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**UNIVERSIDADE ESTADUAL PAULISTA “JÚLIO DE
MESQUITA FILHO”
FACULDADE DE MEDICINA**

Thiago Luiz Novaga Palacio

**Identificação *in situ* de produtos do metabolismo muscular
de ratos em resposta a modelo de dieta ocidental suple-
mentada com Gama-orizanol**

Dissertação apresentada à Faculdade de Medicina,
Universidade Estadual Paulista “Júlio de Mesquita
Filho”, Câmpus de Botucatu, para obtenção do título
de Mestre em Patologia.

Orientadora: Profa. Dra. Camila Renata Corrêa Camacho

**Botucatu
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ATA DA DEFESA PÚBLICA DA DISSERTAÇÃO DE MESTRADO DE THIAGO LUIZ NOVAGA PALACIO, DISCENTE DO PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM PATOLOGIA, DA FACULDADE DE MEDICINA - CÂMPUS DE BOTUCATU.

Aos 27 dias do mês de fevereiro do ano de 2025, às 8h, no(a) Sala de Informática (Bloco V) - Unipex - FM/Botucatu - Unesp, realizou-se a defesa de DISSERTAÇÃO DE MESTRADO de THIAGO LUIZ NOVAGA PALACIO, intitulada **Identificação in situ de produtos do metabolismo muscular de ratos em resposta a modelo de dieta ocidental suplementada com Gama-orizanol**. A Comissão Examinadora foi constituída pelos seguintes membros: Profa. Dra. CAMILA RENATA CORREA CAMACHO (Orientador(a) - Participação Presencial) do(a) Unidade de Pesquisa Experimental (UNIPEX) / FM/Botucatu - Unesp, Profa. Dra. MARINA POLITI OKOSHI (Participação Presencial) do(a) Depto. de Clínica Médica / FM/Botucatu - Unesp, Profa. Dra. FRANCIS LOPES PACAGNELLI (Participação Presencial) do(a) Universidade do Oeste Paulista - Presidente Prudente/SP. Após a exposição pelo mestrando e arguição pelos membros da Comissão Examinadora que participaram do ato, de forma presencial e/ou virtual, o discente recebeu o conceito final: APROVADO. Nada mais havendo, foi lavrada a presente ata, que após lida e aprovada, foi assinada pelo(a) Presidente(a) da Comissão Examinadora.



Profa. Dra. CAMILA RENATA CORREA CAMACHO

Impacto potencial desta pesquisa

Título da Dissertação: Identificação *in situ* de produtos do metabolismo muscular de ratos em resposta a modelo de dieta ocidental suplementada com Gama-orizanol

Impacto científico esperado: Aplicação de ferramentas de medicina de precisão para a identificação dos mecanismos incitados pelo tratamento com o Gama-orizanol, nas disfunções musculares induzidas pela obesidade relacionada ao consumo de dieta ocidental, impactando de forma importante o desenvolvimento de terapias alvo com esse composto bioativo.

Impacto social: Esta pesquisa irá auxiliar no desenvolvimento de terapias alvo com compostos bioativos em indivíduos com obesidade induzida por dieta ocidental. Essa contribuição se insere no objetivo de desenvolvimento sustentável relacionado a saúde e bem-estar da vida Humana.

Impacto econômico: Por ser uma medida terapêutica de baixo custo e inserção facilitada na rotina alimentar, o Gama-orizanol apresenta potencial de implantação nas terapias dietéticas relacionadas à obesidade e suas consequentes disfunções musculares.

Potential impact of this research

Dissertation Title: In *situ* identification of muscular metabolism products of rats in response to a Western diet model supplemented with Gamma-oryzanol

Expected scientific impact: Application of precision medicine methods for the identification of the mechanisms incited by treatment with the Gamma-oryzanol in obesity-induced muscular dysfunctions related to the consumption of Western diet, significantly impacting the development of targeted therapies with this bioactive compound.

Social impact: This research will enable the development of targeted therapies with bioactive compounds in obese populations with Western diet-induced obesity. This contribution is part of the sustainable development goal related to the health and well-being of human life.

Economic impact: As it is a low-cost therapeutic measure with facilitated insertion into the eating routine, Gamma-oryzanol has potential for implementation in dietary therapies related to obesity and its consequent muscle dysfunctions.

Dedicatória

Este trabalho é dedicado aos meus pais, Silvia Helena e Vagner Baqueta, que sempre foram o meu principal estímulo. Agradeço a vocês, que me ensinaram os princípios da determinação, honestidade e amor pelo que fazemos, sempre em busca da excelência, por terem transformado a minha vida.

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RESUMO

A obesidade é caracterizada pelo acúmulo excessivo de gordura corporal e representa um fardo econômico global. Estima-se que até 2044, 75% da população adulta brasileira será obesa. A obesogênese está relacionada ao consumo frequente de dietas ultraprocessadas com pobre aporte nutricional que promove distúrbios estruturais, funcionais, metabólicos e do estado RedOX/inflamatório na musculatura esquelética comprometendo sua função. As substâncias bioativas naturais presentes em alimentos *in natura* ou minimamente processados contribuem para a regulação de processos biológicos importantes em diferentes órgãos e tecidos e têm se destacado como uma forma segura de tratamento para doenças crônicas não transmissíveis (DCNT) e distúrbios musculares relacionados a dieta. O gama-orzanol (γ Oz) é um éster do ácido ferúlico considerado um dos antioxidantes naturais mais potentes. As propriedades antiobesidade, anti-inflamatória, antidiabética e hipolipêmica atribuídas a este fitosterol podem fornecer uma abordagem de alto custo-benefício no tratamento de distúrbios musculares relacionados à dieta. O objetivo deste trabalho foi verificar a capacidade terapêutica do γ Oz nas alterações do estado RedOX/inflamatório, do perfil lipídico e metabólico nos músculos com capacidade oxidativa (Sóleo) e glicolítica (Extensor longo dos dedos (EDL)) de ratos submetidos ao consumo de dieta ocidental. Ratos Wistar machos (n=24) foram distribuídos aleatoriamente em dois grupos para receberem, *ad libitum*, dieta controle (C, n=12) e dieta rica em açúcar e gordura acrescida de 25% de sacarose na água de beber (HSF, n=12) durante 20 semanas para indução da obesidade. Após esse período, os animais foram redistribuídos em 4 grupos, recebendo, *ad libitum*, dieta controle (C, n=6), dieta controle + γ Oz (C + γ Oz, n=6), dieta HSF (HSF, n=6) e dieta HSF + γ Oz (HSF + γ Oz, n=6) por 10 semanas. O γ Oz foi acrescido a 0,5% na ração. O consumo foi aferido diariamente para avaliação da ingestão calórica e o peso aferido semanalmente. Foram avaliados no fim do estudo o índice de adiposidade e níveis plasmáticos de glicose, triglicérides e insulina. A resistência à insulina foi calculada pelo índice HOMA-IR. No tecido muscular, foram aferidos os marcadores inflamatórios (TNF- α e IL-6), do estresse oxidativo (Malondialdeído, carbonilação de proteínas e enzimas antioxidantes) e a expressão relativa do transportador de glicose 4 (GLUT-4). Os metabolitos e a abundância relativa de lipídeos musculares foram identificados e quantificados através da Cromatografia Líquida de ultra alta eficiência acoplada à espectrometria de massas. Os animais que consumiram a dieta HSF apresentaram, em relação ao grupo controle, maior consumo calórico total, peso corporal, níveis de triglicérides, glicemia, insulina, resistência insulínica, desbalanço do estado RedOX/inflamatório e assinaturas lipidômicas e metabolômicas distintas através do modelo de análise discriminante de mínimos quadrados parciais (PLS-DA) em ambos os músculos. O γ Oz reduziu os níveis de triglicérides, insulina, resistência insulínica e melhorou o desbalanço do estado RedOX/inflamatório em ambos os músculos dos animais obesos. A fosfatidilcolina, fosfatidiletanolamina e os diacilgliceróis foram as principais classes de lipídios alteradas nos músculos Sóleo e EDL, enquanto os metabolitos 1-Metiladenosina, Citidina, Citosina, Guanina, Guanosina e inosina foram os principais influenciados nesses grupos musculares, apresentando respostas distintas ao γ Oz e fornecendo novas perspectivas quanto a futuros alvos terapêuticos desse composto nos tecidos musculares.

Palavras-chave: Adiposidade, doença muscular, biomarcadores, metabolômica, lipidômica.

ABSTRACT

Obesity is characterized by the excessive accumulation of body fat and represents a global economic burden. It is estimated that by 2044, 75% of the Brazilian adult population will be obese. Obesogenesis is related to the frequent consumption of ultra-processed diets with poor nutritional intake, which promotes structural, functional, metabolic and RedOX/inflammatory state disorders in the skeletal muscles, compromising their function. The natural bioactive substances present *in-natura* or minimally processed foods contribute to the regulation of important biological processes in different organs and tissues as a safe form of treatment for chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and diet-related muscle disorders. Gamma-oryzanol (γ Oz) is an ester of ferulic acid that is considered one of the most potent natural antioxidants. The anti-obesity, anti-inflammatory, antidiabetic, and hypolipidemic properties attributed to this phytosterol may provide a cost-effective approach in the treatment of diet-related muscle disorders. The aim of this study was to verify the therapeutic capacity of γ Oz in the RedOX/inflammatory state, lipid and metabolic profile alterations in the muscles with oxidative (Soleus) and glycolytic (extensor digitorum longus (EDL)) capacity of rats submitted to the consumption of Western diet. Male Wistar rats (n=24) were randomly distributed into two groups to receive, *ad libitum*, a control diet (C, n=12) and a high sugar-fat diet plus 25% sucrose in drinking water (HSF, n=12) for 20 weeks to induce obesity. After this period, the animals were redistributed into 4 groups, receiving, *ad libitum*, control diet (C, n=6), control diet + γ Oz (C + γ Oz, n=6), HSF diet (HSF, n=6) and HSF + γ Oz diet (HSF + γ Oz, n=6) for 10 weeks. γ Oz was added to 0.5% in the diet. Food consumption was measured daily to assess caloric intake, and weight was measured weekly. At the end of the study, the adiposity index and plasma levels of glucose, triglycerides and insulin were evaluated. Insulin resistance was calculated using the HOMA-IR index. In muscle tissue, inflammatory markers (TNF- α and IL-6), oxidative stress (malondialdehyde, protein carbonylation and antioxidant enzymes) and relative expression of glucose transporter 4 (GLUT-4) were measured. The metabolites and the relative abundance of muscle lipids were identified and quantified by ultra-high performance liquid chromatography coupled to mass spectrometry. The animals that consumed the HSF diet presented, in relation to the control group, higher total caloric intake, body weight, triglyceride levels, glycemia, insulin, insulin resistance, imbalance of the RedOX/inflammatory state and distinct lipidomic and metabolomic signatures through the discriminant partial least squares analysis (PLS-DA) model in both muscles. γ Oz reduced triglyceride levels, insulin, insulin resistance and improved the imbalance of the RedOX/inflammatory state in both muscles of obese animals. Phosphatidylcholine, phosphatidylethanolamine and diacylglycerols were the main classes of lipids altered in the Soleus and EDL muscles, while the metabolites 1-Methyladenosine, Cytidine, Cytosine, Guanine, Guanosine and inosine have been altered in these muscle groups, presenting distinct responses to γ Oz and providing new perspectives regarding future therapeutic targets of this compound in muscle tissues.

Keywords: Adiposity, muscular disease, biomarkers, metabolomics, lipidomics.

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LISTA DE ABREVIATURAS

ACC	<i>Acetyl-CoA Carboxylase</i>
ACN	<i>Acetonitrile</i>
AKT	<i>Protein Kinase</i>
AMPK	<i>AMP-Activated Protein Kinase</i>
ASG	<i>Acyl Sterol Glycosides</i>
ATP	<i>Adenosine triphosphate</i>
BAT	<i>Brown adipose tissue</i>
Bcl-3	<i>B cell lymphoma 3</i>
CAR	<i>Acylcarnitine</i>
CAT	<i>Catalase</i>
COX-2	<i>Cyclooxygenase-2</i>
CTRL	<i>Control</i>
DG	<i>Diacylglycerol</i>
DGAT1	<i>Diacylglycerol acyltransferase 1</i>
EDL	<i>Extensor Digitorum Longus</i>
EGCG	<i>Epigallocatechin 3-gallate</i>
ELISA	<i>Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay</i>
ER	<i>Endoplasmic reticulum</i>
ES	<i>Sarcoplasmic reticulum</i>
Ffar4	<i>Free Fat Acid Receptor-4</i>
FOXO1	<i>Forkhead Box O1</i>
GLUT-4	<i>Glucose Transporter-4</i>
H ₂ O	<i>water</i>
HMDB	<i>Human metabolome database</i>
HOMA-IR	<i>Homeostatic model assessment for insulin resistance</i>
HSF	<i>High sugar-fat</i>
IGF1	<i>Insulin-like growth factor-1</i>
I κ B- α	<i>kappa-B inhibitor alpha</i>
IL	<i>Interleukin</i>
IL-1B	<i>Interleukin-1β</i>
i-PrOH	<i>Isopropanol</i>
IRAP	<i>Insulin-responsive amino peptidase</i>
IRS-1	<i>Insulin Receptor Substrate-1</i>
LKB-1	<i>Serine–threonine liver kinase B1</i>

LPC	<i>Lysophosphatidylcholine</i>
MAFbx	<i>Muscle Atrophy F-box gene</i>
MAPK	<i>Mitogen-activated protein kinase</i>
MCP-1	<i>Monocyte chemoattractant protein-1</i>
MDA	<i>Malondialdehyde</i>
miR-206	<i>Micro RNA-206</i>
MTBE	<i>Methyl tert-butyl ether</i>
Munc-18	<i>Mammalian uncoordinated-18</i>
MuRF1	<i>Muscle RING-finger protein-1</i>
MyHC	<i>Myosin heavy chain isoforms</i>
NAE	<i>N-acylethanolamine</i>
NAFLD	<i>Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease</i>
NCCDs	<i>Non-communicable chronic diseases</i>
NFκ-B	<i>Nuclear Factor-Kappa-β</i>
NRF-1	<i>Nuclear Respiratory Factor-1</i>
NRF-2	<i>Nuclear factor erythroid 2–related factor 2</i>
ORY	<i>Gamma-oryzanol</i>
PAI-1	<i>Serine protease inhibitor</i>
PC	<i>Phosphatidylcholine</i>
PE	<i>Phosphatidylethanolamine</i>
PG	<i>Phosphatidyl-glycerol</i>
PGC-1α	<i>Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptor Alpha</i>
PI	<i>Phosphatidylinositol</i>
PI3K	<i>Phosphatidylinositol-3 kinase</i>
PKA	<i>Protein kinase A</i>
PLS-DA	<i>Partial Least Squares Discriminant Analysis</i>
PPAR-γ	<i>Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma</i>
PS	<i>Phosphatidylserine</i>
PUFA	<i>Polyunsaturated fatty acids</i>
QC	<i>Quality control</i>
RAB	<i>Ras-associated binding</i>
RAGE/AGE	<i>Receptor for advanced glycation end products</i>
ROS	<i>Reactive Oxygen Species</i>
SCD	<i>Stearoyl-CoA Desaturase</i>
SIRT	<i>Sirtuin</i>
SM	<i>Sphingomyelin</i>
SOD	<i>Superoxide dismutase</i>
TFAM	<i>Mitochondrial Transcription Factor</i>
TLR	<i>Toll-Like Receptor</i>
TNF-α	<i>Tumoral Necrosis Factor Alpha</i>
VIP	<i>Variable Importance Projection</i>
WAT	<i>White Adipose Tissue</i>
WHO	<i>World Health Organization</i>
γOz	<i>Gamma-oryzanol</i>

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Capítulo 1 – Revisão de Literatura

1. Background

1.1. *Obesity and skeletal muscle dietary-related disorders*

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), in 2022, 2.5 billion adults were overweight, and more than 890 million adults were diagnosed with obesity, reflecting more than twofold increase in the global prevalence of these diseases between 1990 and 2022. Additionally, it was estimated that 37 million children under the age of 5 and over 390 million children and adolescents aged 5 to 19 years were estimated to be overweight(1,2).

The excess of macronutrients and energy intake from the chronic consumption of western diets, rich in simple sugars and saturated fats, contributes to the development of obesity. This condition is associated with processes of hypertrophy, hyperplasia, hypoxia, and necrosis of the adipose tissue, leading to macrophage infiltration, and a pro-inflammatory scenario marked by elevated levels of Tumoral Necrosis Factor Alpha (TNF- α) and interleukin 6 (IL-6). These changes are accompanied by an increase in Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) and an impairment on RedOx state balance in response to the White Adipose Tissue (WAT) endothelial and microvascular dysfunction(3). This chronic pro-inflammatory and pro-oxidant condition established in the WAT can become systemic, affecting several organs and tissues, including skeletal muscle (Figure 1)(3).

Voluntary muscle is an important predictor of longevity and functional capacity, responsible for vital functions as locomotion, respiration and the conversion of chemical energy into mechanical energy(4,5). Constituting 40-50% of the total body mass in healthy eutrophic individuals, it performs both postural, fast and powerful contractions respectively observed in oxidative Soleus and glycolytic Extensor digitorum longus (EDL) muscles(4,6).

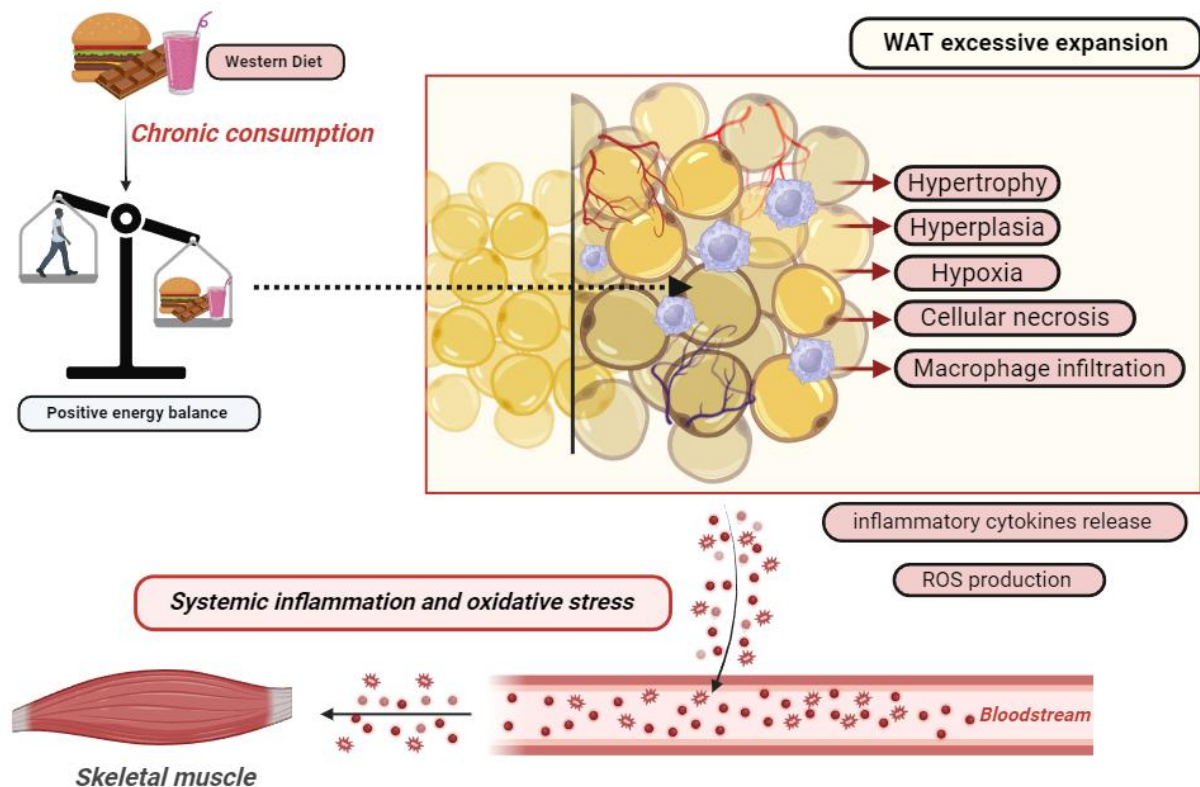


Figure 1. Obesity development. The chronic consumption of the western diet promotes the excessive expansion of the white adipose tissue characterized by the hypertrophy, hyperplasia, hypoxia, cell necrosis and macrophage infiltration process, leading to a systemic inflammatory and oxidative stress condition, affecting the skeletal muscle. Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS), White Adipose Tissue (WAT). Created with BioRender.com. Elaborated by the author.

Overweight and obesity conditions exert multiple effects on muscular tissue, including reduced insulin uptake, impaired phosphorylation of Insulin Receptor Substrate-1 (IRS-1) and reduced translocation of Glucose Transporter-4 (GLUT-4). These alterations contribute to hyperglycaemia, accompanied by ectopic fat deposition on the musculature, with intramuscular lipids stored as triacylglycerol within lipid droplets. This is associated with increased concentrations of lipotoxic intermediates, such as diacylglycerol and ceramides(7).

Insulin resistance and lipotoxicity reduce the primordial skeletal muscle functions including cellular respiration, adenosine triphosphate (ATP) production and β -oxidation of lipids. They also promote mitochondrial fragmentation, elevated ROS levels, and increased inflammatory cytokines IL-6, IL-8, IL-15, and TNF- α through the transcription of the pro-inflammatory factors Toll-Like Receptor 4 (TLR4) and Nuclear Factor-Kappa-B (NFk-B). Additionally, the reduction of AMP activated protein kinase alpha (AMPK- α), which regulates the myogenesis through microRNA-206 (miR-206) and its target cyclin D1, is associated with the depletion of the proliferation of muscle stem cells in the muscular regeneration processes (Figure 2)(7–16).

In addition, exposure to Western diets is also capable of altering several important markers that contribute to metabolic and energy disorder of skeletal muscles in obese individuals(17). Through the application of omics techniques, evidence suggests that the composition of lipids and amino acids in the skeletal muscles of healthy and obese individuals present clear differences regarding the anaplerosis capacity of the citric acid cycle and energy production, as well as disturbances in membrane phospholipids, capable of compromising the activity of endoplasmic and sarcoplasmic reticulum, Intensifying metabolic disorders(17,18).

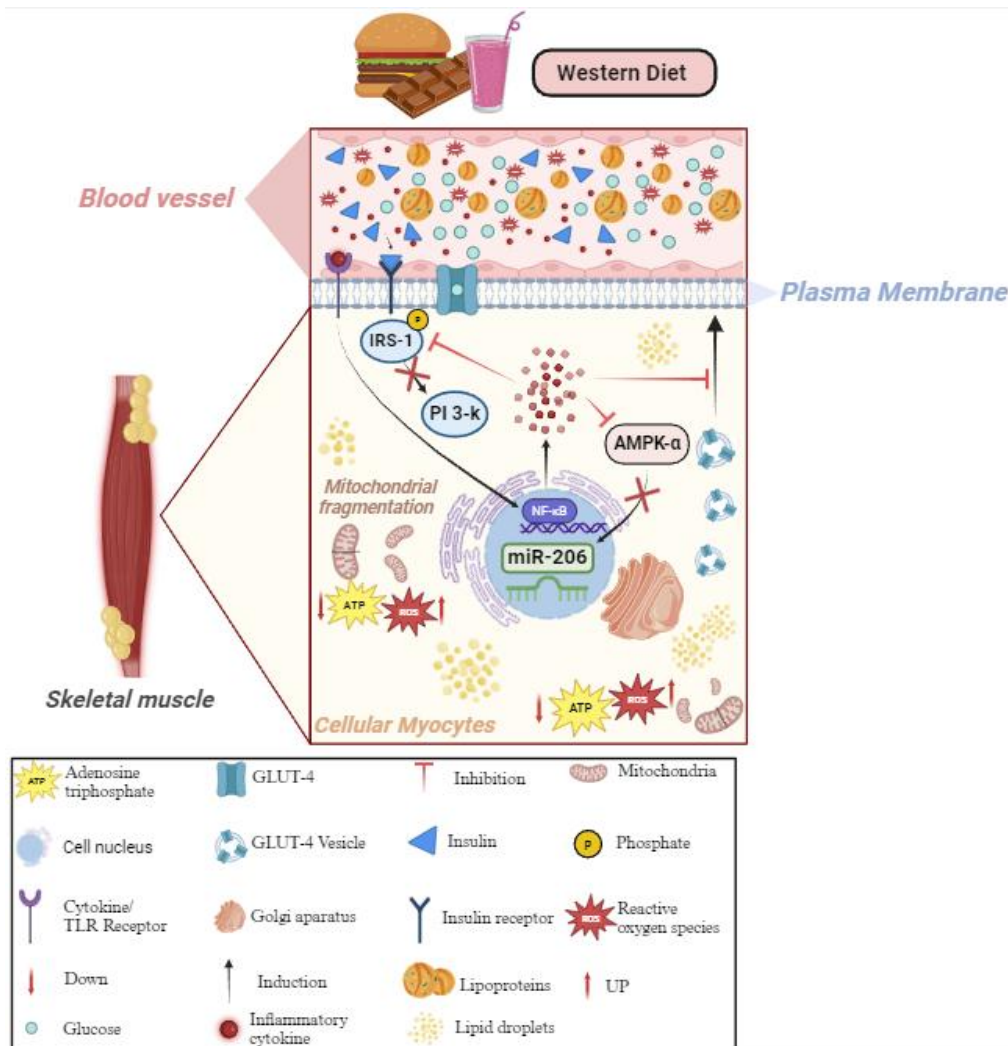


Figure 2. Skeletal muscle impairment. The RedOx/inflammatory state imbalance induces the insulin resistance and ectopic fat accumulation, affecting primordial functions such as mitochondrial energy production and β -oxidation, phosphorylation of the Insulin Receptor-1, translocation of the Glucose transporters type 4 and the myogenesis capacity. Insulin Receptor Substrate (IRS-1), phosphatidylinositol-3 kinase (PI3-K), AMP activated alpha (AMPK- α), Nuclear Factor-Kappa- β (NF- κ B), Micro RNA-206 (miR-206). Created with BioRender.com. Elaborated by the author.

Western diets consumption, associated with excessive weight, leads to diminished muscle function, quality, and mass, increases the incidence risk of several metabolic comorbidities, and reduces the quality and life prospect of affected individuals(19). The investigation of therapeutic strategies involving natural foods has

4. Final Considerations and Conclusion

This review has highlighted the beneficial effects of natural compounds on dietary-related skeletal muscle dysfunction. The evidence reviewed demonstrates that various bioactive compounds derived from natural sources, such as polyphenols, flavonoids, and other plant-derived substances, can positively influence muscle health by mitigating inflammation, oxidative stress, and metabolic disturbances. The potential of γ Oz intervention as a preventive and therapeutic approach in obesity-induced dysfunctions in various organs and tissues enhancing overall metabolic balance is remarkable. On the other hand, science is just beginning to elucidate how γ Oz can revolutionize the treatment of dietary-related muscular disorders resulting from Western diets, thus pioneering investigations are needed in this mostly unexplored field.

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related to total energy homeostasis^{58,59}. Kotzbeck et.al. (2018) explained that in obesity, the metabolic and secretory function of brown adipose tissue is declined and the tissue undergoes bleaching, contributing to the intensification of the disease, insulin resistance, hyperglycemia, leptin resistance, and the obesity typical inflammatory status⁶⁰. These findings support the reduced levels of Inosine in the EDL muscle of the HSF group compared to the control group. The animals treated with ORY also demonstrated reduced levels of Inosine, which can be explained by the persistent obesity and constant adiposity index of the animals throughout the experiment.

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