

# Investigation of Whole Grain Wheat and Barley Intake Biomarkers

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# Acronyms

**GC-MS** Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry. 4

**LC-MS** Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry. 4





# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Preface



## Chapter 2

# Introduction

### 2.0.1 Whole Grain Cereals and Their Health Beneficial Effects

### 2.0.2 Food Intake Biomarkers

### 2.0.3 LC-MS Based Metabolomics

### 2.0.4 Biostatistics Strategy in Metabolomics Research

#### Comparisons between Univariable and Multivariable statistics

t-test has multiple testing problem. because when we do a t-test, normally we use a cutoff value of 0.05, it also means we take the risk of 5% probability that it's NOT significantly different, but classified as different. this is called multiple testing problem.

FALSE DISCOVERY problem in metabolomics.

how to overcome this problem? adjusted t-test, or reduce the cutoff to a reasonable value.

multivariable data analysis and univariable data analysis show different aspects of data. It is very common to observe analysis results are significant univariablely but not multivariablely, also, it is common to see that another way. This means uni-/multi- variable data analysis both have their limitations. that's why it is recommended that do both uni and multi variable data analysis for the same dataset.

However, how to integrate these analysis? are they chemically correlated? maybe one feature significant in univariable analysis is associated with another one in multivariable data analysis? Maybe, one way is to first merge all these results together. in addition, because based on current technology limitation, it's impossible to identify OR interpret all Metabolomics results, actually also time and resources. it actually exists priorities in identifying. better chance to identify, if they're correlated. meanwhile, if intensities are high.

## 2.0.5 Identification

### Level of Identification and communication confidence

Reporting level of identification together with identification results can enhance communication confidence. Identification is recognized by far the most difficult part of Metabolomics research, especially concerning novel compound or biomarker discovery.

In a single research project, not all structures or chemical information could be confirmed. Therefore, besides reporting chemical information (such as mass and structures), it is equally important to report the confidence of identification.

Five levels of confidence were proposed and applied extensively in xxx areas of LC-MS based compound identification[?].

## 2.0.6 Validation of the Biomarker

## 2.1 Materials and methods

### 2.1.1 A mini-systematic literature review of whole grain wheat and barley intake biomarkers

A systematic literature review of whole grain wheat and barley intake biomarkers was conducted. This will prioritize future work on the identification of new potential biomarkers and on validating them.

The mini-review referred '8-step' Biomarker of Food Intake Reviews (BFIRev) Guidelines [1].

### Designing the review for whole grain wheat and barley

The **objective** of this review is to identify and evaluate reported biomarkers for dietary assessment of whole grain wheat and barley.

### Searching for relevant BFI research paper

Keywords used for searing BFI barley in human: (barley) AND (biomarker\* OR marker\* OR metabolite\* OR biokinetics OR biotransformation OR pharmacokinetics) AND (intake OR meal OR diet OR ingestion OR consumption OR eating OR food) AND (human\* OR men OR women OR patient\* OR volunteer\* OR participant\*) AND (trial\* or experiment OR study) AND (urine OR plasma OR blood OR serum OR excretion OR hair OR toenail OR faeces OR faecal water)

Keywords used for searing BFI barley in animals: (barley) AND (biomarker\* OR marker\* OR metabolite\* OR biokinetics OR biotransformation OR pharmacokinetics) AND (intake OR meal OR diet OR ingestion OR consumption OR eating OR food) AND (animal\* OR goat OR sheep OR cow OR mice OR mouse\*) AND (trial\* or experiment OR study) AND (urine OR plasma OR blood OR serum OR excretion OR hair OR toenail OR faeces OR faecal water)

Keywords used for searing BFI wheat in human: (wheat) AND (biomarker\* OR marker\* OR metabolite\* OR biokinetics OR biotransformation OR pharmacokinetics) AND (intake OR meal OR diet OR ingestion OR consumption OR eating OR food) AND (human\* OR men OR women OR patient\* OR volunteer\* OR participant\*) AND (trial\* or experiment OR study) AND (urine OR plasma OR blood OR serum OR excretion OR hair OR toenail OR faeces OR faecal water) since 2008

### **Selecting and screening papers for quality and relevance**

The title and abstract were readed in order to remove irrelevant literatures.

### **Selection of candidate BFIs and data collection from the included records**

### **Assessing quality of included papers on candidate BFIs**

### **Evaluating the current overall status of BFIs for the food in question**

### **Presenting data and results**

### **Interpretation and conclusion**

#### **2.1.2 Software**

Several software packages were used for different purposes.

MATLAB R2018a (9.4.0.813654) coupled with PLS toolbox was used for data processing, modeling.

MZmine 2.31, an open source data processing software for LC-MS and GC-MS.

MassLynx was used to check mass spectra.

DataBridge, an LC-MS data file conversion program built-in MassLynx developed by Waters.

XCMS Online was used for uni-variable data analysis.

#### **2.1.3 Data-preprocessing**

Data-preprocessing consists x steps.

First, data format was converted by DataBridge from '.raw' to '.cdf'. '.raw' was the format directly generated by Waters analytical platform. In order to be readable by MZmine, data was converted<sup>1</sup>.

Then, the data was preprocessed by MZmine (2.31) following the steps: peak detection, deisotoping, alignment and gap filling.

Positive mode and negative mode were separately processed because of different noise level and in-source reaction. Blank samples were also excluded in pre-processing.

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<sup>1</sup>N.B. Although in MZmine manual, '.raw' file is described as a compatible format, in practice some weird errors were generated when '.raw' format was input into MZmine.

In the end, the detected features, including information of mass to charge ratio ( $m/z$ ), retention time ( $rt$ ) and intensities were output as '.csv' files for further investigation.

### 2.1.4 Statistics

#### Paired t test

Paired-t test and unpaired-t test were conducted on XCMS Online (xcmsonline.scripps.edu).

### 2.1.5 PCA

PCA was used for quality control and outlier detection.

### 2.1.6 PLSDA modeling

PLSDA modeling was used to select variables that have significant differences.

### 2.1.7 Literature search

using qian's article as a reference

## 2.2 Results

### 2.2.1 Mini-systematic literature review of whole grain wheat and barley intake biomarkers

Type of WG	No. subjects	Sample type	Analytical method	Enzymatic hydrolysis	
WG wheat and rye	40	24-h spot urine			I

### 2.2.2 Unpaired t-test of Negative Mode Urine Samples

$h_i - h_i$  |

### 2.2.3 PLSDA modelling to select variables of plasma samples

For serum data, plsda modelling can not select any significant features to distinguish after wheat and after barley intervention groups.

Possible reasons could be: \* because plasma samples were fasting plasma samples. Metabolites were already excreted.

#### **2.2.4 Alkylresorcinol metabolites in plasma and urine samples**

Three alkylresorcinols metabolites were detected.

### **2.3 Conclusions**

Limitation of LC-MS based metabolomics BFIs discovery: (1) instruments and their maintainance plus the analytical method development and optimization are expensive. (2) it always involves clinical or human trail. it is expensive, time and energy consuming (3) knowledge of researchers: chemistry, food science, nutritional science, human physiology, data analysis and programming is needed.

Metabolites are fluctuating.

## 2.4 Appendix

### 2.4.1 Flow chart for systematic BFIs of wheat and barley literature search

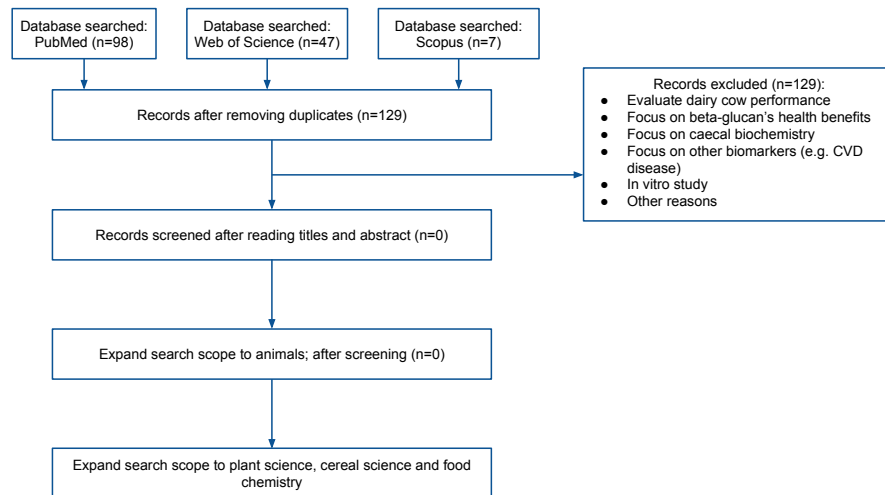


Figure 2.1: Flow chart of literature searching and screening for articles of barley intake biomarkers



## Chapter 3

# A Mini-review on Biomarkers of Whole Grain Barley and Whole Grain Wheat Intake



## Chapter 4

# Discovering Novel Intake Biomarkers of Whole Grain Wheat by LC-MS Based Untargeted Metabolomics