

## Original Article



# Associations of Obesity and Dyslipidemia with Intake of Sodium, Fat, and Sugar among Koreans: a Qualitative Systematic Review

**Yoon Jung Kang, Hye Won Wang, Se Young Cheon, Hwa Jung Lee, Kyung Mi Hwang, Hae Seong Yoon**

Nutrition and Functional Food Research Team, National Institute of Food and Drug Safety Evaluation, Cheongju, Korea



**Received:** Oct 15, 2016  
**Revised:** Oct 20, 2016  
**Accepted:** Oct 26, 2016

### Correspondence to

**Yoon Jung Kang**

Nutrition and Functional Food Research Team, National Institute of Food and Drug Safety Evaluation, 187 Osongsaengmyeong 2-ro, Osong-eup, Heungdeok-gu, Cheongju 28159, Korea.

Tel: +82-43-719-4413

Fax: +82-43-719-4400

E-mail: kangyj2000@korea.kr

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### ORCID

Yoon Jung Kang

<http://orcid.org/0000-0002-8400-5110>

### Funding

This research was supported by a grant (16161MFDS081) from Ministry of Food and Drug Safety in 2016.

### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

## ABSTRACT

A qualitative systematic review was performed to identify associations of obesity and dyslipidemia with intake of sodium, fat, and sugar among Koreans. We reviewed 6 Korean research databases (KMBase, KoreaMed, NDSL, DBpia, RISS, KISS) with the keywords “sodium intake,” “fat intake,” and “sugar intake.” Total of 11 studies were investigated in this present study. Of these articles, 7 studies were related to sodium intake, 2 studies had a relation to fat intake, and 2 studies were associated with sugar intake. We indicated general characteristics, concentration of serum lipids, nutrition intake, and statistically significant results. High sodium intake contributed to increased etiology of hypertriglyceridemia, high-density lipoprotein (HDL) hypocholesterolemia, and a risk of being overweight. Fat intake was significantly associated with body fat, low-density lipoprotein (LDL) hypercholesterolemia, and HDL hypocholesterolemia. Sugar intake from coffee drinks and sugar-sweetened beverages contributed to increased HDL hypocholesterolemia and continuous metabolic syndrome score. This qualitative review among Koreans represented that intake of sodium, fat, and sugar has a positive relationship with cause of obesity-related diseases. Especially, this present study has a great significance in terms of considered study that intake of the potentially hazardous nutrients among Koreans has an association with obesity and dyslipidemia. However, further studies such as randomized controlled trials on associations between sodium, fat, and sugar and obesity and dyslipidemia need to be continuously required in order to conduct quantitative systematic reviews and a meta-analysis for Koreans.

**Keywords:** Sodium intake; Sugar intake; Fat intake; Obesity; Dyslipidemia

## INTRODUCTION

Obesity is one of the biggest public health problems around the world. Obesity is a result from an excessive accumulation of body fat [1]. According to a result from the 2013–2014 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) in United States, the prevalence of obesity in adults men and women was 37.7% and 35.0%, respectively [2]. Also, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), 52% of population aged 18 years and over was either overweight or obese in 2014 [3]. In addition, the prevalence of

### Author Contributions

Yoon Jung Kang had full access to all of the data in the study and takes responsibility for the integrity of the data.

obesity among children and adolescents as well as adults has increased [4-6]. Recently, the prevalence of obesity in Koreans has been quickly increasing because of westernized diets and changes in lifestyle [7]. According to a result from the Korean Nutritional Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (KNHANES) from 2007 to 2013, the prevalence of obesity aged 19 years and over had been maintained between 31% and 32%. [8-10]. Genetic and various environment factors are the causes of obesity. In environment factors, there are excess caloric intake, lack of physical activity, stress, and so on [11]. Based on an identical twins study indicating that genes only had 20% to 30% influence on obesity, the development of obesity is affected by eating habits and lifestyle factors rather than by genetic factors [12]. Along with obesity rate increases, the incidence of obesity-related diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, metabolic syndrome, and dyslipidemia also rapidly increases, thus leading to medical expenditure [13-15]. So, we need to have effective strategies and management plans for prevention of obesity in order to reduce medical costs. Dyslipidemia is related to atherosclerotic diseases [16,17].

Dyslipidemia is defined as increased triglycerides (TG) or low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) levels, or decreased high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) levels [18]. According to the result data from the KNHANES from 2007 to 2013, the prevalence of high-cholesterol and high-TG in population aged over 30 years had increased. The data in 2013 showed that the each prevalence rate was 14.9% and 17.1%, respectively [8-10]. Dyslipidemia has associations with age, eating habits, blood pressure, physical activity, stress, and heredity as well as obesity [19]. Especially, dietary habits have a big influence on obesity and dyslipidemia. Therefore, improvement of dietary habits is necessary to prevent and manage these diseases for public health.

Recently, several domestic and international papers studied on the relationship between nutrient intakes and various diseases have been reported. Among them, some papers showed the intake of food with high calorie, high fat, high sugar, and high sodium was directly or indirectly associated with the development of obesity [20-23].

In a study of the adult Spanish population, people with a high urinary sodium excretion presented a higher body mass index (BMI) than people with low urinary sodium excretion [24], and a study targeting children and adolescents showed an association between dietary salt intake and body weight status [25].

Also, a Korean children-based study presented that a group with the highest sodium density, calculated by sodium intake/energy intake (mg/g), had higher rate of obesity and abdominal obesity than a group with the lowest sodium density [22], and a Korean adults-based study showed a positive association between high sodium intake and increased risk of being overweight [21]. Koreans particularly consume excessive sodium because of eating Korean traditional foods such as kimchi, pickled fish, soup, stew and so on. According to 1998–2010 KNHANES, the survey represented that average daily sodium intake among Koreans was 4,573–5,499 mg during the past 13 years. Koreans consumed 4,546 mg of sodium/day on average in 2012 [8,9,26-28]. Salt consumption in Koreans is much higher than the recommended salt consumption of 2,000 mg/day by the WHO [29].

Also, it has been proposed that obesity is related to intake of fast foods, sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs), and unhealthy snacks containing high fat and sugar besides sodium [30,31]. Since fat is a major source of calorie as well as essential fatty acid and fat-soluble

vitamins, it is an essential nutrient to maintain good health. However, excessive intake of fat, especially saturated fat, is related to chronic degenerative diseases such as dyslipidemia, diabetes, and blood pressure [32]. Fat intake of Koreans has been quantitatively and qualitatively changed in the last 30 years, and these changes are significantly associated with rising obesity rate and chronic diseases. Therefore, it is necessary to have an attention on types of fat as well as dietary fat percentage of total calories.

It is widely known that excessive intake of sugar is correlated with chronic diseases such as obesity, coronary heart disease (CHD), and diabetes [33]. According to 1998–2011 KNHANES, average sugar intake of Korean was 48.4 g/day in 1998, 54.9 g/day in 2007, and 61.4 g/day in 2008–2011 [34–36]. These increased amount of sugar intake calls for attention.

There have been studies on an association between obesity and sodium, fat, or sugar intake. But, there is no a qualitative systematic review on associations between obesity and integrated dietary factors including sodium, fat, and sugar. So far, information on associations between obesity or dyslipidemia and dietary factors in Korean populations is limited. Therefore, this qualitative systematic review was conducted to provide nutritional information that could be used to establish a scientific basis and prepare a policy to prevent obesity and dyslipidemia.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Definition of dyslipidemia

Coronary artery disease is a leading cause of death and dyslipidemia is one of coronary artery's risk factors [37]. According to the National Cholesterol Education Program-Adult Treatment Panel III (NCEP-ATP III), dyslipidemia is a group of health conditions that accompany one or more of the symptoms of hypercholesterolemia total cholesterol (TC  $\geq$  240 mg/dL), low HDL-C (male: HDL-C  $\leq$  40 mg/dL, female: HDL-C  $\leq$  50 mg/dL), high LDL-C (LDL-C  $\geq$  160 mg/dL) [38].

### Definition of abdominal obesity

Abdominal obesity is a state of the excessive fat accumulation in the belly and is thought to contribute to diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Waist circumference (WC) is an important marker commonly used for determining abdominal obesity. The study of the WC cut-off points for defining abdominal obesity in Koreans was performed by the Korean society for the study of obesity. In the Korean population, the cutoff value of abdominal obesity was defined as WC is 90 cm (35.4 inch) or above in male and 85 cm (33.5 inch) or above in female [39,40].

### Continuous metabolic syndrome score (cMetS)

cMetS was calculated using principal component analysis (PCA). The relative weights of the metabolic components of cMetS using WC, TG, HDL-C, glucose, and mean arterial blood pressure (MABP) was reflected by the PCA method [41,42]. A high cMetS indicates comparatively high values of WC, TG, fasting blood sugar (FBS) and MABP as well as comparatively low HDL-C values.

### Search strategy and study selection

A qualitative systematic review was performed to identify associations of obesity and dyslipidemia with intake of sodium, fat, and sugar. A literature review was performed from June 7 to June 17, 2016 using the Korean database of KMBase (kmbase.medric.or.kr),

KoreaMed (www.koreamed.org), NDSL (www.ndsl.kr), DBpia (www.dbpia.co.kr), RISS (www.riss.kr), KISS (kiss.kstudy.com).

Duplicated literature was excluded using reference management software (EndNote; Thomson Reuters, New York, NY, USA) and excel program (Microsoft Excel; Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, WA, USA). Searching keywords included “sugar intake,” “sodium intake,” and “fat intake,” published. Published studies in 2016 were excluded from the search. According to above mentioned keywords, we obtained a list of 979 (sugar intake), 1,823 (sodium intake), 8,444 (fat intake) studies. After removing, we obtained the same number of studies. We selected primary studies based on titles and abstracts according to above mentioned criteria. Studies that could not be determined by titles and abstracts were reviewed using full-text regarding: 1) investigating on the association of nutrient intake (sodium, fat, sugar) and obesity; 2) investigation on the association of nutrient intake (sodium, fat, sugar) and dyslipidemia; and 3) investigation on nutrient intake that adversely affect the obesity and dyslipidemia. Finally, we carried out a qualitative systemic review with 11 studies (7 sodium studies, 2 sugar studies, 2 fat studies). The extracted data were study name, author’s name, year of publication, characteristics of participants, sample size, age range, BMI, serum lipids, and nutrient intakes.

## RESULT

### General characteristics

**Table 1** shows general characteristics of 11 reviewed studies. Of the 11 studies, 7 were related to sodium intake, 2 had a relation to fat intake, and 2 were associated with sugar intake. Of the all studies, 5 studies used KNHANES data. Studies related to sodium intake had groups classified by daily sodium intake or 24-hour urine sodium excretion. Except one study, the target of all other studies were adults. Only one study was conducted on women participants. In the study done by Song et al. [21], total 5,955 subjects (2,765 men, 3,190 women) were divided into 5 quartiles based on daily sodium intake, and total 1,536 subjects (827 men, 709 women) were classified as overweight. In the case of Lim and Yang [45], groups were classified based on daily sodium intake and presence of diabetes. Kim et al. [46] evaluated the risk of obesity of 5 groups divided by daily sodium intake. Oh et al. [47,48] identified the sodium intake by measurement of sodium excretions. Kim et al. [51] compared sugar intake of coffee-mix drinkers with that of non-drinkers. Coffee-mix is a mixture of instant coffee, sugar, and coffee-creamer. Hur et al. [52] specifically focused on children who participated in the 4th year (2008) of the Korean Child-Adolescent Cohort Study (KoCAS).

### Concentration of serum lipids of the subjects

Concentrations of serum lipids of the subjects were shown in **Table 2**. In Rhie et al. [43], values of HDL-C were not shown. Values of TC, TG, and HDL-C in groups named “total” in Song et al. [21] and Lee and Kim [49] was not investigated.

### Variables related to sodium intake

**Table 3** presents levels of sodium intake or 24-hour urine sodium excretion. Studies of Rhie et al. [43], Lim and Yang [45], and Oh et al. [48] presented levels of sodium intake and urinary sodium excretion. In Lim and Yang [45], average daily sodium intake and total 24-hour urinary sodium excretion were 5,393.1 mg and 130.5 mmol/L, respectively. Normal, pre-diabetic, and diabetic subjects with low sodium intake had lower urinary sodium excretion than subjects with high sodium intake.

**Table 1.** General characteristics of 11 studies included for the current systematic review

Nutrient	Study	Study year	Subject characteristics	Group classification	Sample size	Age range	BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>
Sodium	Rhie et al. [43]	-	Rural housewives	Total	30	26–57	22
Sodium	Choi et al. [44]	2004	Rural, coastal, and urban	Total	354	≥ 20	25
Sodium	Song et al. [21]	2007–2009	KNHANES IV	Total	5,955	19–64	-
				Daily sodium intake			
				Quintile 1 (≤ 3,564.9 mg for men (≤ 2,394.4 mg for women))	139,145		-
				Quintile 2 (3,565.0–4,931.7 mg for men (2,394.4–3,293.1 mg for women))	170,137		-
				Quintile 3 (4,936.0–6,248.3 mg for men (3,293.5–4,370.9 mg for women))	158,133		-
				Quintile 4 (6,248.9–8,230.3 mg for men (4,372.2–5,879.1 mg for women))	170,140		-
				Quintile 5 (≥ 8,230.6 mg for men (≥ 5,880.3 mg for women))	190,154		-
				Overweight (BMI ≥ 25 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	1,536		27
				Non-overweight (BMI < 25 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	4,419		22
Sodium	Lim and Yang [45]	2010	KNHANES V	Total	4,475	≥ 30	-
				FBG < 100 mg/dL & daily sodium intake ≤ 5,335 mg			
				Normal with low sodium intake	1,949		23
				Normal with high sodium intake	1,142		24
				100 ≤ FBG < 126 mg/dL & daily sodium intake ≤ 5,335 mg			
				Pre-diabetes with low sodium intake	535		25
				Pre-diabetes with high sodium intake	345		25
				126 mg/dL < FBG or received medical treatment for diabetes or diagnosed with diabetes & daily sodium intake ≤ 5,335 mg			
				Diabetes with low sodium intake	341		25
				Diabetes with high sodium intake	163		25
Sodium	Kim et al. [46]	2010–2012		Total	14,694	≥ 19	-
				Daily sodium intake, g			
				< 2	1,957		-
				2–4	5,149		-
				4–6	3,685		-
				6–8	2,005		-
				≥ 8	1,898		-
Sodium	Oh et al. [47]	2015	Obese (n = 60) and non-obese (n = 60)*	Total	120	19–60	-
				24-hour sodium excretion, mEq/day			
				< 110	21		26
				110–180	42		27
				> 180	29		30
Sodium	Oh et al. [48]	2008–2011	KNHANES IV and V	Total	18,146	≥ 20	-
				24-hour sodium excretion, g/day			
				2.7 (2.3–3.1)	4,536		23
				3.7 (3.4–4.1)	4,537		24
				4.6 (4.1–5.0)	4,537		24
				5.9 (5.2–6.5)	4,536		25
Fat	Lee and Kim [49]	1999–2000	Obese adults	Total (BMI ≥ 25 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	51	≥ 18	30
Fat	Park et al. [50]	1998–2007	KNHANES I, II, III, and IV	Total	15,804	≥ 20	24
Sugar	Kim et al. [51]	2011–2012	Gangneung, Samcheok	Total	218	30–79	-
				Coffee-mix drinkers†	104		26
				Non-drinkers	114		25
Sugar	Hur et al. [52]	2008	Children who participated in KoCAS 4th (baseline)	Total	770	9–10	18

KNHANES, The Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey; BMI, body mass index; FBG, fasting blood glucose; KoCAS, The Korean Child-Adolescent Cohort Study.

\*Obese group: BMI ≥ 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>; Non-obese group: 18.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> ≤ BMI < 23 kg/m<sup>2</sup>; †Coffee-mix is a mixture of instant coffee, sugar, and coffee-creamer.

**Table 2.** Concentration of serum lipids of the subjects in each studies

Nutrient	Study	Group classification	Total cholesterol, mg/dL	Triglyceride, mg/dL	HDL-C, mg/dL
Sodium	Rhie et al. [43]	Total	169.0 ± 24.9	70.6 ± 25.0	-
Sodium	Choi et al. [44]	Total	182.9 ± 36.6	147.3 ± 82.5	43.4 ± 10.0
Sodium	Song et al. [21]	Total	-	-	-
Sodium	Lim and Yang [45]	Total	191.6 ± 0.7	139.6 ± 2.2	48.0 ± 0.2
		FBG < 100 mg/dL & daily sodium intake ≤ 5,335 mg			
		Normal with low sodium intake	189.6 ± 1.1	120.1 ± 2.3	49.3 ± 0.3
		Normal with high sodium intake	190.5 ± 1.3	124.4 ± 3.1	48.8 ± 0.4
		100 ≤ FBG < 126 mg/dL & daily sodium intake ≤ 5,335 mg			
		Pre-diabetes with low sodium intake	199.3 ± 2.0	158.9 ± 6.2	47.2 ± 0.7
		Pre-diabetes with high sodium intake	199.2 ± 3.3	205.5 ± 15.7	45.4 ± 0.7
		126 mg/dL < FBG, received medical treatment for diabetes, or diagnosed with diabetes & daily sodium intake ≤ 5,335 mg			
		Diabetes with low sodium intake	186.7 ± 2.5	177.6 ± 8.2	44.2 ± 0.8
		Diabetes with high sodium intake	190.0 ± 3.9	191.9 ± 16.3	43.5 ± 1.0
Sodium	Kim et al. [46]	Total	189.62 ± 0.30	130.09 ± 0.85	52.66 ± 0.11
		Daily sodium intake, g			
		< 2	182.95 ± 2.14 (Men)	149.74 ± 6.93 (Men)	48.14 ± 0.61 (Men)
			194.44 ± 1.00 (Women)	127.07 ± 2.75 (Women)	53.65 ± 0.33 (Women)
		2–4	185.18 ± 0.87 (Men)	142.52 ± 2.46 (Men)	48.98 ± 0.32 (Men)
			190.82 ± 0.61 (Women)	112.63 ± 1.22 (Women)	54.85 ± 0.22 (Women)
		4–6	188.95 ± 0.86 (Men)	154.47 ± 3.05 (Men)	49.59 ± 0.29 (Men)
			189.79 ± 0.81 (Women)	112.19 ± 1.65 (Women)	55.35 ± 0.28 (Women)
		6–8	186.85 ± 1.13 (Men)	153.98 ± 4.09 (Men)	49.59 ± 0.35 (Men)
			190.85 ± 1.17 (Women)	111.86 ± 2.34 (Women)	56.06 ± 0.43 (Women)
		≥ 8	189.36 ± 1.00 (Men)	161.79 ± 4.08 (Men)	49.56 ± 0.33 (Men)
			190.71 ± 1.33 (Women)	110.17 ± 2.47 (Women)	55.68 ± 0.47 (Women)
Sodium	Oh et al. [47]	Total	-	162.5 ± 9.67 (Obese)	50.7 ± 1.54 (Obese)
				62.6 ± 9.59 (Non-obese)	44.0 ± 1.52 (Non-obese)
		24-hour sodium excretion, mEq/day			
		< 110	-	86.4 ± 30.47	42.6 ± 4.22
		110–180	-	139.9 ± 27.15	48.5 ± 3.76
		> 180	-	148.1 ± 28.32	52.6 ± 3.92
Sodium	Oh et al. [48]	Total	-	-	-
		24-hour sodium excretion, g/day			
		2.7 (2.3–3.1)	188.6 ± 35.8	123.6 ± 92.7	53.4 ± 13.0
		3.7 (3.4–4.1)	189.0 ± 36.0	131.4 ± 112.5	52.7 ± 12.8
		4.6 (4.1–5.0)	189.4 ± 36.1	136.9 ± 112.8	52.5 ± 12.8
		5.9 (5.2–6.5)	191.0 ± 36.8	147.5 ± 123.3	52.0 ± 12.5
Fat	Lee and Kim [49]	Total (BMI ≥ 25 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	-	-	-
Fat	Park et al. [50]	Total	159.30 ± 1.64 (Men)	188.73 ± 0.58 (Men)	45.72 ± 0.42 (Men)
			114.99 ± 0.90 (Women)	186.57 ± 0.54 (Women)	51.42 ± 0.52 (Women)
Sugar	Kim et al. [51]	Total	185.1 ± 4.4 (Men)	116.9 ± 6.5 (Men)	48.6 ± 1.5 (Men)
			188.3 ± 2.9 (Women)	105.2 ± 4.1 (Women)	52.8 ± 1.0 (Women)
		Coffee-mix drinkers <sup>†</sup>	185.8 ± 5.6 (Men)	118.8 ± 9.5 (Men)	47.2 ± 2.0 (Men)
			182.1 ± 4.4 (Women)	109.1 ± 5.9 (Women)	50.7 ± 1.5 (Women)
		Non-drinkers	183.0 ± 7.0 (Men)	111.7 ± 11.4 (Men)	51.1 ± 2.5 (Men)
			193.1 ± 3.8 (Women)	102.9 ± 5.1 (Women)	54.2 ± 1.3 (Women)
Sugar	Hur et al. [52]	Total	169.8 ± 26.4	63.0	58.8 ± 11.2

Values are presented as mean ± standard deviation.

FBG, fasting blood glucose; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; BMI, body mass index.

<sup>†</sup>Coffee-mix is a mixture of instant coffee, sugar, and coffee-creamer.

### Variables related to fat intake

In reviewed articles, variables related to fat intake are presented in **Table 4**. The variables are fat intake, saturated fatty acid (SFA), monounsaturated fatty acid (MUFA), and polyunsaturated fatty acid (PUFA).

**Table 3.** Variables related to sodium intake in reviewed studies

Study	Group classification	Sodium intake	24-hour urine sodium excretion
Rhie et al. [43]	Total	4,330 ± 1,779.2 mg/day	4,370 ± 2,289 mg/day
Choi et al. [44]	Total	3,776.1 ± 1,910.3 mg/day	-
Song et al. [21]	Total	-	-
	Overweight (BMI ≥ 25 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	5,490.5 ± 93.8 mg/day	-
	Non-overweight (BMI < 25 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	5,051.7 ± 43.9 mg/day	-
Lim and Yang [45]	Total	5,393.1 ± 75.2 mg/day	130.5 ± 1.1 mmol/L
	FBG < 100 mg/dL & daily sodium intake ≤ 5,335 mg		
	Normal with low sodium intake	-	127.3 ± 1.6 mmol/L
	Normal with high sodium intake	-	134.2 ± 2.2 mmol/L
	100 ≤ FBG < 126 mg/dL & daily sodium intake ≤ 5,335 mg		
	Pre-diabetes with low sodium intake	-	127.9 ± 2.2 mmol/L
	Pre-diabetes with high sodium intake	-	138.3 ± 3.7 mmol/L
	126 mg/dL < FBG, received medical treatment for diabetes, or diagnosed with diabetes & daily sodium intake ≤ 5,335 mg		
	Diabetes with low sodium intake	-	121.4 ± 2.9 mmol/L
	Diabetes with high sodium intake	-	135.4 ± 5.7 mmol/L
Kim et al. [46]	Total	4,866.02 ± 27.03 mg/day	-
	Daily sodium intake, g		
	< 2	-	-
	2–4	-	-
	4–6	-	-
	6–8	-	-
	≥ 8	-	-
Oh et al. [47]	Total	-	189.7 ± 7.69 mEq/day (Obese) 114.8 ± 9.38 mEq/day (Non-obese)
	24-hour sodium excretion, mEq/day		
	< 110	-	-
	110–180	-	-
	> 180	-	-
Oh et al. [48]	Total	-	-
	24-hour sodium excretion, g/day		
	2.7 (2.3–3.1)	4.7 ± 3.2 g/day	-
	3.7 (3.4–4.1)	4.9 ± 3.2 g/day	-
	4.6 (4.1–5.0)	5.1 ± 3.3 g/day	-
	5.9 (5.2–6.5)	5.1 ± 3.3 g/day	-

Values are presented as mean ± standard deviation.

BMI, body mass index; FBG, fasting blood glucose.

**Table 4.** Variables related to fat intake in reviewed studies

Study	Group classification	Fat intake, g/day	SFA, g/day	MUFA, g/day	PUFA, g/day
Lee and Kim [49]	Total (BMI ≥ 25 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	54.7 ± 47.3	7.2 ± 7.3	9.2 ± 7.7	10.8 ± 9.1
Park et al. [50]	Total	38.94 ± 0.44 (Men) 29.88 ± 0.31 (Women)	9.50 ± 0.14 (Men) 7.46 ± 0.09 (Women)	15.73 ± 0.22 (Men) 12.03 ± 0.16 (Women)	8.85 ± 0.09 (Men) 6.82 ± 0.07 (Women)

Values are presented as mean ± standard deviation.

SFA, saturated fatty acid; MUFA, monounsaturated fatty acid; PUFA, polyunsaturated fatty acid; BMI, body mass index.

### Variables related to sugar intake

**Table 5** includes variables related to sugar intake. Kim et al. [51] studied the relationship between coffee-mix intake containing sugar and HDL-C. This study showed carbohydrate intake, coffee-mix intake, and coffee-mix's contributions to energy in coffee-mix drinkers dwelling in Gangneung and Samcheok. Hur et al. [52] showed amounts of daily sugar intake in milk, fruit, beverages, and others. In the Hur et al. [52] study, intake of sugar from SSBs and continuous value of the metabolic syndrome scores at baseline had a significant positive relationship.

**Table 5.** Variables related to sugar intake of reviewed studies

Study	Group classification	Carbohydrate intake, g/day	Coffee-mix intake, g/day	Coffee-mix's contribution to energy, %	Total sugar <sup>‡</sup> , g	% energy from total sugar	Sugar intake, g			
							Milk	Fruit	Beverage	Other <sup>†</sup>
Kim et al. [51]	Total	-	8.9 ± 10.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Coffee-mix <sup>‡</sup> drinkers	13.4 ± 6.1 (Gangneung)	16.6 ± 7.6 (Gangneung)	3.4 ± 1.5 (Gangneung)	-	-	-	-	-	-
		17.1 ± 8.8 (Samcheok)	21.2 ± 10.9 (Samcheok)	4.7 ± 2.5 (Samcheok)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hur et al. [52]	Total	-	-	-	34.5	8.3	0.0	5.4	0.4	21.8

Values are presented as mean ± standard deviation.

<sup>†</sup>Total sugar category contained food source such as fruit, milk, beverages, and other sugar; <sup>‡</sup>Other sugar was defined as total sugar excluded from fruit, milk, beverages, and contained sweets (chocolate, caramels, candies, jellies, gum), sweetened grains (cakes, doughnuts, waffles and pancakes), sweetened dairy products (flavored yogurt, flavored milk), syrup, and natural sugar from grains and vegetables; <sup>‡</sup>Coffee-mix is a mixture of instant coffee, sugar, and coffee-creamer.

### Relationship of nutrient intake with obesity or dyslipidemia-related factors

The relationship of nutrient intake with increased prevalence of obesity or dyslipidemia-related factors is presented in **Table 6**. The results are as follows. Rhie et al. [43] showed that dietary sodium intake had a positive correlation with the levels of TG ( $r = 0.361$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) and B-lipoprotein ( $r = 0.413$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Choi et al. [44] presented that dietary sodium intake and serum HDL-C had a negative correlation ( $r = -0.11$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Based on Song et al.'s study [21], men in the 4th and 5th quintiles had higher risk of being overweight than men in the lowest quintile. Men in the 4th and 5th quintile had higher odds of being obese with odds ratios (ORs) of 1.37 (95% confidence interval [CI], 1.02–1.82) and 1.67 (95% CI, 1.23–2.27), respectively. In men, a significant trend of ORs in each quintile was found ( $p = 0.003$ ). In women,  $p$  value for trend of ORs in each quintile was 0.058. Lim and Yang [45] reported association of WC with dietary sodium intake according to the presence of diabetes. In subject with pre-diabetes, WC had a positive association with sodium intake. Kim et al. [46] proved that men with high sodium intake had a positive association with obesity. Compared to men with less than 2 g of sodium intake, ORs was 1.40 for 4–6 g intake (95% CI, 1.07–1.85), 1.41 for 6–8 g intake (95% CI, 1.05–1.89), and 1.61 (95% CI, 1.19–2.18) for more than 8 g intake group. In men, the  $p$  value for trend of ORs in each group was 0.02. This study suggested more than 2 g of daily sodium intake may be independently associated with increased risk of obesity in men. In the Oh et al.'s study [47], 24-hour urine sodium excretion had significant correlations with increased BMI, abdominal circumference, computed tomography (CT) subcutaneous fat, and CT visceral fat. Compared to the lowest sodium excretion group (24-hour sodium intake < 110 mEq/day), the highest sodium group (24-hour sodium intake > 180 mEq/day) had an increased abdominal obesity, high TG, and high blood pressure with ORs of 44.76 (95% CI, 5.29–378.68), 32.79 (95% CI, 2.43–442.62), and 6.60 (95% CI, 1.29–33.68), respectively. Also, the sodium excretion group (100 mEq/day ≤ 24-hour sodium intake ≤ 180 mEq/day) had greater odds for having high TG with an ORs of 39.09 (95% CI, 2.74–556.92). The result of Oh et al. [48] showed systolic blood pressure, diastolic blood pressure, WC, body fat percentage, and body fat mass had positive relationship with 24-hour urine sodium excretion ( $p < 0.001$  for trend). The relationship between 24-hour urine sodium excretion and TG or glucose was linear ( $p < 0.005$ ). However, HDL-C had inversely related to 24-hour urine sodium excretion.

There were two results of reviewed articles linked to fat intake. One by Lee and Kim [49] indicated association between various types of fat intake and % body fat estimated from a standard multivariate model for energy adjustment for obese adults. Intakes of total fat, saturated fat, and polyunsaturated fat were positively associated with % body fat. The other



**Table 6.** Relationship of nutrient intake with obesity or dyslipidemia-related factors in each study

Study	Result		
Rhie et al. [43]	The Pearson's correlation coefficient between dietary sodium and triglyceride: $r = 0.361$ , $p < 0.05$ The Pearson's correlation coefficient between dietary sodium and B-lipoprotein: $r = 0.413$ , $p < 0.05$		
Choi et al. [44]	The Pearson's correlation coefficients between dietary sodium and HDL-C: $r = -0.11$ , $p < 0.05$		
Song et al. [21]	Multivariate-adjusted OR (95% CI) of risk of being overweight according to quintile of dietary sodium intake by logistic regression Quintile 1: Reference Quintile 2 (Men, Women): 1.35 (1.03–1.78), 1.02 (0.77–1.35) Quintile 3 (Men, Women): 1.22 (0.92–1.61), 1.03 (0.77–1.37) Quintile 4 (Men, Women): 1.37 (1.02–1.82), 1.10 (0.82–1.48) Quintile 5 (Men, Women): 1.67 (1.23–2.27), 1.31 (0.96–1.79) p value for trend (Men, Women): $p = 0.0033$ , $p = 0.058$		
Lim and Yang [45]	Association of waist circumference with dietary sodium intake according to the presence of diabetes by logistic regression analysis Model 1 (unadjusted) - Pre-diabetes with low sodium intake: Reference - Pre-diabetes with high sodium intake: 1.479 (1.042–2.099) Model 2 (adjusted for age and sex) - Pre-diabetes with low sodium intake: Reference - Pre-diabetes with high sodium intake: 1.590 (1.109–2.280)		
Kim et al. [46]	Multivariate-adjusted ORs (95% CI) for obesity according to daily sodium intake by logistic regression analysis < 2 g: Reference 2–4 g (Men, Women): 1.27 (0.97–1.67), 1.01 (0.87–1.17) 4–6 g (Men, Women): 1.40 (1.07–1.85), 1.04 (0.87–1.23) 6–8 g (Men, Women): 1.41 (1.05–1.89), 1.02 (0.82–1.26) ≥ 8 g (Men, Women): 1.61 (1.19–2.18), 1.21 (0.96–1.54) p value for trend (Men, Women): $p = 0.020$ , $p = 0.494$		
Oh et al. [47]	Spearman correlation coefficient between 24-hour urine sodium excretion and obesity-related risk indices BMI: $r = 0.49$ , $p < 0.001$  Abdominal circumference: $r = 0.44$ , $p < 0.001$  CT subcutaneous fat: $r = 0.38$ , $p < 0.001$  CT visceral fat: $r = 0.44$ , $p < 0.001$	Multivariate-adjusted ORs (95% CI) of metabolic syndrome risk factors according to 24-hour sodium excretion levels by logistic regression analysis Abdominal obesity (< 110 mEq/day, 110–180 mEq/day, > 180 mEq/day): reference, 5.30 (0.90–31.16), 44.76 (5.26–378.68) High triglyceride (< 110 mEq/day, 110–180 mEq/day, > 180 mEq/day): reference, 39.09 (2.74–556.92), 32.79 (2.43–442.62) Low HDL-C (< 110 mEq/day, 110–180 mEq/day, > 180 mEq/day): reference, 0.22 (0.05–0.95), 0.18 (0.04–0.79) High fasting glucose (< 110 mEq/day, 110–180 mEq/day, > 180 mEq/day): reference, 0.45 (0.02–9.40), 4.09 (0.27–61.93) High blood pressure (< 110 mEq/day, 110–180 mEq/day, > 180 mEq/day): reference, 0.34 (0.06–2.03), 6.60 (1.29–33.68)	
Oh et al. [48]	Adjusted associations between 24-hour urine sodium excretion and metabolic syndrome components after adjusting for multiple covariates Positive relationship ( $p < 0.001$ for trend): Systolic blood pressure, diastolic blood pressure, WC Linear relationship ( $p < 0.005$ ): TG, glucose Inverse relationship ( $p < 0.001$ ): HDL	Adjusted association between 24-hour urine sodium excretion and body fat after adjusting for multiple factors  Body fat percentage ( $p < 0.001$ for trend)  Body fat mass ( $p < 0.001$ for trend)	
Lee and Kim [49]	The association of many types of fat intake with % body fat estimated from a standard multivariate model for energy adjustment for obese adults Total fat (g): beta (0.065), p value (0.010) Saturated fat (g): beta (1.148), p value (0.009) Monounsaturated fat (g): beta (–1.498), p value (0.005) Polyunsaturated fat (g): beta (0.680), p value (0.002) Total energy (kcal): beta (–0.001), p value (0.215)		
Park et al. [50]	Multivariate-adjusted ORs (95% CI) associated with dietary fatty acid on LDL hypercholesterolemia by logistic regression analysis in men TFA (≤ 13.76 g/day): Reference TFA (> 41.29 g/day): 1.274 (1.028–1.578) MUFA (≤ 5.66 g/day): Reference MUFA (> 19.13 g/day): 1.295 (1.050–1.597) PUFA (≤ 4.01 g/day): Reference PUFA (> 10.76 g/day): 1.282 (1.042–1.578) LNA (≤ 0.37 g/day): Reference LNA (> 1.52 g/day): 1.253 (1.031–1.523) EPA (≤ 0.02 g/day): Reference EPA (> 0.28 g/day): 1.211 (1.003–1.462) n-3 fatty acid (≤ 0.65 g/day): Reference n-3 fatty acid (> 2.48 g/day): 1.248 (1.025–1.519)	Multivariate-adjusted ORs (95% CI) associated with dietary fatty acid on HDL hypocholesterolemia by logistic regression analysis in men SFA (≤ 2.84 g/day): Reference SFA (> 11.36 g/day): 1.299 (1.067–1.581) PUFA (≤ 4.01 g/day): Reference PUFA (> 10.76 g/day): 1.221 (1.006–1.483) LNA (≤ 0.37 g/day): Reference LNA (> 1.50 g/day): 1.281 (1.067–1.537) n-3 fatty acid (≤ 0.64 g/day): Reference n-3 fatty acid (> 2.42 g/day): 1.288 (1.074–1.545) n-6 fatty acid (≤ 3.13 g/day): Reference n-6 fatty acid (> 8.63 g/day): 1.217 (1.002–1.480)	

(continued)

**Table 6.** Relationship of nutrient intake with obesity or dyslipidemia-related factors in each study (*continued*)

Study	Result
Kim et al. [51]	Correlation coefficient between daily coffee-mix intake and HDL-C: $r = -0.13152$ , $p = 0.0661$ Correlation coefficient between coffee-mix's contribution to energy intake (% kcal) and HDL-C: $r = -0.14627$ , $p = 0.0408$
Hur et al. [52]	Multiple linear regression of total energy, total sugar, and sub-group sugar at baseline (9–10 years) on CVD risk factors Association between beverage sugar and continuous value of the metabolic syndrome scores (beta: 0.04, $p < 0.05$ )

OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval; BMI, body mass index; HDL, high-density lipoprotein; LDL, low-density lipoprotein; CT, computed tomography; WC, waist circumference; TG, triglycerides; TFA, total fatty acid; SFA, saturated fatty acid; MUFA, monounsaturated fatty acid; PUFA, polyunsaturated fatty acid; LNA, linolenic acid; EPA, eicosanoic acid; CVD, cardiovascular disease.

study found that in men, intakes of total fatty acid (TFA), MUFA, PUFA, linolenic acid (LNA), n-3 fatty acid, and n-6 fatty acid were positively associated with the risk of high LDL-C and HDL hypocholesterolemia had positive associations with intakes of SFA, PUFA, LNA, n-3 fatty acid, and n-6 fatty acid [50]. However, in women, there was an association between intake of fatty acids and % body fat.

There were two reviewed studies related to sugar intake. In Kim et al. [51] sugar-sweetened coffee drink study, coffee-mix's contributions to energy was negatively correlated with HDL-C ( $r = 0.14627$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Additionally, Hur et al. [52] presented that sugar intake from SSBs had a positive relationship with cMetS at baseline (beta = 0.04,  $p = 0.02$ ).

## DISCUSSION

Adverse health consequences of obesity include dyslipidemia, the metabolic syndrome, CHD, type 2 diabetes mellitus, and hypertension [53-57].

The aim of this present systemic review was to identify the associations of obesity and dyslipidemia with intake of nutrients among Korean population based on Koreans database. We found that significant associations of obesity and its related diseases with intake of nutrients such as sodium, fat, and sugar.

First, high sodium intake contributed to increased TG, HDL hypocholesterolemia, a risk of being overweight, waist circumference, body mass index, abdominal obesity, blood pressure, and body fat percentage. According to previous researches, sodium intake was linked to obesity [21-25]. A study reported that salty foods stimulate brain's reward response, and the increased calorie intake augments the incidence of overeating and obesity-related diseases [58]. Although there are few review studies published in the literature, this present study using data from Koreans systematically showed the same result of aforementioned researches. However, more studies are needed to identify relations between high sodium and obesity or dyslipidemia among Korean population.

Fat intake contributed to increased body fat, LDL hypercholesterolemia, and HDL hypocholesterolemia. For example, body fat had positive associations with TFA, SFA, and MUFA intake in Lee and Kim's study [49]. Furthermore, Park et al. [50] indicated positive associations between LDL hypercholesterolemia or HDL hypocholesterolemia and fatty acid. LDL hypercholesterolemia was positively associated with excessive intake of TFA, MUFA,

PUFA, LNA, n-3 fatty acid, and n-6 fatty acid in men. Excessive intake of SFA, MUFA, PUFA, LNA, n-3 fatty acid, and n-6 fatty acid was significantly associated with increased HDL hypocholesterolemia in men.

Fat is an important energy source in the human body and excellent source of essential fatty acid and fat-soluble vitamins. However, fat intake can be the cause of arteriosclerosis, myocardial infarction, and hyperlipidemia based on the amount and types of fat [32]. In general, SFA contributes to increased cardiovascular disease (CVD), PUFA contributes to decreased serum cholesterol and decreased incidence of coronary-artery disease, MUFA contributes to reduced LDL-C levels [32,59]. Additionally, n-3 PUFA is a precursor of prostaglandin that reduces blood clotting and is good for prevention of heart disease, and n-6 PUFA generates form of blood clots and vasoconstriction [60-63].

This reviewed study has different results compared to previous studies. In previous studies [58-62], MUFA contributed to reduced LDL-C and n-3 fatty acid contributed to reduced blood clotting. In other words, MUFA and n-3 fatty acid had a beneficial effect on maintaining health. However, reviewed study showed MUFA and n-3 fatty acid had a significant positive association with LDL hypercholesterolemia and HDL hypocholesterolemia. Therefore, adequate fat intake is necessary to prevent deficiency or excessive intake of fats.

Sugar intake from instant coffee-mix and SSBs contributed to increased HDL-C and cMetS. In other words, obesity and metabolic disease could be increased when consuming sugar from coffee-mix and SSBs. In general, sugar is known to have associations with diabetes, CVD, obesity, high blood pressure and so on [33-35]. A previous study on dietary patterns in Korean adults showed that consumption of high-fat, sweet, and coffee pattern among four dietary patterns, rice and kimchi pattern; high-fat, sweets, and coffee pattern; meat and alcohol pattern; and vegetables, grains, and fish pattern, only had a positive association with incidence of obesity. Also, in the study, the consumption of carbohydrate increased neutral fats and decreased HDL-C [64]. Sugar is a major source of carbohydrate and fats. Therefore, higher consumption of instant-coffee mix intake could increase intake of saturated fats and simple sugars [65]. But, reviewed articles could not fully explain the result mentioned above. So, further studies among Koreans are needed to prove a relationship of sugar and obesity.

This qualitative systemic review study has several limitations. First, the number of reviewed studies was not enough to compare the associations between obesity or dyslipidemia-related diseases and intake of nutrients such as sodium, fat, and sugar. Only 7 reviewed articles were related to sodium intake, two articles were related to fat intake. In addition, there was only one related to obesity or dyslipidemia-related diseases. Also, the 5 of 12 reviewed studies were analyzed using KNHANES. So, more studies such as randomized controlled trials for Koreans need to be conducted. In spite of several limitations, there are a few strengths in this present study. First, there has been not a qualitative systemic review on relationship of obesity-related diseases and intake of nutrients including sodium, fat, and sugar until now in Korean population.

In conclusion, this qualitative systematic review demonstrated associations between obesity-related diseases and integrated dietary factors including sodium, fat, and sugar intake in Korean population. Since there were very few studies about Korean population, more randomized controlled trials on relationship between nutrition intake and obesity in Korean population are needed to provide information for quantitative reviews and meta-analysis.

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