 kg starting risperidone with a DDI of 2 mg. At 1 month, his/her weight would be 60.95 kg (+1.58%). If, during this month, this patient increased DDI from 2 to 3 mg/d, his/her weight increase would be 1.74% (+1.58% + 0.16%), and the weight, therefore, would be 61.04 kg. For observations within 3 months, a weight increase of +1.20% is estimated for each additional month, with a 3.6% total increase after 3 months. In this case, the fictional patient's weight would be 62.16 kg. Moreover if DDI increased from 2 to 4 mg/d, the total weight increase would be 4.18% (3.6% + 0.29 × 2%), and the weight 62.51 kg.	ed for th ho weigh g/d, his/h estimate ng/d, the e in mon1	e entire cohort at the 4 is 60 kg starting risperi er weight increase wou of for each additional n total weight increase ths, age in years, and b	the 4 time isperidon- e would b onal mont ease woul and baseli	e intervals: e with a DC e 1.74% (+ h, with a 3. d be 4.18% d be weight i	1 month, 3 month l of 2 mg. At 1 mo 1.58% + 0.16%), ar 5% total increase . (3.6% + 0.29 × 2% n kilograms.	is, 6 mont onth, his/h od the wei after 3 mc ), and the	hs, and 12 n er weight w ght, therefc inths. In this weight 62. <sup>1</sup>	nonths. To unders rould be 60.95 kg ore, would be 61.0 s case, the fiction 51 kg.	tand the n (+1.58%). )4 kg. For o al patient's	nagnitude ( If, during th bbservation weight wo	of the results, one . is month, this pati s within 3 months, uld be 62.16 kg. M	this co
Abbreviations: CI = confidence interval, DDI = d	interval,	DDI = daily dose intake.	ntake.									p
												r
Table 3. Piecewise Function Applied to Daily Dose Intake <sup>a</sup>	on App	olied to Daily I	Jose Inta									
	Weigl	Weight change 1 month	th	Weig	Weight change 3 months	ths	Weig	Weight change 6 months	nths	Weig	Weight change 12 months	ths
Predictor Esti	Estimate	95% CI	Ρ	Estimate	95% CI	Ρ	Estimate	95% CI	Ρ	Estimate	95% CI	Ρ
ept)	3.20	1.50 to 4.90	<.001	4.76	2.70 to 6.82	<.001	7.19	4.71 to 9.67	<.001	8.53	5.82 to 11.23	<.001
Time <sup>b</sup>	1.57	1.31 to 1.83	<.001	1.19	1.05 to 1.33	<.001	0.79	0.70 to 0.88	<.001	0.56	0.51 to 0.62	<.001
emale)	-0.38	-1.10 to 0.34	.31	-0.61	–1.49 to 0.28	.18	-0.78	-1.86 to 0.31	.16	-1.02	-2.20 to 0.16	060.
	-0.01	-0.02 to 0.01	.54	-0.02	-0.04 to 0.00	.058	-0.04	-0.06 to -0.01	.008	-0.04	-0.07 to -0.01	.003
ne weight <sup>b</sup>	-0.05	-0.07 to -0.03	<.001	-0.07	-0.10 to -0.05	<.001	-0.09	-0.12 to -0.06	<.001	-0.10	-0.13 to -0.07	<.001
isorder <sup>c</sup>	-0.13	-1.14 to 0.88	.80	-0.47	-1.72 to 0.78	.46	0.12	-1.39 to 1.62	.88	-0.24	-1.88 to 1.41	.78
der <sup>c</sup>	-0.70	-2.03 to 0.64	.31	-0.64	-2.32 to 1.04	.46	-1.03	-3.03 to 0.97	.31	-0.93	-3.12 to 1.27	.41
Depression <sup>c</sup> (	0.20	-0.80 to 1.21	69.	0.76	-0.44 to 1.95	.21	0.42	-1.04 to 1.88	.57	0.65	-0.93 to 2.23	.42
	0.60	-0.37 to 1.56	.22	1.45	0.30 to 2.61	.014	1.49	0.08 to 2.90	.038	1.56	0.04 to 3.09	.045
	0.14	-0.08 to 0.36	.22	0.48	0.24 to 0.71	<.001	0.47	0.22 to 0.72	<.001	0.45	0.19 to 0.72	.001
	0.16	0.04 to 0.27	.007	0.33	0.21 to 0.45	<.001	0.27	0.15 to 0.40	<.001	0.30	0.17 to 0.43	<.0010
N patients		337			384			395			411	1
Observations		2,095			3,161			3,766			4,301	
					-la Cla b							

patients) and/or paliperidone (64 patients) were included. Table 1 reports clinical parameters and comedications, dividing patients into those with DDI lower (45.9%) or higher (54.1%) than 3 mg/d. Patients who reached a clinically relevant threshold ( $\geq$  7% of WG) were younger (37.8 vs 42.5 years; *P* = .017), leaner (baseline BMI 22.1 kg/m<sup>2</sup> vs 25.4 kg/m<sup>2</sup>; *P* < .001), and had longer follow-ups (176 vs 139 days; *P* < .001).

#### Weight Change Over Time

Linear mixed effect models were performed on weight change at 1, 3, 6, and 12 months (Table 2). A significant effect of time on weight change was found for each timepoint (P<.001), with 1.58%, 1.20%, 0.80%, and 0.57% WG per month at 1, 3, 6, and 12 months, respectively. Concerning DDI, a significant impact on weight change was shown at each timepoint (P=.002 at 1 month, P<.001 for the others).

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	Metaboli	c Farameters Over m	inte and	innuence	
Parameter	Variable	Estimate (95% Cl)	Р	N patients	No. of observations
Total cholesterol <sup>b,c</sup>	DDl <sup>d</sup> Time <sup>d</sup>	0.05 (0.01 to 0.09) 0.03 (0.01 to 0.06)	.018 .011	290	497
LDL cholesterol <sup>b,c</sup>	DDI Time	0.04 (0.01 to 0.08) 0.02 (0.00 to 0.04)	.011 .045	289	495
HDL cholesterol <sup>b,c</sup>	DDI Time	-0.01 (-0.03 to 0.01) 0.01 (-0.00 to 0.02)	.32 .19	290	497
Triglycerides <sup>c,e</sup>	DDI Time	0.01 (-0.03 to 0.04) 0.01 (-0.02 to 0.03)	.60 .62	278	462
Glucose <sup>c,e</sup>	DDI Time	0.01 (-0.04 to 0.06) -0.02 (-0.06 to 0.01)	.75 .16	268	412
Systolic blood pressure <sup>f</sup>	DDI Time	-0.35 (-0.82 to 0.13) -0.23 (-0.52 to 0.07)	.15 .13	283	1,643
Diastolic blood pressure <sup>f</sup>	DDI Time	-0.60 (-0.95 to -0.24) -0.14 (-0.36 to 0.08)	<b>.001</b> 0.36	282	1,642

<sup>a</sup>Linear mixed effect models for all the metabolic variables over 12 months, adjusting for sex, age,

diagnoses, and body mass index at baseline. For each mg increase in DDI, a fictional patient would increase his/her total cholesterol value by 0.05 mmol/L. Moreover, along the follow-up, total cholesterol would increase by 0.03 mmol/L per month.

<sup>b</sup>Models were also adjusted for the fasting status of the patients.

<sup>c</sup>Results are expressed in mmol/L.

<sup>d</sup>DDI is expressed in mg/d and time in months.

<sup>e</sup>Only observations for fasting patients were selected. <sup>f</sup>Results are expressed in mm Hg.

Abbreviations: CI = confidence interval, DDI = daily dose intake.

At 1 month, a 0.16% increase in weight was observed for each additional mg, whereas at 12 months this effect reached 0.25%.

When the piecewise function was applied on DDI (Table 3), at 1 month we observed a DDI effect on WG only for DDI > 3 mg/d (P = .007). For each additional mg, the weight increase was 0.16%. For  $DDI \leq 3 \text{ mg/d}$ , no significant effect on weight change was found (P=.22). At 3, 6, and 12 months, both  $DDI \leq 3 \text{ mg/d}$  and DDI > 3 mg/d had a significant effect on weight change. When adjusting the model for early weight gain ( $\geq$  5% WG in 1 month, a strong predictor of further WG in the long term), no significant effect of DDI on weight change was found (Supplementary Table 3, P = .66, P = .42, and P = .38at 3, 6, and 12 months, respectively). Moreover, patients with  $\geq$  5% WG in 1 month kept gaining more weight than patients who did not reach this threshold (+6.68%, +7.36%, and +7.70% at 3, 6, and 12 months, respectively). Smoking status and psychotropic comedications did not have a significant impact on weight change and were therefore excluded from the model.

An additional analysis was performed on adolescent (age  $\leq$  17 years), adult (age > 17 and < 65 years), and elderly (age  $\geq 65$  years) subgroups (Supplementary Table 4). DDI had an increasing impact on weight change at 6 (1.54%, P = .009) and 12 (1.63%, P = .008) months among adolescents, at 3 (0.13%, P = .013) and 12 (0.13%, P = .036) months among adults, and at the 4 timepoints among older patients, with a weight increase of 0.76%, 1.37%, 1.58%, and 1.41% for each additional mg, respectively (P < .001). Sex subgroups analyses were

#### Table 5. Logistic Regression<sup>a</sup>

	١	Neight gain≥5	%	W	/eight gain≥7ª	%
	Odds			Odds		
	ratio	95% CI	Р	ratio	95% CI	Р
Mean DDI <sup>b</sup>	1.18	1.04 to 1.35	.012	1.12	0.99 to 1.25	.064
Max DDI <sup>b</sup>	1.21	1.09 to 1.34	<.001	1.09	1.00 to 1.18	.043
No. of observations/		372			438	

<sup>a</sup>Logistic regression on the development of  $\geq$  5% weight gain after 1 month of treatment and on the development of  $\geq$  7% weight gain within 12 months. The model was adjusted for age, sex, and baseline weight. For a fictional patient, the odds of developing ≥ 5% WG would be dose-dependent and increase by 1.18 and 1.21 when the mean DDI and max DDI increase by 1 mg/d, respectively.

<sup>b</sup>With 1 observation/patient, mean DDI (mg/d) represents the mean value of DDI received during the first month of therapy (weight gain  $\geq$  5%) and within 12 months (weight gain  $\geq$  7%), and max DDI (mg/d) represents the maximum value. Abbreviations: CI = confidence interval, DDI = daily dose intake.

also performed (Supplementary Table 5), with the dose showing a significant effect on WG at all 4 timepoints for women ( $P \le .001$ ) and only at 3 months for men (P = .003).

#### **Other Metabolic Parameters**

At 12 months (Table 4), time had a significant impact on total and LDL cholesterol values, with an increase of 0.03 and 0.02 mmol/L per month, respectively (P = .011 and P = .045, respectively), in the whole cohort, including adolescents and elderly patients. DDI also had a significant effect, with a total and LDL cholesterol level increase of 0.05 and 0.04 mmol/L, respectively, for each additional mg (P = .018 and P = .011, respectively). No significant effect of time nor DDI was observed on the increase of triglycerides and glucose levels and systolic blood pressure and on the decrease of HDL cholesterol levels. A negative effect for DDI was detected for diastolic blood pressure (-0.60 mm Hg for each additional mg, P = .001), but with no effect of time (P = .36). Psychotropic comedications did not have a significant influence on metabolic parameters and were therefore excluded from the models.

Piras et al It is illegal to post this copyrighted PDF on any website. May be due to our larger sample size giving us better statistical

A logistic regression (Table 5) was performed to evaluate the risk of developing  $\geq$  5% WG after 1 month of treatment, and a dose-significant effect was observed with both the mean (OR = 1.18; *P* = .012) and maximum values (OR = 1.21; *P* < .001) of DDI during the follow-up. Concerning the risk of developing a  $\geq$  7% WG, a dose-significant effect of DDI was observed when the maximum value of DDI during the follow-up was considered (OR = 1.09; *P* = .043).

#### **Sensitivity Analysis**

Since we did not account for the different bioavailability between depot and oral formulations, a sensitivity analysis excluding the 80 patients receiving depot forms was performed, confirming the validity of the results (data not shown).

The effect of the dose on WG was also evaluated among patients taking paliperidone or risperidone only (Supplementary Table 6). Despite the low statistical power (n = 28), WG was dose-dependent after 1 year among patients taking paliperidone only (P=.005). For patients taking risperidone only (n = 351), DDI did not have an effect on WG after 1 month (P=.17) but had a significant effect on WG after 3, 6, and 12 months (P<.001, P=.007, P=.035, respectively) and on total and LDL cholesterol after 12 months (P=.002). A negative effect of DDI was also found for blood pressure (both systolic and diastolic) among patients taking risperidone only. Due to the low number of patients on paliperidone only with data available for blood pressure (n=20) or lipid levels (n=23), the effects of the doses were not calculated.

#### DISCUSSION

Using a 1-year naturalistic study design, we aimed to investigate the dose effect of risperidone and/or paliperidone on both WG and blood metabolic parameters. Along with treatment duration, dose augmentation had an increasing effect on weight. Previous double-blind randomized controlled trials already showed a risperidone dose-WG association.<sup>22,23</sup> However, while in controlled trials researchers divide the population into different fixed-dose groups and look at WG after a given time, in our noninterventional prospective study we looked at the effect of the dose (fixed dose, dose increase, and/or dose decrease) on the evolution of weight change over time. Moreover, in double-blind randomized controlled trials, patients receive a fixed dose according to the randomization, while in our case prescribed dose reflected the clinical needs (eg, severity of the symptoms) of the patients. Our results are also in agreement with a previous prospective study reporting an increase of 0.084 kg for each mg increase in risperidone dose.<sup>24</sup> Given that younger and/or leaner patients are at greater risk of WG,8 we are confident that expressing the WG as a percentage is more reliable than expressing it as a defined kilogram amount increase.<sup>24</sup> Other studies failed to show a correlation between dose and WG<sup>25,27,28</sup>; this discrepancy

may be due to our larger sample size giving us better statistical power (ie, 438 patients vs 70, 37, 177). Another open-label study with 615 patients did not find a dose-WG correlation.<sup>29</sup> However, the authors divided patients into groups with fixed doses of depot and did not consider the supplementary oral risperidone prescribed to some participants.

When the piecewise function was applied to DDI at 1 month, a dose effect on WG for DDI > 3 mg/d was detected, meaning that for each mg increase (eg, 3 to 4 mg/d), weight increased by 0.16%. On the other hand, for DDI  $\leq$  3 mg/d, a dose effect was observed only at 3, 6, and 12 months but not at 1 month, probably due to lack of statistical power and/ or chance finding. Thus, at 3, 6, and 12 months, higher WG estimates are reported for DDI  $\leq$  3 mg/d as compared to higher doses, meaning that increasing DDI from 1 mg to 2 mg/d led to a greater difference in WG than increasing from 5 to 6 mg/d. This could be partially explained by the fact that patients who increased their DDI up to 3 mg/d between 3 and 12 months of therapy were more likely to be antipsychoticnaive and/or possibly never received risperidone previously.

Dose increases could also heighten the risk of developing  $WG \ge 5\%$  after 1 month, a strong predictor of additional WG during the follow-up.<sup>36</sup> However, for patients who reached this threshold, DDI did not influence WG at a later stage, suggesting that such patients would keep gaining weight whatever the DDI. Furthermore, the maximum value of DDI during the follow-up, and not the mean value, increased the odds of developing a clinically relevant WG (ie,  $\ge 7\%$ ). This discrepancy is probably due to the significant difference between the mean (3.3 mg) and the maximum value (4.4 mg) of DDI during the follow-up. Patients with any DDI could, therefore, be prone to developing a clinically relevant WG, especially if they needed higher DDI at some time during the follow-up.

Since lower doses of risperidone are prescribed to adolescent and older patients,<sup>35</sup> the effect of DDI on WG was specifically investigated among age categories. Adolescents gained weight all along the follow-up, with a DDI effect only after 3 months. Considering that less than 25 patients were included, the lack of DDI effect at 1 and 3 months could be due to a low statistical power. DDI had a significant effect on WG at 3 and 12 months (with a trend at 1 month, P=.093) among adults, and the difference among timepoints may be due to the different patients (eg, with different age and sex) included in each model. On the other hand, a DDI effect on WG was measured in older patients at each of the timepoints, possibly due to a lower clearance.

In agreement with several studies, higher WG was found at the beginning of the treatment.<sup>11,36</sup> It should, however, be noted that observations could be more reliable within the first 3 months, since at a later stage more confounders could be present (eg, different comedications introduced and/or stopped, change in compliance). Discrepant results about the effect of sex on AIWG can be found in the literature, with female patients more likely to develop AIWG.<sup>37,38</sup> In the present study, a trend was found showing women gaining less weight than men, but, since young age is also a It is illegal to post this copy risk factor for AIWG,<sup>\*</sup> this result could be explained by the lower age among men (mean  $\pm$  SD age,  $36.5 \pm 17.6$  years and  $45.0 \pm 20.7$  years in men and women, respectively; P < .001). Moreover, our models suggest that young patients are more likely to gain weight, possibly because they are more likely to be antipsychotic-naïve, less likely to have metabolic comorbidities, or less likely to receive drugs with a potential to worsen metabolic parameters.<sup>39,40</sup>

Taking into account the entire cohort, a DDI effect was found on the increase in total and LDL cholesterol levels over time but not for HDL cholesterol, triglycerides, glucose, or systolic blood pressure. These results could be due to the lower number of observations (glucose/lipid levels are measured less frequently than weight) and/or to a weaker effect of risperidone on blood metabolic parameters than other atypical antipsychotics (eg, olanzapine).<sup>41</sup> A negative effect of DDI on diastolic blood pressure was also found, which may be a chance finding. Previous studies failed to show an association between risperidone DDI and other metabolic parameters than WG, including cholesterol.<sup>30,31</sup> This discrepancy with our study could be explained by our greater sample size (ie, 290 vs 49 and 88 patients) and/or by the different features of patients who were recruited (ie, only patients aged 13 to 17 years were enrolled in the above mentioned study<sup>30</sup>).

Several limitations of the present study must be mentioned. First, adherence to treatment could not be ascertained. However, the doses actually administered for hospitalized patients were available, therefore increasing the accuracy of our data. Information on lifestyle (eg, diet, physical activity) and substance use (eg, alcohol), which

could potentially influence WG and other meta parameters, were not available either. Another limitation was the lack of data for plasma risperidone and/or paliperidone concentrations, which would have been of interest considering the large interindividual variability in the metabolism and elimination of these two drugs (eg, CYP2D6 slow, extensive, and ultrarapid metabolizer status).<sup>42</sup> Moreover, concerning lipids and glucose levels and/or blood pressure determinations, a 12-month follow-up may not have been enough to detect important alterations. We could also not ascertain whether any and/ or how many antipsychotic-naïve patients were included, preventing us from further analyzing whether the dose effect on WG differs between these two populations. On the other hand, the principal strength of our study is the naturalistic longitudinal design, which allowed us to analyze the effect of the dose in a real-world setting. In addition, we could analyze the effect of risperidone DDI on both WG and blood metabolic parameters, taking advantage of a large sample size and therefore of a high statistical power.

#### CONCLUSION

In summary, the present results provide evidence for a small dose effect of risperidone on WG and total and LDL cholesterol. However, because risperidone can be prescribed over a large range of doses (typically 1 to 10 mg/d), strong DDI increases can contribute to significant worsening of these metabolic parameters over time. Particular attention should, therefore, be given to the decision to prescribe high doses, and minimum effective doses should be preferred.

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Supplementary material: Available at PSYCHIATRIST.COM

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## **Supplementary Material**

- Article Title: Daily Dose Effects of Risperidone on Weight and Other Metabolic Parameters: A Prospective Cohort Study
- Authors:Marianna Piras, PharmD; Céline Dubath, PhD; Mehdi Gholam, PhD;<br/>Nermine Laaboub, MSc; Claire Grosu, MSc; Franziska Gamma, MD, MSc;<br/>Alessandra Solida, MD; Kerstin Jessica Plessen, PhD; Armin von Gunten, MPhil, MD;<br/>Philippe Conus, MD; and Chin B. Eap, PhD
- **DOI Number:** 10.4088/JCP.21m14110

#### List of Supplementary Material for the article

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- 2. <u>Table 2</u> Co-Medications Taken by the Participants
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- 4. <u>Table 4</u> DDI and Time Effect on Weight Change According to Age Categories
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Supplementary table 1. List of depot formulations<sup>a</sup>.

Depot formulations	Interval between	Extrapolated
	injections	risperidone's daily dose
Risperidone suspension (Consta <sup>®</sup> ) 25 mg	14 days	1.8 mg
Risperidone suspension (Consta <sup>®</sup> ) 37.5 mg	14 days	2.7 mg
Risperidone suspension (Consta <sup>®</sup> ) 50 mg	14 days	3.6 mg
Paliperidone suspension (Xeplion <sup>®</sup> ) 100 mg	2nd loading dose / 28 days	1.8 mg
Paliperidone suspension (Xeplion <sup>®</sup> ) 150 mg/1.5mL <sup>b</sup>	1st loading dose / 28 days	2.7 mg
Paliperidone suspension (Xeplion <sup>®</sup> ) 75 mg/0.75mL	28 days	1.3 mg

<sup>a</sup>List of depot formulations injected in patients included in the present study and the corresponding interval between injections.

<sup>b</sup>Formulation used as a loading dose (injected at the beginning of the depot treatment, and followed by a second injection

one week after) and maintenance dose (injected every 28 days).

Supplementary table 2. Co-medications taken by the participants.

Antidepressant	Benzodiazepine	Lipid-	Antidiabetic	Antihypertensive	
		lowering			
		drugs			
Agomelatine	Alprazolam	Atorvastatin	Glibenclamide	Amlodipine	Aliskirene
Citalopram	Bromazepam	Ezetimibe	Gliclazide	Candesartan	Atenolol
Duloxetine	Clobazam	Fenofibrate	Glimepiride	Diltiazem	Bisoprolol
Escitalopram	Diazepam	Fluvastatin	Insulin	Enalapril	Celiprolol
Fluoxetine	Flurazepam	Pravastatin	Metformin	Felodipine	Furosemide
Fluvoxamine	Ketazolam	Rosuvastatin	Pioglitazone	Lercanidipine	Torasemide
Moclobemide	Lorazepam	Simvastatin	Rosiglitazone	Irbesartan	Amiloride
Paroxetine	Lormetazepam		Sitagliptine	Lisinopril	Spironolactone
Reboxetine	Midazolam			Losartan	Hydrochlorothiazide
Sertraline	Nitrazepam			Olmesartan	Indapamide
Trazodone	Oxazepam			Perindopril	Metoprolol
Venlafaxine	Potassium			Ramipril	Nebivolol
Vortioxetine	clorazepate			Telmisartan	Nifedipine
	Prazepam			Trandolapril	Propranolol
	Temazepam			Valsartan	Carvedilol
	Triazolam				Verapamil

		Weight change			Weight change			Weight change	
		1 to 3 months			1 to 6 months			1 to 12 months	
Predictors	Estimates	CI	р	Estimates	CI	р	Estimates	CI	p
(Intercept)	5.86	2.26 - 9.47	0.001	8.93	5.17 - 12.69	<0.001	9.83	5.93 - 13.72	<0.001
Weight gain [≥5%] <sup>a</sup>	6.68	5.25 - 8.11	<0.001	7.36	5.75 - 8.97	<0.001	7.70	6.02 - 9.37	<0.001
DDI <sup>b</sup>	0.05	-0.18 - 0.29	0.66	-0.08	-0.28 - 0.12	0.42	0.08	-0.10 - 0.27	0.38
Time <sup>b</sup>	1.24	0.86 - 1.63	<0.001	0.54	0.38-0.71	<0.001	0.46	0.37 - 0.55	<0.001
Sex [F]	-0.73	-2.18 - 0.71	0.32	-0.65	-2.24 - 0.94	0.42	-1.12	-2.76 - 0.52	0.18
Age <sup>b</sup>	-0.06	-0.090.02	0.001	-0.07	-0.110.04	<0.001	-0.08	-0.120.04	<0.001
Baseline weight <sup>b</sup>	-0.08	-0.120.04	<0.001	-0.08	-0.130.04	<0.001	-0.10	-0.140.05	<0.001
Schizoaffective disorder <sup>c</sup>	-1.08	-3.19 - 1.03	0.32	-0.40	-2.62 - 1.81	0.72	-1.24	-3.53 - 1.06	0.29
Bipolar disorder <sup>c</sup>	-1.31	-4.04 - 1.43	0.35	-1.75	-4.57 - 1.08	0.23	-1.30	-4.24 - 1.64	0.39
Depression <sup>c</sup>	0.70	-1.19 - 2.58	0.47	-0.24	-2.34 - 1.85	0.82	0.19	-1.94 - 2.33	0.86
Other diagnoses <sup>c</sup>	1.56	-0.22 - 3.34	0.085	1.04	-0.96 - 3.05	0.31	1.06	-1.01 - 3.12	0.32
N patients	263			301			329		
N observations	1066			1671			2206		

Supplementary table 3. Linear mixed effect models for weight evolution over time, corrected by early weight gain.

<sup>*a*</sup>Weight gain [ $\geq$ 5%] variable identifies patients who had at least a 5% weight gain in the first month of therapy. The entire

cohort is included. Patients with ≥5% WG at one month keep increasing weight (+6.68% versus patients with <5% WG

between days 46 and 105) without a DDI effect.

<sup>b</sup>Daily dose intake (DDI) is expressed in mg/day, time in months, age in years and baseline weight in kilograms.

<sup>c</sup>Different diagnoses categories are compared with schizophrenic patients.

Abbreviations: CI= confidence interval, DDI= daily dose intake, F= female, N= number.

#### Supplementary table 4. DDI and Time effect on weight change according to age categories<sup>a</sup>.

					Weight o	change			
		1 m	onth	3 m	onths	6 mo	nths	12 m	onths
	Variable	DDIc	Time <sup>c</sup>	DDI	Time	DDI	Time	DDI	Time
Adolescents <sup>b</sup>	Estimates; CI	-0.26; -0.91	4.26; 3.30 -	0.14; -0.89	5.02; 4.23 -	1.54; 0.39	2.63;	1.63; 0.42 -	0.69; 0.36 -
		- 0.39	5.21	- 1.17	5.80	- 2.70	2.00 -	2.84	1.02
							3.25		
	p-value	0.43	<0.001	0.80	<0.001	0.009	<0.001	0.008	<0.001
	N patients	2	20	2	24	20	6	2	29
	N observations	1	23	2	02	23	2	2	73
		DDI	Time	DDI	Time	DDI	Time	DDI	Time
Adults <sup>b</sup>	Estimates; CI	0.10 ;0.02 -	1.36; 1.05 -	0.13; 0.03 -	1.03; 0.89 -	0.01; -0.10	0.79;	0.13; 0.01 -	0.62; 0.55 -
		0.21	1.67	0.23	1.17	-0.12	0.69 –	0.25	0.68
							0.89		
	p-value	0.093	<0.001	0.013	<0.001	0.91	<0.001	0.036	<0.001
	N patients	2	58	2	99	30	18	3	21
	N observations	14	152	21	183	26.	39	3105	
		DDI	Time	DDI	Time	DDI	Time	DDI	Time
Elderly <sup>b</sup>	Estimates; CI	0.76; 0.42 -	1.48; 0.96 -	1.37; 1.03 –	0.45; 0.16 -	1.58; 1.25	0.10; -	1.41; 1.08 -	-0.08; -0.24
		1.10	2.00	1.71	0.74	- 1.92	0.11 –	1.74	- 0.07
							0.30		
	p-value	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	0.003	<0.001	0.37	<0.001	0.28
	N patients	5	59	6	51	6	1	6	51
	N observations	5	20	7	76	89	95	9	23

<sup>a</sup>Linear mixed effect models performed on weight change splitting the cohort into age categories, adjusting by sex, time, diagnoses and baseline weight . *For a 15-year-old 40kg fictional patient starting risperidone, his/her weight after one month would be 41.7kg (+4.26%). DDI increases would not change the weight increase. On the other hand, for a 66-year-old 50kg fictional patient, his/her weight would be 50.74kg after one month (+1.48%), and 51.12kg (+2.24%, i.e., 1.48% + 0.76%) if his/her DDI increased by 1 mg.* 

<sup>b</sup>Adolescents ≤17 years; adults >17 & <65; elderly ≥65 years.

<sup>c</sup>Daily dose intake (DDI) is expressed in mg/day and time in months.

Abbreviations: CI= confidence interval, N= number.

#### Supplementary table 5. DDI effect on weight change according to sex<sup>a</sup>.

		Μ	en			Wo	omen	
	Estimates; CI	p-value	N patients	N observations	Estimates; CI	p-value	N patients	N observations
Weight change (1 month) <sup>b</sup>	0.08; -0.08 - 0.23	0.32	165	923	0.24; 0.10-0.38	0.001	172	1172
Weight change (3 months) <sup>b</sup>	0.22; 0.07 - 0.37	0.003	190	1412	0.36; 0.20 – 0.52	<0.001	194	1749
Weight change (6 months) <sup>b</sup>	-0.01; -0.16 - 0.14	0.91	196	1688	0.41; 0.24 - 0.57	<0.001	199	2078
Weight change (12 months) <sup>b</sup>	0.01; -0.13 - 0.16	0.86	204	1924	0.45; 0.28 – 0.63	<0.001	207	2377

<sup>a</sup>Daily dose intake (DDI) is expressed in mg/day.

<sup>b</sup>Models were adjusted for time, age, baseline weight and diagnoses.

Abbreviations: CI= confidence interval, N= number.

## Supplementary Table 6. DDI effect on weight change and other metabolic parameters among patients taking paliperidone or risperidone only<sup>a</sup>.

		Risperid	one only			Paliperio	done only	
	Estimates;	p-value	N	N	Estimates;	p-value	N	N
	CI	-	patients	observations	CI		patients	observations
Weight change (1 month) <sup>b</sup>	0.08;	0.17	289	1801	0.10;	0.36	20	127
	- 0.03 - 0.20				- 0.12 - 0.32			
Weight change (3 months) <sup>b</sup>	0.23;	<0.001	329	2707	0.20;	0.063	24	204
	0.11 - 0.35				- 0.01 - 0.41			
Weight change (6 months) <sup>b</sup>	0.18;	0.007	337	3153	0.12;	0.28	27	249
	0.05 - 0.31				- 0.09 - 0.32			
Weight change (12 months) <sup>b</sup>	0.15;	0.035	351	3488	0.27;	0.005	28	337
	0.01 - 0.29				0.08 - 0.46			
Total cholesterol (12 months) <sup>c</sup>	0.07;	0.002	249	424				
	0.03 - 0.12							
LDL cholesterol (12 months) <sup>c</sup>	0.06;	0.002	248	422				
	0.02-0.11							

<sup>a</sup>Daily dose intake (DDI) is expressed in mg/day.

<sup>b</sup>Models were adjusted for time, sex, age, baseline weight and diagnoses.

<sup>c</sup>Models were adjusted for time, sex, age, baseline BMI, diagnoses and fasting status.

Abbreviations: CI= confidence interval, N= number.