

Content available at: <https://www.ipinnovative.com/open-access-journals>

IP Journal of Nutrition, Metabolism and Health Science

Journal homepage: <https://www.jnmhs.com/>

Review Article

A brief review on utility of nuts consumption

Shivam Dubey^{1,*}

¹Dept. of Nutrition, Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, India



ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 11-07-2023

Accepted 11-08-2023

Available online 08-09-2023

Keywords:

Cardiovascular Disease

Cholesterol

Fatty acids

Diabetes

antioxidants

ABSTRACT

It is generally accepted that the nutrients found in tree nuts are to blame for their potential impact on human health. Nuts are a wellspring of admission of fiber, and dietary fiber is related to a diminished event of heftiness and cardiovascular sicknesses. The intriguing possibility that consuming nuts may protect human health has been the subject of worldwide research. Thusly, nuts are generally advanced as sound. The number of studies suggesting a link between nuts and a lower risk of important chronic diseases has continued to rise over the past few decades. The accessible logical proof of the medical advantages connected with nut utilization affects cardiovascular and persistent infection avoidance, mitigating and oxidative pressure decrease, as well as utilitarian food properties.

This is an Open Access (OA) journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/), which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

For reprints contact: reprint@ipinnovative.com

1. Introduction

Nuts (tree nuts and peanuts) are supplement thick food varieties with complex lattices wealthy in unsaturated greasy and other bioactive mixtures: top-notch vegetable protein, fiber, minerals, tocopherols, phytosterols, and phenolic compounds. By the goodness of their one-of-a-kind organization, nuts are probably going to influence well-being results gainfully. Tree nuts are dry organic products with one seed in which the ovary wall turns out to be hard at development. The most famous palatable tree nuts are Cashews (*Anacardium occidentale*), almonds (*Prunus amigdalis*), hazelnuts (*Corylus avellana*), pecans (*Juglans regia*), and pistachios (*Pistachia vera*). Macadamias (*Macadamia integrifolia*), Brazil nuts (*Bertholletia excelsa*), and pine nuts (*Pinus pinea*) are other common edible nuts. The purchaser definition additionally incorporates peanuts (*Arachis hypogea*), which naturally are groundnuts or vegetables but are broadly recognized as a feature of the

nuts nutrition type. Additionally, peanuts and tree nuts share a similar nutrient profile.¹ Studies recommend that when routinely consumed, tree nuts and peanuts decrease the gamble of creating ongoing infections and related risk factors.^{2–5} As per the research, adults who consume nuts frequently (on average 28 grams at least once per week) are less likely to develop diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and metabolic syndrome.³ Following nut consumption, improvements in several established and emerging risk factors for cardiovascular disease and diabetes, including blood pressure, lipids and lipoproteins, adiposity, glucose metabolism, and insulin sensitivity.^{6–9} Nuts have likewise been recommended to affect the stomach microbiota with blended proof of changes to the variety and usefulness of the stomach.¹⁰ According to the data, the fiber and monounsaturated fat found in nuts may reduce low-grade systemic inflammation and increase microbial diversity.¹¹ Nut consumption has been linked in epidemiological studies to a lower risk of diabetes in women and gallstones in both sexes, as well as coronary heart disease. Additional beneficial effects on cancer, inflammation, and

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: Shivamdubey20@gmail.com (S. Dubey).

hypertension are supported by limited evidence. Even in the context of healthy diets, interventional studies consistently demonstrate that nuts have a cholesterol-lowering effect, and there is emerging evidence of beneficial effects on oxidative stress, inflammation, and vascular reactivity.

2. Discussion

Nuts, seeds, and pulses are all nutrient-dense foods that have been a staple of human diets ever since pre-agricultural times.¹² Nuts are eaten whole (fresh or roasted), in spreads (peanut butter, almond paste), as oils, or hidden in commercial products, mixed dishes, sauces, pastries, ice cream, and baked goods in Western countries. They can also be eaten as part of a meal, as a snack, or as a dessert. Nut consumption appears to have a positive impact on blood pressure, visceral adiposity, and metabolic syndrome, except for vegetarians and other health-conscious populations. Over the course of the past century, nut consumption in most industrialized nations has declined to the point where it is now only a marginal source of energy in the daily diet. In this way, nuts gainfully affect numerous cardiovascular gamble factors. Nonetheless, nut utilization has expanded lately following both the consideration of this nutrition class in numerous rules for smart dieting and wide media inclusion of ongoing proof interfacing nut utilization to an extensive variety of medical advantages.

Nuts are one of the normal plant food sources most extravagant in fat after vegetable oils. However, nuts have a beneficial fatty acid composition due to their low saturated fatty acid (SFA) content (4-16%) and a high proportion of unsaturated fat, monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFA) (oleic acid).² Brazil nuts have similar proportions of MUFA and polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA), mostly linoleic acid; pine nuts have a predominance of PUFA over MUFA. It should be underlined about walnuts, that they are an entire food with the most noteworthy substance in the ALA of every palatable plant.¹³ The lipid profile of nuts in general and walnuts, as will be discussed below, is likely a significant factor in the health benefits of frequent nut consumption. Other bioactive macronutrients that have the potential to improve metabolic and cardiovascular outcomes are abundant in nuts. They frequently contain a high amount of L-arginine and are an excellent source of protein (approximately 25% of energy).¹ This amino acid is the precursor of the endogenous vasodilator nitric oxide (NO), so eating nuts may help increase vascular reactivity.¹⁴ In addition, nuts provide 5-10% of one's daily fiber needs in standard servings, and their fiber content ranges from 4 to 11 g per 100 g.¹⁵

When consumed in quantities greater than those required to prevent deficiency states, nuts contain significant amounts of essential micronutrients that are linked to improved health. Folate is abundant in nuts,¹⁵ a B

vitamin that is necessary for normal cell function and helps detoxify homocysteine, a sulphur-containing amino acid with atherothrombotic properties that build up in plasma when folate levels are low.¹⁶ Nuts are also a good source of antioxidant vitamins like tocopherols and phenolic compounds, which are important for preserving the seed's reproductive potential and protecting the germ from oxidative stress.¹⁷ They are also bioavailable after consumption and can provide a significant antioxidant load. Almonds have a lot of α -tocopherol, but walnuts have a lot of its isomer γ -tocopherol, which has been studied less than α -tocopherol but is becoming more and more recognized as an important anti-atherogenic molecule.¹⁸ Amazingly, the pellicle, or outer soft shell, of all nuts contains most antioxidants^{19,20} and peanuts,²¹ and when the skin is removed, 50% or more of them are lost.¹⁷ Fading of nuts when the hard shells are opened, as it happens normally in pistachios, likewise obliterates most of the cell reinforcements.²² According to findings, roasting almonds preserves the phenolic compounds more effectively than blanching them. When advising on the inclusion of nuts in healthy diets, it is important to keep in mind these facts, which were only rarely considered in previous studies. The exception is walnuts, which are almost always consumed raw and unpeeled.²³

Nuts are without cholesterol, yet their greasy division contains sizeable measures of synthetically related non-cholesterol sterols having a place with a heterogeneous gathering of mixtures known as plant sterols or phytosterols.¹⁵ They are non-nutritive parts of all plants that assume a significant primary part in films, where they effectively balance out phospholipid bilayers similarly to in creature cell layers.²⁴ When present in sufficient quantities within the intestinal lumen, phytosterols help lower blood cholesterol by interfering with the absorption of cholesterol. Phytosterols' hydrophobicity, which is higher than cholesterol's due to a bulkier hydrocarbon molecule and implies a higher affinity for micelles than cholesterol, has been linked to their mechanism of action. Subsequently, cholesterol is dislodged from micelles and the sum accessible for assimilation is restricted.²³ Very likely, the phytosterol content of nuts adds to their cholesterol-bringing-down impact. Nuts have the highest nutritional density of any common food when it comes to healthy minerals like calcium, magnesium, and potassium. Unprocessed raw or roasted nuts have a very low sodium content—hazelnuts have no sodium at all and peanuts have 18 mg/100 g.¹⁵ Bone demineralization, arterial hypertension, insulin resistance, and overall cardiovascular risk are all reduced when calcium, magnesium, potassium, and sodium intake is high.²⁵ Nuts' low sodium content is obviously lost when consumed as a salted product. Tocopherols, phytosterols, folic acid, selenium, and magnesium, among other bioactive nuts, are said to have

antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, or anti-carcinogenic properties,¹⁵ a justification for why a defensive impact of nut utilization on malignant growth hazard may be conjectured.²⁶ Old epidemiological proof of the job of nut utilization on malignant growth occurrence was uncertain.^{27,28} Later reports supporting a preventive job, albeit restricted to ladies.^{26–28}

3. Conclusion

In conclusion, the nutritional qualities of peanuts and tree nuts can be beneficial to human health, particularly in terms of disease treatment and prevention. It was thought that consuming nuts and seeds could lead to weight gain because of their high energy density; in any case, it is seen that the utilization of this gathering of food sources does not animate weight gain. Nuts, on the other hand, have been shown to increase thermogenesis and control satiety. The presentation of these food sources additionally advances an expansion in the nature of the eating routine, since they are plentiful in MUFAs, PUFAs, proteins, filaments, nutrients, minerals, and bioactive mixtures with cancer-prevention agent potential. Nuts are an energy-dense food that is also high in phytochemicals, bioactive macronutrients, and micronutrients. The interesting synthesis of nuts is basic for their well-being impacts. Vegetables, fruits, legumes, nuts, whole grains, lean protein sources, and low-fat dairy products are all important components of a healthy diet.²⁹ In vegetarian diets, nuts are a popular and significant source of unsaturated fat and high-quality vegetable protein. They also top the list of foods that are consumed most frequently, ranking above meat substitutes.^{30,31} Nuts are an essential part of a well-balanced vegetarian diet due to their high nutrient content and impressive evidence from epidemiological and clinical studies on their health benefits. In addition, consuming nuts has been shown to improve health outcomes by reducing or eliminating certain risk factors for chronic disease, such as alterations in glycaemic and lipid metabolism, oxidative stress, and inflammation. In any case, further examinations ought to be completed to assess the impact of nuts on different pathologies, like malignant growth and numerous sorts of fiery sicknesses.

4. Source of Funding

None.

5. Conflict of Interest

None.

References

1. Brufau G, Boatella J, Rafecas M. Nuts, source of energy and macronutrients. *Br J Nutr.* 2006;96(2):24–8.
2. Mataix RE. Fatty acid composition of nuts. Implications for cardiovascular health. *Br J Nutr.* 2006;96(2):29–35.
3. Coates AM, Hill AM, Tan SY. Nuts and Cardiovascular Disease Prevention. *Curr Atheroscler Rep.* 2018;20(10):48. doi:10.1007/s11883-018-0749-3.
4. Souza D, Schincaglia RGM, Pimentel RM, Mota GD. Nuts and Human Health Outcomes: A Systematic Review. *Nutrients.* 2017;9(12):1311. doi:10.3390/nu9121311.
5. Ros E. Health Benefits of Nut Consumption. *Nutrients.* 2010;2(7):652–82.
6. Aune D, Keum N, Giovannucci E, Fadnes LT, Boffetta P, Greenwood DC, et al. Nut consumption and risk of cardiovascular disease, total cancer, all-cause and cause-specific mortality: A systematic review and dose-response meta-analysis of prospective studies. *BMC Med.* 2016;14:207.
7. Colpo E, Vilanova C, Reetz LGB, Duarte M, Farias ILG, Muller EI, et al. A Single Consumption of High Amounts of the Brazil Nuts Improves Lipid Profile of Healthy Volunteers. *J Nutr Metab.* 2013;653185:1–7.
8. Gobbo D, Falk LC, Feldman MC, Lewis R, and KM. Effects of tree nuts on blood lipids, apolipoproteins, and blood pressure: Systematic review, meta-analysis, and dose-response of 61 controlled intervention trials. *Am J Clin Nutr.* 2015;102(6):1347–56.
9. Hu FB, Stampfer MJ. Nut consumption and risk of coronary heart disease: A review of epidemiologic evidence. *Curr Atheroscler Rep.* 1999;1(3):204–9.
10. Fitzgerald E, Lambert K, Stanford J, Neale EP. The effect of nut consumption (tree nuts and peanuts) on the gut microbiota of humans: A systematic review. *Br J Nutr.* 2021;125(5):508–20.
11. Cândido FG, Valente FX, Grzekowiak Ł, Moreira APB, Rocha D, de Cássia Gonçalves Alfenas R. Impact of dietary fat on gut microbiota and low-grade systemic inflammation: Mechanisms and clinical implications on obesity. *Int J Food Sci Nutr.* 2018;69(4):125–43.
12. Eaton SB, Konner M. Paleolithic nutrition. A consideration of its nature and current implications. *N Engl J Med.* 1985;312(5):283–9.
13. Exler J, Weihrauch JL. Provisional tables on the content of omega-3 fatty acids and other fat components of selected foods. *J Am Diet Assoc.* 1986;86(6):788–93.
14. Huynh NN, Chin-Dusting J. Amino acids, arginase and nitric oxide in vascular health. *Clin Exp Pharmacol Physiol.* 2006;33(1-2):1–8.
15. Segura R, Javierre C, Lizarra MA, Ros E. Other relevant components of nuts, phytosterols, folate and mineral. *Br J Nutr.* 2006;96(2):36–44.
16. Welch GN, Loscalzo J. Homocysteine and atherothrombosis. *N Engl J Med.* 1998;338(15):1042–50.
17. Blomhoff R, Carlsen MH, Andersen LF, Jacobs DR. Health benefits of nuts, potential role of antioxidants. *Br J Nutr.* 2006;96:52–60.
18. Wagner KH, Eldin AK, Elmadfa IU. Gamma-tocopherol - An underestimated vitamin? *Ann Nutr Metab.* 2004;48:169–88.
19. Milbury PE, Chen CY, Dolnikowski GG, Blumberg JB. Determination of flavonoids and phenolics and their distribution in almonds. *J Agric Food Chem.* 2006;54(14):5027–33.
20. Chen CY, Milbury PE, Lapsley K, Blumberg J. Flavonoids from almond skins are bioavailable and act synergistically with vitamins C and E to enhance hamster and human LDL resistance to oxidation. *J Nutr.* 2005;135(6):1366–73.
21. Lou H, Yuan H, Ma B, Ren D, Ji M, Oka S. Polyphenols from peanut skins and their free radical-scavenging effects. *Phytochemistry.* 2004;65(16):2391–9.
22. Seeram NP, Zhang Y, Henning SM, Lee R, Niu Y, Lin G. Pistachio skin phenolics are destroyed by bleaching resulting in reduced antioxidative capacities. *J Agric Food Chem.* 2006;54(19):7036–40.
23. Garrido I, Monagas M, Cordovés CG, Bartolomé B. Polyphenols and antioxidant properties of almond skins: influence of industrial processing. *Food Chem.* 2008;73:106–15.
24. Hartmann MA. Plant sterols and the membrane environment. *Trends Plant Sci.* 1998;3(5):170–5.
25. Cordain L, Eaton SB, Sebastian A, Mann N, Lindeberg S, Watkins BA, et al. Origins and evolution of the Western diet: health implications for the 21st century. *Am J Clin Nutr.* 2005;81(2):341–54.

26. Gonzalez CA, Salvadó JS. The potential of nuts in the prevention of cancer. *Br J Nutr*. 2006;96:87–94.
27. Heilbrun LK, Nomura A, Hankin JH, Stemmermann G. Diet and colorectal cancer with special reference to fiber intake. *Int J Cancer*. 1989;44(1):1–6.
28. Singh PN, Fraser GE. Dietary risk factors for colon cancer in a low-risk population. *Am J Epidemiol*. 1998;148(8):761–74.
29. Hu FB, Willett W. Optimal diets for prevention of coronary heart disease. *J Am Med Assoc*. 2002;288(20):2569–78.
30. Sabaté J. Nut consumption, vegetarian diets, ischemic heart disease risk, and all-cause mortality: evidence from epidemiologic studies. *Am J Clin Nutr*. 1999;70(3):500–3.
31. Sabaté J. The contribution of vegetarian diets to health and disease: a paradigm shift? *Am J Clin Nutr*. 2003;78(3):502–7.

Author biography

Shivam Dubey, Research Scholar  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2704-4260>

Cite this article: Dubey S. A brief review on utility of nuts consumption. *IP J Nutr Metab Health Sci* 2023;6(3):102-105.