

Author's response to reviews

Title: Dietary inulin intake and age can significantly affect intestinal absorption of calcium and magnesium in rats: a stable isotope approach

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REPLY TO REVIEWER

Major comment:

The reviewer is right in saying that the effect of inulin on calcium absorption statistically was not significantly different at different ages. Consequently, there is no statistically significant interaction between age and inulin intake on calcium absorption, although these increases in calcium absorption percents are numerically more important in the older rats than in the younger rat.

The result and discussion sections are now modified accordingly. The paragraphs relating to this interaction effects have been deleted from the result section (see page 10, lines 5 and 18). The paragraph dealing with this effect in the discussion section is now changed (see page 14, lines 6-13).

Minor comments:

1- The title is now modified as follows:

Dietary inulin intake and age can significantly affect intestinal absorption of calcium and magnesium in rats; a stable isotope approach.

2- The number of decimal places given to p-values are now corrected according to the advice of the reviewer.

3- The figure 2 included all animals. Anyway this figure is now deleted (see below).

Discretionary revisions:

1- The real % absorption are already in the tables 3 and 4. that is why the author put in the figure 1 the increase % of Ca and Mg absorption obtained under inulin intake.

2- Figure 2 is now omitted.