

Dietary approach to treat obese children

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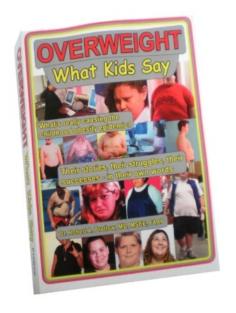






- Tackle the obesogenic environment
- Life course approach
- Identify and treat

## Hopes and expectations of the kids



# "Could you PLEASE take that vast amount of food out of my head?"

(Manfred, 9 years)

## Hopes and expectations of the parents

"PLEASE make my boy lose weight!"

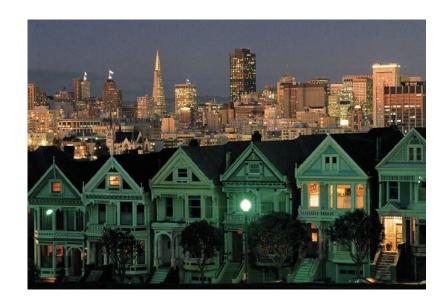
(Inge, 39 years)

## Changes of society and environment in past decades

Accelerated development and urbanization,

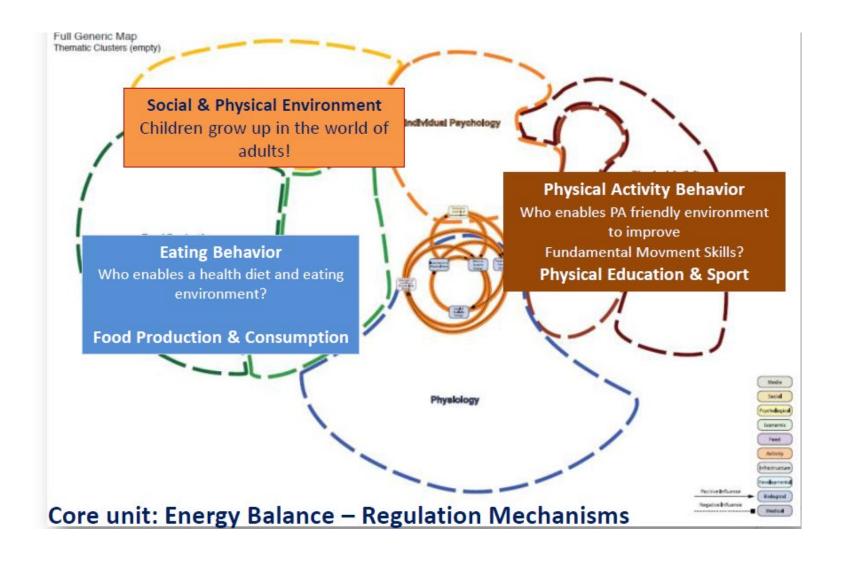
- steady increase of motorization,
- decline in physical work,
- increased availability of fast food

- ...

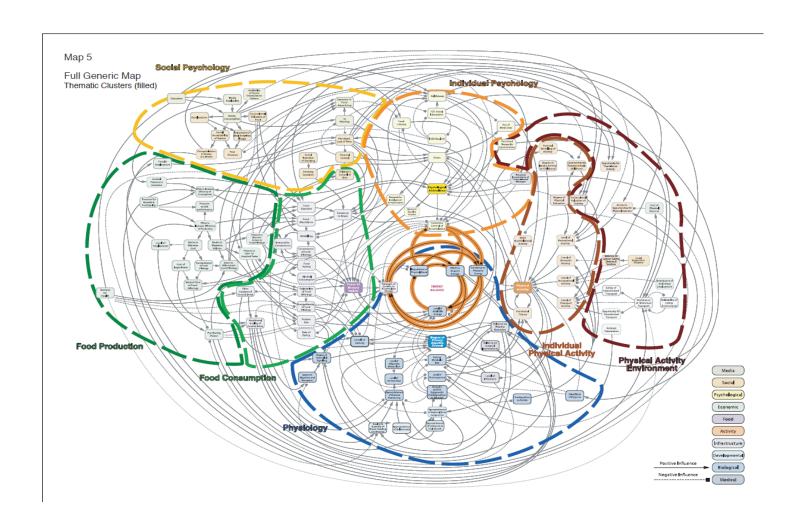




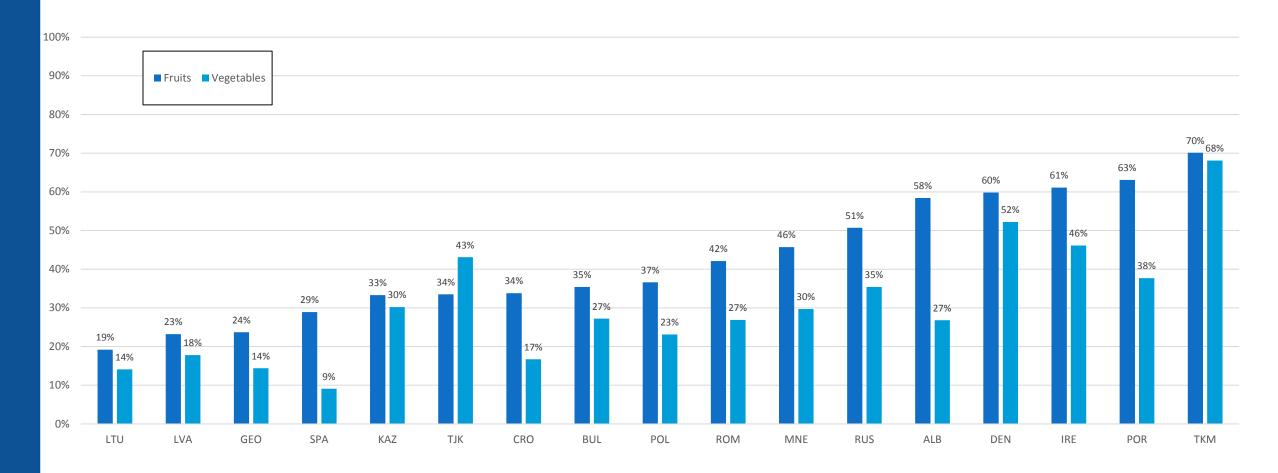
## Complexity of Childhood Obesity Etiology



## Nutrition is (a central) part of a bigger picture



## Daily consumption of fruits and vegetables, latest COSI data



Source: WHO/Europe COSI

### Boys and girls differ...in taste preferences



Fat and sweet taste preferences are related to weight status in European children across regions with varying food cultures.

- **Fat preference** associations were stronger in **girls**
- ❖ Girls, but not boys, with a combined preference for fat and sweet had an especially high probability of being overweight or obese.

## Boys and girls differ... in certain dietary patterns



**Boys and older adolescents** consumed the most amount of per capita total energy from **beverages**.

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#### Acceleration of BMI in Early Childhood and Risk of Sustained Obesity

Mandy Geserick, M.Sc., Mandy Vogel, Ph.D., Ruth Gausche, M.B.A., Tobias Lipek, M.D., Ulrike Spielau, M.Sc., Eberhard Keller, M.D., Roland Pfäffle, M.D., Wieland Kiess, M.D., and Antje Körner, M.D.

#### D Obesity at the Age of 0-14 Yr

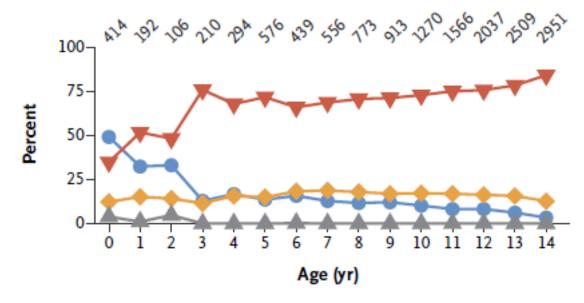


Figure 2. Prospective Tracking of BMI Status of Children into Adolescence.

#### CONCLUSIONS

Among obese adolescents, the most rapid weight gain had occurred between 2 and 6 years of age; most children who were obese at that age were obese in adolescence.

## Effective treatment of children and adolescents can be defined in various ways...

Goals must be



### There is no standard definition of effectiveness

Reduction in anthropometric measures (BMI/BMI-SDS, waist cirumference, fat mass)

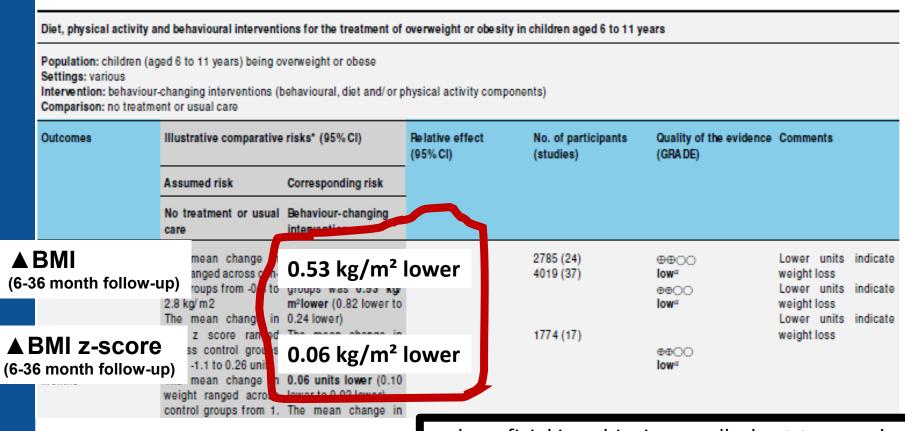
Chance in weight gain trajectory

Improvement in obesity-associated complications

Reduction in markers of risk of future complications

14

#### Diet, physical activity and behavioural interventions for the treatment of overweight or obese children from the age of 6 to 11 years (Review)



"...beneficial in achieving small, short-term reductions in BMI, BMI z-score..."

Mead E, Brown T, Rees K, Azevedo LB, Whittaker V, Jones D, Olajide J, Mainardi GM, Corpeleijn E, O'Malley C, Beardsmore E, Al-Khudairy L,

 $Diet, physical\ activity\ and\ behaviour al\ interventions\ for\ the\ treatment\ of\ overweight\ or\ obese\ children\ from\ the\ age\ of\ 6\ to\ 11\ years.$ 

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2017, Issue 6. Art. No.: CD012651.

DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD012651.

Diet, physical activity, and behavioural interventions for the treatment of overweight or obesity in preschool children up to the age of 6 years (Review)

# Preschool intervention ~7 times more effective than in children aged 6-11 years

## Broad principles of obesity treatment

- Assess and manage obesity-associated disorders
- Ensure a developmentally appropriate approach
- Support long-term behaviour change
- Dietary change
- Increased physical activity
- Decreased sedentary behaviour, including screen time
- Improved sleep
- Consider more intensive dietary interventions
- Consider pharmacotherapy
- Consider bariatric surgery

## **TEAM** approach





"individualized"

The main objective is a **permanent change** in the child's eating habits and lifestyle...

...rather than attaining rapid weight loss through low-calorie diets

### Dietary approach

A balanced and varied diet is recommended (LOE I-A)

- Low calorie diet is not effective in the medium/long term
- The educational process starts with the assessment of the child's and family's dietary habits,
- Food diary
  - <age 10-12: compiled by the parents</li>
  - >age 10-12: compiled by the child/adolescent together with the parents and evaluated by dietary expert

## Dietary advice

- 5 meals a day (3 meals and no more than 2 snacks) (LOE V-B)
- Adequate breakfast (LOE II-B)
- Avoid eating between meals (LOE III-B)
- Avoid high-energy and low nutrient density foods (eg. sweetened or energizing drinks, fruit juices, fast food, high-energy snack) (LOE III-B)
- Increase intake of fruit, vegetables and fiber rich cereals (LOE VI-A)
- Limit portions (LOE I-A)

### Efficacy of [different] dietary regimens



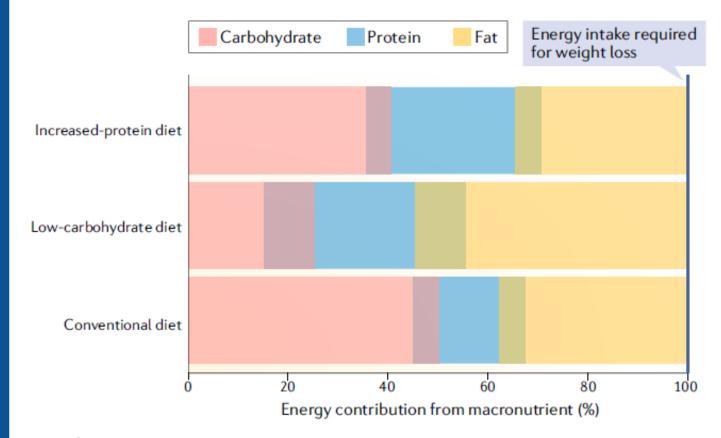


Fig. 3 | Macronutrient distribution of common diet interventions 39,42,43.

"no randomized controlled trials (RCTs) examining the effects of different diets on child's weight and body composition, regardless of potential confounders such as treatment intensity, behavioral or physical activity strategies"

## Very low caloric diet

most effective regimen in terms of weight loss

e.g. protein-sparing modified fast (600–800 kcal/day, protein 1.5–2 g/kg ideal weight, carbohydrates 20–25 g/day, multivitamins + minerals, water >2000 ml/day)

- The aim is to induce rapid weight loss (duration of this restrictive diet no longer than 10 weeks) followed by a less restrictive diet regimen balanced in macronutrients
- selected patients with severe obesity, under specialized close medical surveillance
- RCTs are not available to evaluate medium to long-term efficacy

## Traffic light and modified traffic light diets

#### Red foods Examples Eaten rarely Greater than 20 kcal of the Sweets Desserts average serving for foods Fast food within that food group High-fat meat or meat substitutes Yellow foods Eaten judiciously Examples Within 20 kcal of the average Full-fat milk serving for foods within that Whole-grain breads food group (i.e. fruit = 40 kcal and cereals and milk and dairy = 80 kcal) Green foods Eaten freely Examples Less than 20 kcal of the Fruits average serving within that Vegetables food group Legumes Low-fat milk Lean meat or meat substitutes

Reduced caloric intake
(1000–1500 kcal/day) is achieved
through categories of foods grouped
by nutrient density

Fig. 2 | **Traffic light diet categories**<sup>18,36,37,113</sup>. Foods are categorized according to high (top panel), moderate (middle panel) or low (bottom panel) caloric density. These categories are used to guide frequency of intake, with the aim to reduce overall calorie intake.

## Replacement meals

(drink, bar, soup,...as substitute for solid meal)

• ...are not recommended, since efficacy and safety have not been tested in children/adolescents.

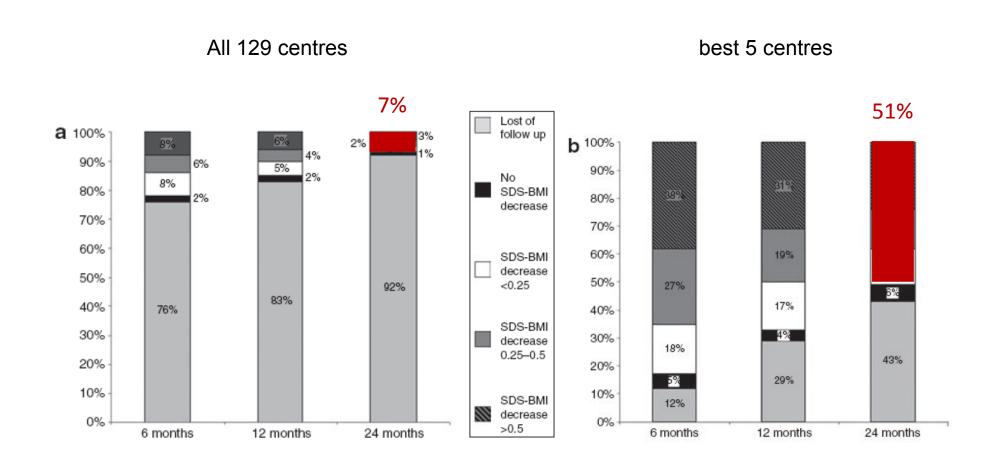
No significant effect has been demonstrated for diets with specific macronutrient composition and medium caloric content in children.

• In particular:

Hypocaloric diets with low glycemic index and low glycemic load

Although an effect on satiety is suggested, their superiority compared with other dietary approaches has not been proved over the medium term (LOE I-C).

## Obesity treatment outcome (BMI-SDS decrease) – real life situation (APV Registry Germany)



## Discussion – future perspectives

- Focus on preschool age
- Establish pan-European Guidelines on screening, diagnostics and mangament
- Implement multilayered treatment services from primary to tertiary care
- Implement WHO action plan



### Discussion – future perspectives

- Involve parents and adolescents in research and development of tools
- Adress children/adolescents adequately (eHealth applications)

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## TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO DAILY PRACTICE



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## Thank you!

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