

1 **Bioactive peptides in hydrolysates of bovine and camel milk proteins: A review of studies**
2 **on peptides that reduce blood pressure, improve glucose homeostasis, and inhibit pathogen**
3 **adhesion**

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20 **Abstract**

21 The prevalence of diet-related chronic conditions including hypertension and cardiovascular
22 disease, and diabetes mellitus has increased worldwide. Research regarding the use of food-
23 derived bioactive peptides as an alternative strategy to mitigate chronic diseases is on the rise. Milk
24 is recognized as one of the main dietary protein sources for health beneficial bioactive compounds.
25 Hundreds of *in vitro* studies have suggested that milk-derived bioactive peptides offer multiple
26 biological and physiological benefits, and some but not all were confirmed *in vivo* with animal
27 models for hypertension, hyperglycemia, and pathogen adhesion. However, only a limited number
28 of health benefits have been confirmed by randomized clinical trials. This review provides an
29 overview of the current clinical studies that target hypertension, postprandial hyperglycemic, and
30 adhesion of enteric pathogen with bioactive peptides derived from bovine and camel milk, with a
31 focus on the factors affecting the efficacy of orally ingested products.

32 **Keywords:** Protein hydrolysate, bioactive peptides, caseinmacropeptide, chronic diseases,
33 hypertension, hyperglycemia, pathogen adhesion, randomized clinical trials.

34

35 **1. Introduction**

36 Protein-derived bioactive peptides have health-beneficial properties (Layman et al., 2003).
37 Bioactive peptides can be derived from dietary proteins by enzymatic hydrolysis during food
38 processing or food fermentation, and / or during intestinal transit (Park, 2009). The health
39 promoting properties of bioactive peptides depend on the peptide sequence, which determines size,
40 charge and hydrophobicity (Park, 2009). Pepsin hydrolysis in the stomach is the first step of food
41 protein digestion; proteins are then further hydrolyzed by the pancreatic proteases trypsin and
42 chymotrypsin, and by brush border peptidases that are expressed in the mucosal membrane of the
43 small intestine (Hooton et al., 2015). Specifically, brush border enzymes that contribute to peptide
44 hydrolysis include the aminopeptidase N, dipeptidyl aminopeptidase IV, aminopeptidase A,
45 peptidyl dipeptidase, γ -glutamyltranspeptidase, and carboxypeptidase. Of these peptidases, the
46 γ -glutamyltranspeptidase is specifically active on γ -glutamyl-peptides of plant or microbial origin.
47 The only enzymes with activity on peptide bonds adjacent to proline are aminopeptidase and
48 carboxypeptidase (Hooton et al., 2015; Mentlein, 2004; Yoshioka et al., 1988).

49 Some bioactive peptides act locally in the gastro-intestinal tract (GIT), examples particularly
50 include peptides that inhibit starch digestion and antihypertensive peptides, which are
51 hypothesized to act on the intestinal renin-angiotensin system, or are active after transfer to the
52 blood stream (Miner-Williams et al., 2014; Xu et al., 2019). The bioavailability of peptides is
53 affected by digestive enzymes in the gastrointestinal tract, absorption in the small intestine, and
54 distribution or degradation in the blood stream. The bioavailability of ingested bioactive peptides
55 depends on the composition, number, and sequence of amino acids (Xu et al., 2019; Yoshioka et
56 al., 1988; Zambrowicz et al., 2015). These characteristics of peptides determine the pathway that
57 may be used to cross the intestinal epithelial cell (Xu et al., 2019).

58 The bioavailability of bioactive peptides and their transfer to the bloodstream is a major hurdle to
59 health beneficial effects in humans and animals (Miner-Williams et al., 2014; Xu et al., 2017).
60 Proteins with high content of proline are resistant to gastric and pancreatic peptidases, and proline-
61 rich peptides are thus most likely to escape the digestion and to reach the intestinal membrane in
62 relatively intact sequence and reach the brush border enzyme (Mentlein, 2004; Yoshioka et al.,
63 1988). The bioactive peptides IPP (Nongonierma & FitzGerald, 2016), VPP (Ten Have et al.,
64 2015), PG (Shigemura et al., 2012), IP (Foltz et al., 2007), HLPLP (Sánchez-Rivera et al., 2014)
65 have been detected in the plasma of human and animals. However, the peptide concentrations in
66 the blood serum are substantially lower than the concentrations that are required for *in vitro* activity
67 (Bouglé & Bouhallab, 2016). For example, angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitory
68 activity of the tripeptide IPP is observed at 10 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ (Y. Nakamura et al., 1995; Ohsawa et al.,
69 2008) while the concentration in blood was reported to be 10,000 times lower, $0.90 \pm 0.16 \text{ nmol /}$
70 L (Foltz et al., 2007).

71 Many studies document a favorable effect of bioactive peptides in humans and animals after oral
72 administration but even for peptides that were shown to be effective in animal models including
73 pigs and rats and in randomized clinical trials (RCT) in humans, the role of bioavailability, effects,
74 pharmacokinetics, and plasma concentrations of bioactive peptides are not fully understood
75 (Bouglé & Bouhallab, 2016; Xu et al., 2019). The maximum concentrations (C_{max}) and the
76 elimination half-lives ($t_{1/2}$) of absorbed bioactive peptides in the blood plasma reflect their
77 bioavailability, and the potential for *in vivo* activity (Chabance et al., 1998; Horner et al., 2016).
78 Most of the bioactive peptides have achieved their C_{max} in the micromolar range (μM), and $t_{1/2}$
79 ranged between a few minutes to a few hours. The variation in C_{max} and $t_{1/2}$ of the bioactive peptides

80 in the human plasma are determined by sex, age, diseases and interaction with the food matrix
81 (Cicero et al., 2010, 2017).

82 Hundreds of *in vitro* studies have suggested that bioactive peptides have a favorable effect on the
83 functions of various organs and that they offer multiple biological and physiological benefits with
84 a wide range of biological activities (Figure 1) (Chakrabarti et al., 2018). Some but not all of these
85 promising *in vitro* data were confirmed *in vivo* with animal models, however, and the susceptibility
86 of orally ingested peptides to GIT and brush border peptidases is a relevant hurdle for reproducing
87 *in vitro* data *in vivo* (Figure 1) (Daroit & Brandelli, 2021). Even for those favorable effects that
88 were demonstrated *in vivo*, e.g. by using rodent models, only a limited number of clinical outcomes
89 in humans have been reported (Figure 1). To date, RCTs that have shown a health beneficial effect
90 of dietary bioactive peptides are limited to antihypertensive activity and anti-hyperglycemic effects
91 of peptides (Figure 1) (Duffuler et al., 2022; Zhang et al., 2015).

92 For some peptides, however, animals are not only relevant models for human health but are the
93 actual target for the activity of bioactive peptides. This specifically pertains to glycopeptides that
94 aim to prevent adhesion of enterotoxigenic *E. coli* (ETEC) to the intestinal mucosa of swine and
95 calves (Yan et al., 2017). These peptides were shown to reduce the cell numbers of ETEC in post-
96 weaning piglets (Hermes et al., 2013; Yan et al., 2017). However, the strains of ETEC that cause
97 diarrheal disease in humans differ in the glycan specificity, and successful interventions in swine
98 does not necessarily translate to potential applications in humans (Hermes et al., 2013; Mouricout
99 et al., 1990).

100 Milk is recognized as a main dietary sources for health beneficial bioactive compounds. Many of
101 the dairy products are fermented and thus include the fermentation microbes that release peptides

102 by proteolysis (García-Burgos et al., 2020; Pasolli et al., 2020). Whey is a by-product of cheese
103 and casein production. Bovine whey contains approximately 20% of the original milk protein and
104 therefore represents an inexpensive source of high-nutritional quality protein and bioactive
105 peptides for the food and health industries (Luhovyy et al., 2007). Sweet whey contains about 5%
106 caseinmacropeptide (CMP), which prevents adhesion of ETEC to the porcine intestinal mucosa
107 (Althnaibat et al., 2022; Hermes et al., 2013; Yan et al., 2017). Whey is processed into relatively
108 low-value commodities such as whey protein concentrates or galacto-oligosaccharides for use as
109 a food additive, or to purify specific whey proteins as food ingredient. However, the full potential
110 of this resource has not yet been fully explored (Onwulata & Huth, 2008).

111 A large number of studies on milk-derived bioactive peptides and most review articles focused on
112 bovine milk (Chakrabarti et al., 2018; Cicero et al., 2017; Daroit & Brandelli, 2021; Duffuler et
113 al., 2022; El-Agamy, 2009; García-Burgos et al., 2020; Horner et al., 2016; Luhovyy et al., 2007;
114 Nongonierma & FitzGerald, 2016; Park, 2009). Only few studies have investigated bioactive
115 peptides from sheep, goats, horse, or camel milk (El-Agamy, 2009), reflecting that milk from these
116 animals makes only relatively small contribution to the consumption of dairy products
117 (Shahbandeh, 2022). Camel milk is widely consumed in many countries of the Middle East and in
118 North Africa (Jafar et al., 2018; Rafiq et al., 2015). The proportion of casein and whey proteins in
119 camel milk is different than that in bovine milk. The ratio of casein and whey proteins in bovine
120 milk is about 80%:20% of the total milk protein, meanwhile, this ratio in camel milk is 75%:25%
121 (El-Agamy, 2009). RCTs for bioactive peptides from camel milk are not yet available. Therefore,
122 this review aims to summarize the possible bioactivities like antihypertension activities,
123 antihyperglycemic activities, and antiadhesion activities against bacteria of peptides derived from

124 bovine and camel milk, with a focus on those activities that were confirmed by RCTs, or animal
125 trials where farm animals are the therapeutic target of the intervention (Figure 1).

126 **2. Antihypertensive peptides**

127 In 2019, about 23% of Canadian adults (20 - 79 years old) were diagnosed with hypertension
128 (DeGuire, J., Clarke, J., Rouleau, K., Roy, J., & Bushnik, 2019). The blood pressure in the body
129 is mainly regulated by the renin angiotensin aldosterone system. The angiotensin I-converting
130 enzyme (ACE) plays a key role in blood pressure regulation as well as water and electrolytes
131 balance. ACE increases blood pressure by conversion of angiotensin I (Asp-Arg-Val-Tyr-Ile-His-
132 Pro-Phe-His-Leu) to angiotensin II (Asp-Arg-Val-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro-Phe) by hydrolyzing the
133 peptide bond between Phe and His (Donoghue et al., 2000). Angiotensin II receptor blockers and
134 ACE inhibitors are the main types of antihypertensive drugs (Whelton et al., 2018). The
135 mechanism for most of the antihypertensive bioactive peptides derived from milk are based on the
136 inhibition of ACE (Aihara et al., 2004; Boelsma & Kloek, 2010; Cicero et al., 2016; de Leeuw et
137 al., 2009; Hata et al., 1996; Jauhiainen et al., 2005; Martin et al., 2020; Mizuno et al., 2005; T.
138 Nakamura et al., 2011; Townsend et al., 2004; Turpeinen et al., 2011, 2012; van der Zander et al.,
139 2008; Yamasue et al., 2010). Few studies proposed other mechanisms for antihypertensive action
140 such as decreasing aldosterone (Cadée et al., 2007), increasing endothelial vascular function
141 (Hirota et al., 2007), diminishing arterial stiffness (Jauhiainen et al., 2010), and increasing
142 endothelial dilation (Vieira de Oliveira et al., 2020). Because the concentration of ACE inhibitory
143 peptides in the plasma is well below their active concentration, dietary ACE inhibitory peptides
144 are thought to act on the intestinal rather than the circulating renin-angiotensin system (Miner-
145 Williams et al., 2014).

146 Several *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies demonstrated that the milk products hydrolysates are a good
147 sources of ACE inhibitory peptides or vasodilators (T. Nakamura et al., 2013; Y. Nakamura et al.,
148 1995). ACE inhibitor peptides that are shown to be effective *in vivo* usually have a short sequence
149 (2-12 amino acids) (Hata et al., 1996; Jauhiainen et al., 2005; Mizuno et al., 2005). Clinical
150 randomized, single and/or double-blind, placebo-controlled human trials that documented the
151 effect of milk-derived dietary peptides on the blood pressure are summarized in Table 1. These
152 studies used fermented dairy products with a known concentration of VPP and IPP (Aihara et al.,
153 2004; Hata et al., 1996; Mizuno et al., 2005), fermented dairy products supplemented with VPP
154 and IPP (Jauhiainen et al., 2005; Turpeinen et al., 2011; Yamasue et al., 2010), or pure VPP and
155 IPP (Boelsma & Kloek, 2010; Turpeinen et al., 2012). Studies that employed fermented milk
156 products used yoghurt-type products fermented with *L. helveticus* (Romero et al., 2020), a dairy
157 starter culture with a well-characterized proteolytic system. The dose of VPP and IPP ranged from
158 1.5 and 1.1 mg / person and day to 30 and 23.2 mg/ person and day, respectively (Table 1). The
159 selection of study participants included normotensive, moderately hypertensive, and hypertensive
160 subjects and the treatment time ranged from single dose to 24 weeks (Table 1).

161 For example, consuming the fermented milk products Calpis supplemented with 1.5 mg and 1.1
162 mg VPP and IPP, respectively, per day reduced in the systolic and diastolic blood pressure by 14.1
163 ± 3.1 mmHg and 6.6 ± 2.5 mmHg after 8 weeks of treatments with medication in hypertensive
164 subjects, respectively (Hata et al., 1996). The blood pressure lowering effect of *Lactobacillus*
165 *helveticus* LBK-16H fermented milk fortified with 30 mg VPP and 22.5 mg IPP was determined
166 through a randomized, double blinded placebo-controlled study on 94 mildly hypertensive patients
167 for 10 weeks. The systolic blood pressure dropped from 148.4 ± 8.1 mmHg to 132.6 ± 9.9 mmHg,

168 whereas diastolic blood pressure dropped from 93.5 ± 6.2 to 83 ± 8.0 mmHg for the *L. helveticus*
169 fermented milk group (Jauhiainen et al., 2005).

170 A clinical, randomized, single-blind, placebo-controlled trial evaluated the dose-dependent
171 antihypertensive effect of casein hydrolysate tablets supplemented with VPP and IPP on 131 high-
172 normal blood pressure and mild hypertension participants for 6 weeks. Four doses, 0, 1.8, 2.5, and
173 3.6 mg of VPP and IPP mixture were supplemented through tablets. After 6 weeks of treatment, a
174 dose-dependent decrease in the systolic blood pressure for the active group receiving 1.8, 2.5, and
175 3.6 mg compared to the baseline and placebo group was observed (Mizuno et al., 2005). The role
176 of a low salt diet in conjunction with dietary VPP and IPP was also evaluated (Yamasue et al.,
177 2010). Ambulatory blood pressure measurements were taken after ingestion of 5.32 mg VPP and
178 2.76 mg IPP per day for 8 weeks. This study demonstrated that the systolic blood pressure was
179 affected by tripeptides and decreased during nighttime sleep after 4 and 8 weeks. Therefore, the
180 low intake of salt could support the antihypertensive activity of VPP and IPP (Yamasue et al.,
181 2010).

182 Most of the studies were performed to evaluate the antihypertensive effect of casein and whey
183 hydrolysate supplemented with VPP and IPP as beverages or tablets (Table 1). The impact of
184 dietary intervention with VPP and IPP on the systolic blood pressure differs in magnitude but is
185 largely consistent across the different studies. In contrast, an inconsistent effect on the diastolic
186 blood pressure is observed (Table 1). Only a few studies reported outcomes that are related to
187 blood pressure such as endothelial vascular function or arterial stiffness (Table 1).

188 The modest dose-dependent effects were also observed for the systolic blood pressure. The
189 magnitude of the decrease in systolic blood pressure was 14.1 ± 3.1 mg Hg. Most of the studies

190 showed that the antihypertensive effects were greater in normotensive and mildly hypertensive
191 subjects in compared to more severely hypertensive patients. The duration of the dietary
192 intervention does not seem to impact the outcomes related to blood pressure (Table 1).

193 None of the studies summarized in Table 1 reported any adverse effects of consuming milk
194 hydrolysates and / or purified peptides on human health. This is an optimistic point for using milk
195 bioactive peptides in human studies because safety of nutraceuticals is a necessary feature for
196 regulatory acceptance and successful commercialization. Protein hydrolysates that are obtained by
197 food grade enzymes are generally considered as safe; however, it was indicated that purified
198 peptide fractions or purified peptides may require a safety assessment for approval as novel food
199 (Duffuler et al., 2022).

200 Regarding the antihypertensive activity of bioactive peptides derived from camel milk, camel
201 caseins have a similar frequency of the IPP motif as bovine caseins but the VPP motif is lacking
202 (Table 1). Camel casein has more proline than bovine milk proteins. Since an N-terminal proline
203 is a key structural determinant of ACE-inhibitory peptides (Wu et al., 2006) and peptide bonds
204 adjacent to prolines are more resistant to proteolysis (Hu et al., 2011), camel milk may include
205 ACE inhibitory peptides that are not present in bovine milk. As only few *in vivo* studies are
206 available (Yahya et al., 2017), data for ACE inhibitory activity of camel milk derived peptides are
207 mostly based on *in vitro* studies (Ayyash et al., 2018). One RCT showed no significant differences
208 between fermented camel milk and diluted yogurt from bovine milk on blood pressure and obesity
209 measures on 24 healthy adolescents with mild metabolic syndrome (13.77 ± 1.87 years old) (Fallah
210 et al., 2019).

211 **3. Peptides that inhibit starch digestion or improve glucose homeostasis.**

212 Diabetes mellitus, a dominant chronic disease in developed countries, is characterized by an innate
213 insulin secretion deficiency in type 1 diabetes or a defect in the insulin action in type 2 diabetes.
214 Type 2 diabetes accounts for about 90% of the diabetes cases, which cause an insufficiency in
215 conveying glucose from the bloodstream into cells, thus increase the glucose level in blood (Yu et
216 al., 2012). Persistent hyperglycemia can lead to the development of insulin resistance, and then
217 diabetes mellitus (Gangoiti et al., 2018). Delaying carbohydrate digestion is indispensable for the
218 most beneficial treatment of type 2-diabetes. Peptides can delay starch digestion by inhibiting the
219 starch digesting enzymes such as α -amylase and α -glucosidase. Potential inhibitors of starch
220 digestion should have the capacity to bind to the target enzyme's active sites (catalytic sites) via
221 hydrophobic interactions to impede the enzymes arrival to substrates (Figure 2) (Gangoiti et al.,
222 2018; Miao & Hamaker, 2021; Yu et al., 2012). In addition, dietary peptides can improve glucose
223 homeostasis by inhibition of the dipeptidyl peptidase IV, which increases insulin secretion and
224 slows gastric emptying (Jao et al., 2015; Lacroix & Li-Chan, 2012). Bioactive peptides or bovine
225 whey proteins also improve blood glucose homeostasis after ingestion of glucose (Gunnerud et al.,
226 2013; Lan-Pidhainy & Wolever, 2010), indicating that additional mechanisms are likely to play a
227 role.

228 Several milk-derived bioactive peptides were reported to exhibit an anti-hyperglycemic property
229 that decrease postprandial glucose level in the blood. Numerous *in silico*, *in vitro*, and *in vivo*
230 studies demonstrated that the peptides from milk product hydrolysates are a good source of anti-
231 hyperglycemic agents. Clinical randomized, single and/or double-blind, partial and/or complete
232 cross-over, placebo-controlled human trials that documented the effect of milk-derived dietary
233 peptides on hyperglycemia are summarized in Table 2. These studies used milk protein
234 hydrolysates (Sartorius et al., 2019), casein hydrolysates (Geerts et al., 2011), whey protein

235 hydrolysates with a known concentration of milk bovine minerals (Y. C. Chen et al., 2020), or
236 bovine casein hydrolysates supplemented with leucine (Geerts et al., 2011; Manders et al., 2006).
237 The doses of bovine milk protein hydrolysates, whey protein hydrolysates, and casein hydrolysates
238 were 1.4 and 2.8 g (Sartorius et al., 2019), 50 g (Y. C. Chen et al., 2020), and 0.3 g / kg body
239 weight (Manders et al., 2006) and 17.6 g (Geerts et al., 2011) / person per day, respectively (Table
240 2). The study participants included were normal healthy, prediabetic, and type 2- diabetes subjects
241 and the treatment time ranged from single dose to 6 weeks (Table 2).

242 Co-ingestion of bovine casein hydrolysate beverage (0.3g / 4 mL water/kg body weight) enriched
243 with leucine (L) (0.1g / 4 mL water/ kg body weight) after each main standardized meal reduced
244 the prevalence of hyperglycemia significantly with a substantial reduction in the average of 24-h
245 blood glucose concentrations in type 2 diabetes patients compared to placebo group. The 24-h
246 blood glucose concentrations of the test group and placebo group were 9.6 ± 0.6 and 10.8 ± 0.5
247 mmol/L, respectively ($P < 0.05$) (Manders et al., 2006).

248 Only one study assessed the effect of bovine casein hydrolysates compared to intact casein protein
249 and placebo (Geerts et al., 2011). Casein hydrolysates or casein were provided as a single meal
250 replacement and the biological markers postprandial glucose concentration, serum glucagon, and
251 insulin were measured in type 2 diabetes. Each patient received four types of treatment,
252 specifically, placebo (control), casein hydrolysates (17.61 g), casein hydrolysates plus leucine
253 (17.61 g and 5 g respectively), and unhydrolyzed casein (15 g). The results showed that both casein
254 hydrolysates and casein hydrolysates with leucine supplementation had a similar postprandial
255 glucose concentration reduction of 4.7% compared to 1.7% and 1.6% for casein and placebo,
256 respectively. Glucagon concentrations increased by 14% for all treatments compared to the

257 placebo. The casein hydrolysates plus leucine treatment achieved the highest increase in insulin
258 (Geerts et al., 2011).

259 A monocentric, three-way-cross-over, randomized, placebo-controlled, and double-blind study
260 was performed on prediabetic subjects to determine the α -glucosidase inhibitory activity of whey
261 protein hydrolysates rich in arginine-proline (AP) dipeptide. The tested products were provided in
262 capsules, and each capsule had 350 mg whey protein hydrolysate (include ~ 0.96 mg of AP
263 dipeptide) (Sartorius et al., 2019). In a single dose experiment, after 10 h overnight fasting,
264 participants received a single dose of placebo, a low dose of whey protein hydrolysate peptides
265 (1400 mg), or a high dose of whey protein hydrolysate peptides (2800 mg) 15 minutes before
266 having a challenge meal rich in carbohydrates (standardized to 75 g of carbohydrates). After a one-
267 week washout period, an open-label single arm design was applied in the experiment of 6 weeks,
268 and participants received a low dose of whey protein hydrolysate peptides (1400 mg) daily 15
269 minutes before having a challenge meal rich in carbohydrates. The incremental areas under the
270 concentration–time curves of glucose were significantly reduced by the low dose of whey protein
271 hydrolysate peptides (1400 mg) compared to placebo. However, the longer period of treatment did
272 not have any additional postprandial glyceemic effect (Sartorius et al., 2019).

273 Bovine whey protein hydrolysates plus bovine milk minerals beverage elevated glucagon-like
274 peptide-1 (GLP-1) approximately ninefold compared to other beverages (Y. C. Chen et al., 2020).
275 Whey protein hydrolysates plus bovine milk minerals produced ~25% of GLP-1 more than whey
276 protein hydrolysate only. No significant differences between bovine milk minerals beverage
277 compared to the placebo was observed (Y. C. Chen et al., 2020).

278 Table 2 shows the studies that were carried out to evaluate the beneficial anti-hyperglycemic effect
279 of bovine casein hydrolysates supplemented with leucine (Geerts et al., 2011; Manders et al.,

280 2006), whey protein hydrolysates with a known concentration of AP (Sartorius et al., 2019),
281 calcium-enriched bovine milk minerals supplemented with whey protein hydrolysates as
282 beverages or tablets (Y. C. Chen et al., 2020), or casein hydrolysates compared to intact casein and
283 placebo (Geerts et al., 2011). These studies determined the anti-hyperglycemic effect based on
284 different parameters like, postprandial glucose concentration, serum insulin, glucagon-like-
285 peptides-1 (GLP-1), gastric inhibitory polypeptide (GIP), and peptide YY (PYY). The degree of
286 effects of bovine casein and whey protein hydrolysates on the postprandial hyperglycemia differs
287 but is largely consistent across the different studies. However, the effect of whey protein
288 hydrolysates is much higher than the effect of casein protein hydrolysates and is due to the high
289 content of leucine and proline amino acids in whey protein hydrolysates.

290 Collectively, the studies compiled in Table 2 demonstrate that co-ingestion of bovine whey protein
291 hydrolysates clearly stimulates plasma GLP-1, increases the insulin concentration, and decreases
292 the blood glucose concentration. Addition of calcium-enriched bovine milk to whey protein
293 hydrolysates remarkably support high plasma GLP-1 concentrations. Enriched casein protein
294 hydrolysates with leucine increase plasma insulin level. None of the studies that are summarized
295 in Table 2 reported any significant adverse effects of bovine milk protein hydrolysates
296 consumption on human health, except only a few subjects claimed gastrointestinal-related
297 abdominal cramps with or without diarrhea. There was no linear dose-response relationship and
298 there were no minimum effective doses of the hydrolysates. However, there was a clear impact of
299 hydrophobic amino acids leucine and proline availability on anti-hyperglycemic activity of
300 hydrolysates.

301 The inhibitory effect relates to the amino acid composition of the peptides itself. However, the
302 inhibitory effects on dipeptidyl peptidase-4, α -amylase, and α -glucosidase enzymes depend on

303 competitive direct interaction to the active binding sites of hydrophobic enzymes and catalytic
304 triad against the substrate (Figure 2) (Gangoiti et al., 2018; Miao & Hamaker, 2021). Clinical
305 studies listed in table 2 emphasized that the proposed mechanisms for anti-hyperglycemic activity
306 are reduced starch digestion through inhibition of α -glucosidase activity by milk protein
307 hydrolysates rich in leucine. Only few studies, however, identified specific milk protein derived
308 peptides with inhibitory activity on intestinal glycosyl-hydrolases (Althnaibat et al., 2023).
309 Moreover, bovine whey proteins also reduced postprandial glucose levels when glucose rather than
310 starch was provided (Gunnerud et al., 2013; Lan-Pidhainy & Wolever, 2010). Other mechanisms
311 including amino acid-induced secretion of gut hormones that regulate glucose homeostasis such
312 as insulin and GLP-1 thus likely also play a role.

313 Because information on specific sequences of the peptides with anti-hyperglycemic activity is
314 limited, it is very difficult to predict which peptides in camel milk protein hydrolysates are
315 responsible for inhibiting the digestion of starch. However, camel milk proteins have more
316 hydrophobic amino acids such as leucine and proline in their sequence compared to bovine milk
317 proteins. Several peptides obtained by hydrolysis of camel milk proteins were shown to inhibit
318 amylase and glucosyl-hydrolases *in vitro* (Althnaibat et al., 2023), however, *in vivo* studies with
319 rodent models for diabetes used camel milk proteins rather than protein hydrolysates or defined
320 peptides (Muthukumaran et al., 2022; Shori, 2015). Likewise, the RCTs that investigated camel
321 milk efficacy in diabetic patients used an experimental design that does not allow conclusions as
322 to whether the observed effects are attributable to bioactive peptides that are released during
323 digestion or not. In addition, studies with camel milk that claimed the anti-hyperglycemic activity
324 of camel milk used different volumes of whole camel milk with various treatment times as doses
325 (Muthukumaran et al., 2022; Shori, 2015).

326 **4. Antiadhesion activity of caseinmacropeptide (CMP).**

327 The casein macropeptides (CMP) is the third most abundant protein in cheese whey, constituting
328 about 15-20% of the total whey proteins. CMP represents the C-terminal of κ -casein obtained by
329 the hydrolysis of milk protein by rennet (Nakano et al., 2018). Hydrolysis of the bovine milk
330 κ -casein at Phe¹⁰⁵-Met¹⁰⁶ linkage releases a polar polypeptide and a non-polar polypeptide. The
331 former is the para- κ -casein, which consists of 105 amino acids and stays in the cheese curd. The
332 latter is the CMP, which consists of 64 amino acids (Met¹⁰⁶ - Val¹⁶⁹ residue) and remains in the
333 whey (Silva-Hernandez et al., 2002). CMP is produced commercially from bovine whey (Córdova-
334 Dávalos et al., 2019; Neelima et al., 2013). It was reported that sialic acid linked to κ -casein of
335 bovine milk supported growth of *Bifidobacterium* species (Delfour et al., 1965; György et al.,
336 1954). CMP is a very good source of sialic acid which constitutes 7% - 9% of the total GMP
337 (O’Riordan et al., 2014).

338 CMP has a unique chemical structure and functional properties. CMP is rich in amino acids such
339 as proline, serine, glutamine, and threonine. However, CMP does not have any aromatic amino
340 acids (tyrosine, phenylalanine, and tryptophan) or cysteine (Brody, 2000; Córdova-Dávalos et al.,
341 2019). CMP is also rich in the branched-chain and hydrophobic amino acids leucine, isoleucine,
342 valine (Figure 3). The presence of two aspartic acid and 7-8 glutamic acids makes CMP an acidic
343 peptide (Brody, 2000; Neelima et al., 2013). Non-glycosylated CMP from bovine milk represents
344 the two isoforms of κ -casein, A and B with molecular weights 6.75 kDa and 6.78 kDa, respectively
345 (Figure 3). The average molecular weight of glycosylated CMP is 7.500 kDa (Córdova-Dávalos
346 et al., 2019). CMP characteristics are affected by glycosylation and phosphorylation modifications.
347 The glycosylation and phosphorylation of GMP occurs at serine and/or threonine residues at
348 multiple positions (Figure 3) (Brody, 2000; Eigel et al., 1984; Nakano & Ozimek, 2000).

349 CMP has multiple biological functions that are conferred by its glycosylation. In addition to the
350 composition of the oligosaccharides, frequency and spacing of glycan on the peptide backbone
351 (i.e., increase glycosylation sites) affect the biological activity (Lewallen et al., 2009; O’Riordan
352 et al., 2014; Oyelaran et al., 2009; Oyelaran & Gildersleeve, 2009).

353 Bovine CMP contains galactose (Gal), N-acetylgalactosamine (GalNAc), and N-acetylneuraminic
354 acid (NeuNAc). These constituent monosaccharides give rise to the oligosaccharide structures
355 that are linked by *O*-glycosylation to the peptide backbone: monosaccharide: (GalNAc),
356 disaccharide: Gal- β -(1 \rightarrow 3)-GalNAc), trisaccharides: NeuAc α 2 – 3Gal β 1 – 3 GalNAc) and (Gal
357 β 1 – 3 (NeuAc α 2 – 6 GalNAc), and tetrasaccharide: (NeuAc α 2- 3 Gal β 1 - 3 (NeuAc α 2 – 6
358 GalNAc) (Figure 3) (Huth et al., 2004; O’Riordan et al., 2014; Saito & Itoh, 1992). Glycosylation
359 with oligosaccharides that additionally include fucose and N-acetylglucosamine (GlcNAc) are
360 present in CMP from bovine colostrum (O’Riordan et al., 2014).

361 In addition to providing a dietary source of sialic acid, biological activities of CMP include
362 substrate for intestinal bacteria including bifidobacteria and the inhibition of pathogen adhesion
363 (Brück et al., 2006).

364 The inhibition of pathogen adhesion is well supported by *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies (Figure 4).
365 Most of enteric pathogens including *Salmonella*, enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* (ETEC), Shiga
366 toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC), *Shigella flexneri*, *Helicobacter pylori*, enterotoxins LT-I and
367 LT-II derived from *E. coli*., and the cholera toxin adhere by glycan recognition to infect or invade
368 the host cells (Isoda et al., 1990; Nakajima et al., 2005; Sauvé et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2010; Yan
369 et al., 2017). ETEC are a major cause of childhood diarrhea in developing countries and cause
370 traveler’s diarrhea. ETEC K88 cause watery diarrhea in newborn and post-weaning piglets and
371 calves (DuPont, 1995; Jin & Zhao, 2000; Qadri et al., 2005). ETEC adhere to the small intestinal

372 epithelial cells and to the mucosal tissue through receptors of glycoprotein the host cells.
373 Specifically, specific fimbriae mediate host-specific adhesion and support colonization of
374 microvilli, followed by secretion of heat stable or heat labile enterotoxins that lead to electrolytes
375 imbalance and water loss (Figure 4) (X. Y. Chen et al., 2014; Nagy & Fekete, 2005).

376 Glycan receptor analogues bind to bacterial lectins and thus inhibit the initial stages of infection
377 and bacterial colonization (Figure 4) (Kulkarni et al., 2010; Shoaf-Sweeney & Hutkins, 2008). For
378 example, K88 fimbriae mediate the binding of *E. coli* ECL13795 to porcine glycan receptors (Jin
379 & Zhao, 2000). Porcine aminopeptidase N is a receptor for K88 fimbriae; in addition, surface
380 glycan oligosaccharides composed of GalNAc, GlcNAc, galactosamine, and N-
381 acetylmannosamine were proposed as receptors for ETEC K88 adhesion (Jin & Zhao, 2000;
382 Moonens et al., 2015).

383 Molecules that act as glycan receptor analogues and thus prevent adhesion are a promising
384 alternative to antibiotics. Anti-adhesion agents are not antibacterial agents and thus do not lead to
385 the development of antimicrobial resistance (Krachler & Orth, 2013). Inhibition of the adhesion
386 of enteric pathogens is one of the main biological properties of CMP. *In vitro* studies demonstrated
387 anti-adhesion activity of CMP against enteric pathogens to the intestinal mucosa including
388 enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* (EHEC) O157, ETEC K88, *Salmonella* Enteritidis, *Salmonella*
389 Typhimurium, *Helicobacter pylori*, and *Shigella flexneri* (Isoda et al., 1990; Nakajima et al., 2005;
390 Sauvé et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2010; Yan et al., 2017). Several *in vivo* studies confirmed the anti-
391 adhesion activity of CMP against enteric pathogens in farm animals (Hermes et al., 2013; Isoda et
392 al., 1990; Mouricout et al., 1990; Rong et al., 2015) .

393 For example, the anti-adhesion activity of glycoprotein glycans against the ETEC K99 in calves
394 was confirmed *in vivo*. Directly after birth, colostrum was administered to calves, at age of 2-8

395 hours, and then 10^7 - 10^{10} CFU of ETEC K99 was administered orally to the calves. When the first
396 sign of diarrhea appeared, 250 mg of oligosaccharides was ingested orally every day for three days.
397 The adhesion of ETEC K99 to the small intestine was significantly reduced in the calves treated
398 with oligosaccharides compared to control (Mouricout et al., 1990). Moreover, the anti-adhesion
399 activity of CMP against the ETEC K88 was confirmed by inclusion of CMP in the diet of weaning
400 piglets challenged with ETEC K88 (1 and/or 2%; 10 (Rong et al., 2015) and/or 20 (Hermes et al.,
401 2013) g/ Kg dry matter of diet). A significant reduction in ETEC adhesion to the intestine epithelial
402 cells and reduced overgrowth of ETEC in digestive tract was observed in the challenged treated
403 group (Hermes et al., 2013; Rong et al., 2015).

404 The differences in the topological spacing of glycans and glycan content are recognized as
405 important factors affecting the anti-adhesion activity of glycopeptides (Lewallen et al., 2009;
406 O’Riordan et al., 2014; Oyelaran et al., 2009; Oyelaran & Gildersleeve, 2009). Camel milk is not
407 as well studied as bovine milk. Camel milk CMP was about 10 times more effective than bovine
408 CMP in preventing adhesion of ETEC K88 to porcine blood cells (Althnaibat et al., 2022). The
409 chemical composition of camel milk CMP indicate that the altered glycan composition and the
410 higher degree of glycosylation are responsible for the higher activity when compared to bovine
411 CMP (Althnaibat et al., 2022).

412 **5. Conclusions.**

413 In summary, numerous *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies confirmed the efficacy of milk-derived bioactive
414 peptides against blood hypertension, postprandial hyperglycemia, and anti-adhesion activity
415 against enteric pathogens. However, research on camel milk is also very limited in compared to
416 that involving bovine milk. Most of the research has focused on bovine milk and whey protein
417 from camel milk has been overlooked. There are no active structures of peptide, and only a few

418 clinical studies have addressed the antihyperglycemic activity of camel milk. Therefore, to explore
419 the potential bioactive peptides from camel milk, well-designed *in vivo* studies on camel milk-
420 derived protein hydrolysates are required. Further, additional RCT trials are required to evaluate
421 the full potentials of bioactive peptides derived from milk, and to determine the bioavailability of
422 ingested bioactive peptides.

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859

860 **Figure legends.**

861 **Figure 1.** *In vitro*, *in vivo*, and randomized controlled trails confirmed studies for bioactive
862 peptides derived from milk. The information for the draw from (Asano et al., 1992; Ayyash et al.,
863 2018; Babkova et al., 2017; Badr, 2013; Bashir & Al-Ayadhi, 2014; Y. C. Chen et al., 2020; Guha
864 et al., 2021; Hafeez et al., 2021; Huth et al., 2004; Kondrashina et al., 2020; Kumar et al., 2016;
865 Nongonierma et al., 2017; Ohsawa et al., 2008). For peptides that prevent pathogen adhesion, food
866 animals serve not only as animal model for human disease but as the actual target for intervention.

867 **Figure 2.** Starch digestion in gastrointestinal tract and potential mechanism of milk derived
868 bioactive peptides for inhibition of starch digestion.

869 **Figure 3.** Amino acid sequence and glycan structure of caseinmacropeptide (CMP) derived from
870 bovine milk (variant A and B). The differences between variant A and B only in two amino acid
871 residues at ¹³⁶ and ¹⁴⁸ and variant B shown between brackets. Potential glycosylation sites are
872 printed in bold. Bold blue-colored correspond to reported glycosylation sites, while red-colored
873 correspond to reported phosphorylation sites. The red arrow and underline indicate the chymosin
874 cleave sites between P¹⁰⁵-M¹⁰⁶. Glycans are indicated as follows: orange squares,
875 N-acetylgalactosamine; orange diamonds, galactose; green circle, N-acetylneuraminic acid (sialic
876 acid); black dotted lines, β -(1→3) glycosidic linkage; black solid lines; α -(2→3) or α -(2→6)
877 glycosidic linkages; blue lines, link to threonine or serine residues on the peptide backbone. The
878 peptide sequence of bovine CMP is drawn based on the UniProt (<https://www.uniprot.org/uniprot/>)
879 accession numbers P02668, the numbering of residues is based on the sequence of the κ -casein
880 without precursor. Drawn with information from (Dalglish & Corredig, 2012; Eigel et al., 1984;
881 Holland et al., 2006; Hua et al., 2011).

882 **Figure 4.** Adhesion of bacteria to the epithelial cells and antiadhesion activity for glycopeptides.

Table 1. Antihypertensive activity of milk-derived bioactive peptides in randomized clinical trials.

Protein/ Peptide (Source)	# In bovine protein	# In camel protein	Treatment period [week] (dose [mg/day])	Effects on blood pressure (▼ in SBP/DBP compared to placebo) ^{ref}
FFVAPFPEVFGK (Bovine)	1(α s1 casein)	0	Single dose (200 mg & 3.51 g alginic acid)	▼(-9.2 ± 3.2/-6.0 ± 2.0) (Townsend et al., 2004)
			4 (3.8 g)	▼(-10.7 ± 1.6 /-6.9 ± 1.2 mm Hg), ▼ plasma angiotensin II and aldosterone (Cadée et al., 2007)
Bovine casein hydrolysate with (VPP + IPP)	VPP 1(β -casein) IPP 1(β -casein) 1(κ -casein)	VPP 0 IPP 1(β -casein) 1(κ -casein)	6 (0, 1.8, 2.5, & 3.6 mg VPP+IPP)	▼ (0, -5.8/0, -6.2/0, & -9.3/0 mmHg) (Mizuno et al., 2005)
			8 (2.3, 4.6, & 9 mg VPP+IPP)	▼(+0.1/-1.3, -1.5/-1.4, & -2.5/-1.9 mmHg) (de Leeuw et al., 2009)
			10 (30 mg VPP & 22.5 mg IPP)	▼ (-4. 1± 0.9/ -1.8 ± 0.7) (Jauhiainen et al., 2005)
			4 (18.7 mg VPP & 15.9 mg IPP)	▼ (~ -5.0/0) (van der Zander et al., 2008)
			8 (1.5 mg VPP & 1.1 mg IPP)	▼ (-14.1 ± 3.1/-6.6 ± 2.5 mm Hg) (Hata et al., 1996)
			4 (4.1 mg VPP & 6 mg IPP)	▼ (- 3.4 ± 4.4/-3.1 ± 3.2 mmHg) (Cicero et al., 2016)
			8 (5.32 mg VPP & 2.76 mg IPP)	▼ (~ -5.0/-2.0 night sleeping) (Yamasue et al., 2010)
			12 (2.26 mg VPP & 1.48 mg IPP)	▼(- 6.1 ± 5.7/-3.8 ± 6.3 mmHg) (Aihara et al., 2004)
			8 (3.4 mg VPP+IPP)	▼(-11.0 ± 11.0/ 0) (T. Nakamura et al., 2011)
			1 (3.42 mg VPP & 3.87 mg IPP)	▲ endothelial vascular function, (▼ 0/0) (Hirota et al., 2007)
VPP + IPP (+ plant sterol esters)			24; 12 (2.6 mg VPP & 2.4 mg IPP) +12 (26.4 mg VPP & 23.2 mg IPP)	▼ arterial stiffness, especially in metabolic syndrome patients, ▼ (- 4.6/- 2.7 mmHg) (Jauhiainen et al., 2010)
			10 (4.2 mg VPP+IPP & 2 g plant sterols)	▼ (- 4.1/0 mmHg),▼ total and LDL cholesterol (Turpeinen et al., 2012)
			Single dose (25 mg VPP+IPP & 2 g plant sterols)	▼ (-2.1/-1.6 mm Hg) (Turpeinen et al., 2011)
IPP (Bovine)			4 (15 mg IPP)	▼ (-3.8/-2.3 mm Hg) (Boelsma & Kloek, 2010)
Bovine whey hydrolysate	-	—	Single dose (20 g Whey hydrolysate)	▲ endothelial dilation (Vieira de Oliveira et al., 2020)
Bovine whey hydrolysate (IW+WL)	IW 1(α -LA) 1(LF) WL 2(α -LA)	IW 1(α -LA) 1(LF) WL 1 (Ig) 1(α -LA)	Single dose (250.5 mg IW & 47.5 mg LW)	▼ plasma ACE activity (0/0) (Martin et al., 2020)

α -LA; α -lactalbumin, LF; lactoferrin, Ig; immunoglobulin, L; leucine, I; isoleucine, and W; tryptophan.

Table 2. Antihyperglycemic activity of bioactive peptides in randomized clinical trials.

Protein/ Peptide (Source)	Treatment period (dose)	Effects^{ref}
Casein hydrolysate (Bovine)	Single dose (17.61 g ca. hy.)	▼ postprandial glucose values and ▲ postprandial insulin response (Geerts et al., 2011)
Casein hydrolysate + Leucine (Bovine)	3 doses/ day ((0.3 g ca. hy. & 0.1 g L)/ kg body weight)	▼ hyperglycemia in T2D patients over 24 h (Manders et al., 2006)
	Single dose (17.61 g ca. hy. & 5 g L)	▼ postprandial glucose values and ▲ postprandial insulin response (Geerts et al., 2011)
Bovine milk hydrolysate	6 weeks (1.4 wp. hy.)	▼ plasma glucose after high carbohydrate meal and HbA1c (Sartorius et al., 2019)
	Single dose (1.4 & 2.8 g wp. hy.)	▼ plasma glucose after high carbohydrate meal (Sartorius et al., 2019)
Bovine whey hydrolysate + milk minerals	Single dose (50 g wp. hy. & 1000mg Ca.)	▲ plasma GLP (Y. C. Chen et al., 2020)

GLP-1; Glucagon-like peptide-, GIP; Glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide, PYY;

Peptide tyrosine–tyrosine, HbA1c; glycated hemoglobin, supp.; supplementary drink, ca. hy.;

casein hydrolysate, wp. Hy.; whey protein hydrolysate, and Ca; calcium.

Antimicrobial
Antiadhesive
Anti-viral
Dental health
Prebiotic

Immunomodulatory
Anti-inflammatory

Neuromodulatory
Opioid peptides
Anti-Alzheimer

In vitro studies

Antioxidative
Proliferation /
survival of
cancer cells

Hypocholesterolemic
Antithrombotic

Antihypertensive
Mineral binding

Antidiabetic
Satiety inducing
Anti-obesity
Inhibition of starch digestion

In vivo animal studies

Wounds healing
Anti-aging

Inhibition of starch digestion, glucose homeostasis

Anti-inflammatory
Anti-allergic

Antihypertensive

Anti-anxiety
Anti-autism

Hypocholesterolemic

Antiadhesive

Anti-fatty liver

Mineral binding

Opioid

Antithrombotic

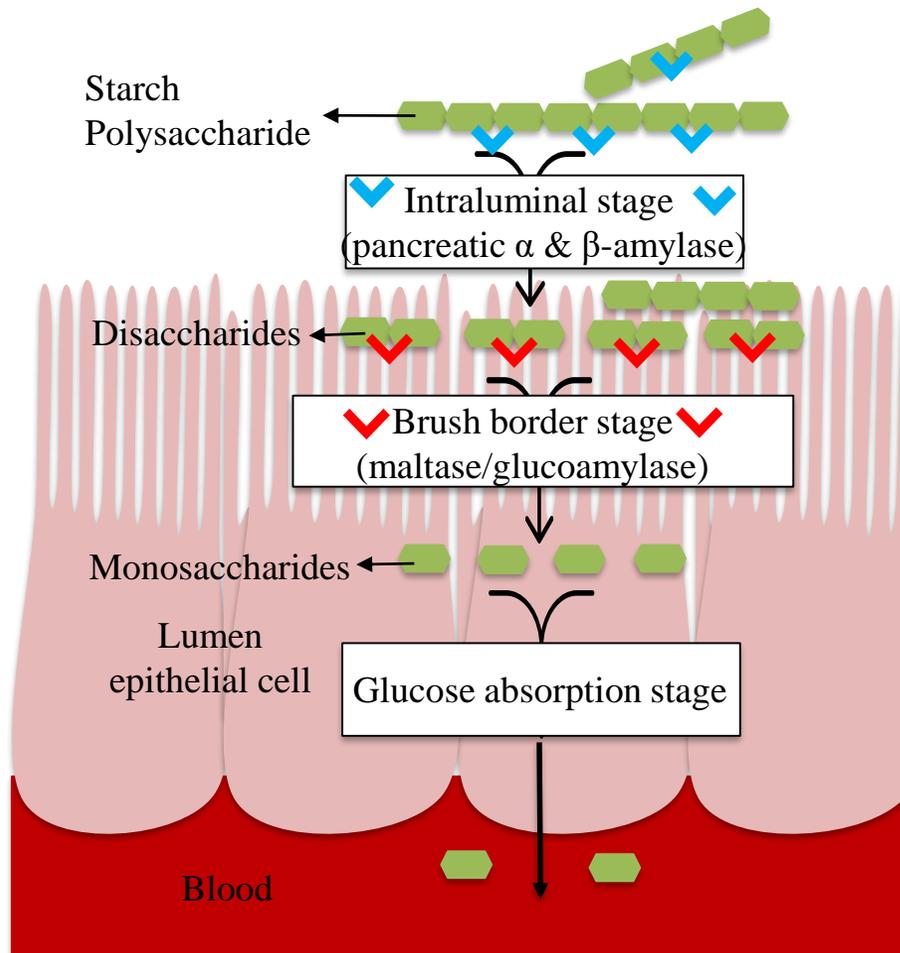
Randomized clinical trials

Inhibition of starch digestion

Antihypertensive

✓ Pancreatic α -amylase and β -amylase ✓ Brush border enzymes ▷ Bioactive peptides

A) Starch alone



B) Starch with peptides

