



# Very Low Calorie Ketogenic Diet (VLCKD) Becomes Further Advantageous on Addition of Medium -Chain Fatty Acids Prior to VLCKD Initiation for Obesity Treatment-A Short Communication

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## Abstract

Having reviewed the role of different antiobesity agents, bariatric surgery, role of GM in obesity, type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM), role of Probiotics in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) along with other co-morbidities of obesity along with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) for obesity therapy recent again shift has come towards dietary perspectives like use of Mediterranean diet (MD) diet, very low calorie ketogenic diet (VLCKD) in therapy of obesity as well as alterations in gut microbiota (GM) subsequent to VLCKD. Here we further add how VLCKD might be made more efficacious strategy for attaining weight reduction. With recent emerging insight on how VLCKD's are efficacious in obesity is by emphasizing the part of medium -chain FA's (MCT's). Here further emphasis is laid on how utilization of MCT's prior to initiating VLCKD active phase was much more efficacious (equivalent to 7-8kg weight reduction) in contrast to MCT's supplementation at the time of VLCKD beginning (with practically negligible body weight reduction (-0.5 to -0.7kg) as well as Waist Circumference (WC)-1.5-1.8cm). Two times reduction in fat mass as well as escalated muscle mass was found in the VLCKD + early MCT's group in contrast to control group is. Therefore, as much as 8kg can be lost by using this therapy holding lot of promise.

**Keywords:** Obesity; Low Calorie Ketogenic Diet (VLCKD); MCT's Supplementation Prior to Initiating VLCKD Active Phase; Weight Reduction

## Abbreviations

T2DM: Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus; CAD: Coronary Artery Disease; CVD: Cardiovascular Disease; QOL: Quality of Life; NCD: Non-Communicable Diseases; QOL: Quality of Life; IR: Insulin Resistance; VLCKD: Very Low-Calorie Ketogenic Diet; IR: Insulin Resistance; FA: Fatty Acid; AP: Adipose Tissue; GIT: Gastrointestinal Tract; IMM: Inner Mitochondrial

Membrane; GPR 84: G- Protein Coupled Receptor; CRP: C Reactive Protein; GM: Gut Microbiota.

## Introduction

Obesity has been acknowledged to be a chronic disease which gets correlated with plethora of comorbidities for instance Type 2 Diabetes mellitus (T2DM), hypertension,

dyslipidemia), cardiovascular disease (CVD) inclusive of coronary artery disease (CAD) as well as stroke)ii)sleep abnormalities along with cancer [1]. Such comorbidities alias non-communicable diseases (NCD)-diminish the quality of life (QOL) in addition to longevity with escalated public health expenditure [1,2].

Despite numerous approaches have been generated for achieving weight reduction, obesity tendencies are drastically escalating specifically in young adults in addition are middle income countries [3]. Apart from lifestyle factors, physical exercise, cigarette smoking, alcohol consumption, diet has further been believed to be a risk factor for Obesity in addition to NCD [4], whose modification is substantially plausible.

Out of the dietary strategies very low-calorie ketogenic diet (VLCKD) has been observed to be the maximum efficacious strategy for attaining weight reduction [5]. Additionally, it has been illustrated to diminish inflammation along with insulin resistance (IR), that portray 2 of the major initiating factors for NCD generation [6].

VLCKD gets comprised of a multistep protocol that has three major stages: i) active phase ii) dietary re-education in addition to its iii) sustenance [7]. The active stage represents the maximum significant stage of VLCKD in view of it aids in attaining of 80% of the target weight reduction with a time period of 30 of 45 days based on personalized reactions. pacey weight reduction subsequent to considerable limitation of energy ingestion (600-800kcal/day as well as a sustenance of nutritional ketosis [7].

Nutritional ketosis takes place subsequent to full consumption of carbohydrate restricted (mostly <50gdaily) due to which escalation of fatty acid (FA's) oxidation takes place in the adipose tissue (AP) with the idea of energy generation [8]. Actually, acetylcoenzyme A CoA, the precursor of the ketone bodies inclusive of acetoacetate, ii)  $\beta$ hydroxy butyrate iii) acetone get utilized in the form of alternate resource of energy for a variety of tissues. Intriguingly, just FA's that possess the carbon chain length  $\leq 8$  possess the capacity of crossing the inner mitochondrial membrane (IMM), sovereign of carnitine palmoyl acetyltransferase I enzymes [9]. In reference to this FA's C8 (caprylic acid) might possess greater robust ketogenic actions in comparison to C10 (capric acid) in addition to C12 (lauric acid) [10]. Clinical proof illustrated that 20g of C8 generates a significantly greater robust ketogenic reactions actions in comparison to 10g of C8 [9]. Nevertheless, Norgren, et al. [11], displayed that for guaranteeing practically negligible inimical sequelae, C8 dosage has to be restricted to 15-20g/ consumption [11]. Triglycerides (TG) which possess medium -chain FA's (MCT's) - possess FA's with carbon back

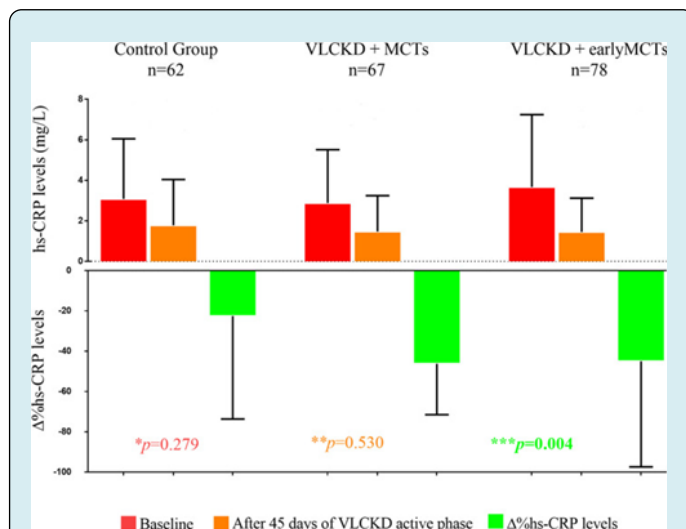
bone long-chain with 6-12carbon atoms associated with glycerol [12,13]. Subsequent to consumption of diet MCT's digestion take place by the intestinal lipases followed by absorption in the gut in the form of TG which possess long chain CoA fatty acids (LCTs>12 carbon atoms) [13]. Separate from LCTs, the FA's possessed by MCT's possess the capacity of binding albumin with the avoidance of generation of chylomicron. Thereby MCT's avoid the hydrolysis brought about by plasma lipoprotein lipases in addition to in the form of sequelae getting accumulated in the AT. This gets followed by MCT's directly gaining entry into the liver, where they might undergo metabolism by mitochondrial oxidation [14,15]. Nevertheless, separate from LCTs, there is no requirement of carnitine modulated transportation to mitochondria. Additionally, MCT's specifically C8 along with C10 possess the capacity of undergoing oxidation in the peroxisomes, thereby portraying a greater accessible energy resource in contrast to LCTs [15]. Different studies have illustrated that supplementation of MCT's escalate  $\beta$  hydroxy butyrate quantities in a dose-based association [8,16,17]. Sequentially, MCT's might support nutritional ketosis at the time of ketogenic diets [17]. Oxidation with a greater rapid metabolism in addition to lesser accrual in adipocytes MCT's might possess the capacity of significantly affecting energy equilibrium, facilitating weight reduction which is autonomous of dietary energy ingestion [18,19]. The mechanistic modes behind this continue to be uncharted in view of greater heterogeneity of studies accessible thus far. Certain studies have illustrated that MCT's might escalate thermogenesis as well as sequentially affecting energy expenditure. Additionally, substituting LCTs with MCT's was correlated with greater decreased AT in animal models in addition to humans [20,21]. Such actions might be modulated by the particular actions of G- protein coupled receptor (GPR 84) in the AT [20]. Furthermore, MCT's might escalate the sensation of satiety thereby restricting ingestion of food whereas facilitating regulation of body weight [21-24]. Actually, ketonemia possess the capacity of anorexia generating actions at the level of the hypothalamus [22,23]. Moreover, certain studies have pointed that MCT's possess the capacity of the liberation of certain hormones of the gastrointestinal Tract (GIT) implicated in the sensation of hunger/ (Ghrelin as well as peptide YY respectively) [22,24].

Clarification was not there if utilization of MCT's might escalate the acute ketogenic reactions. However, a 30day clinical trial displayed that ingestion of caprylic acid (C8-6g twice daily) escalated  $\beta$ hydroxy butyrate plasma quantities from 0.1mmol/L to 0.2mmol/L [25].

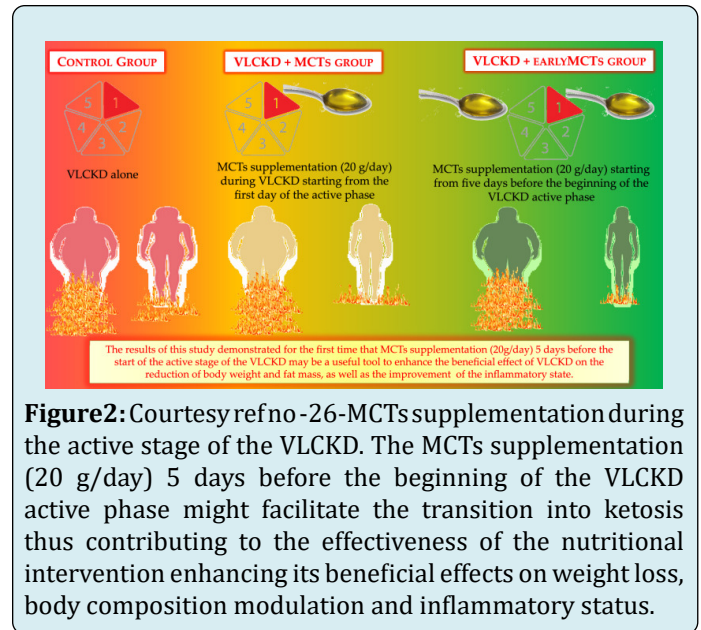
Recently Vertrani, et al. [26], from the group of Muscogiuri G performed a retrospective study for evaluation of actions of MCT's supplementation in overweight /obese subjects going through VLCKD diet or lone VLCKD diet. At the time of weight

reduction using VLCKD diet. They assessed 263 overweight / obese females (with body mass index (BMI)- $35.7 \pm 5.3 \text{ kg/m}^2$ ) with age  $37.5 \pm 14.2 \text{ yrs}$  with subsequent utilization of one of such three protocols; i) control group 83 enrolled (31.6%) VLCKD without MCT's supplementation ii) VLCKD + MCT's group 86 enrolled (32.7%) (MCT's supplementation 20g daily at the time of VLCKD beginning from the first day prior to initiating VLCKD active phase iii) VLCKD + early MCT's, 94 enrolled (35.7%) (MCT's supplementation beginning from the 5 days prior to initiating VLCKD active phase. Anthropometric estimates, body constitution as well as C Reactive Protein (CRP) were determined at the initiation in addition to the termination (45 days) of VLCKD.

Thus subsequent to MCT's supplementation associated with significant reduction in body weight, BMI in addition to WC in contrast to control group, with greater actions in the VLCKD + early MCT's group. Two times reduction in fat mass as well as escalated muscle mass was found in the VLCKD + early MCT's group in contrast to control group. In reference to inflammation hs CRP quantities (evaluated in the form of absolute proportion alteration) were significantly lesser in the VLCKD + MCT's group ( $p=0.009$ ) in addition to VLCKD + early MCT's group ( $p=0.011$ ) in contrast to control group. A logistic regression model illustrated that VLCKD + early MCT's group escalated the probability of enhancement of BMI classes (OR: 1.85, 95%CI 1.02-3.36) further subsequent to adjustment for the plausible influencing factors (Figures 1 & 2).



**Figure1:** Courtesy ref no -26-Changes in hs-CRP concentrations in the three study groups. One-way ANOVA and post hoc test for multiple comparisons (Bonferroni). A p-value in bold type denotes a significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ ). \* hs-CRP concentrations in the three groups at baseline. \*\* hs-CRP concentrations in the three groups after 45 days of VLCKD active phase. \*\*\* The absolute percent change of hs-CRP concentrations in the three groups.



**Figure2:** Courtesy refno-26-MCTs supplementation during the active stage of the VLCKD. The MCTs supplementation (20 g/day) 5 days before the beginning of the VLCKD active phase might facilitate the transition into ketosis thus contributing to the effectiveness of the nutritional intervention enhancing its beneficial effects on weight loss, body composition modulation and inflammatory status.

Thus the outcomes obtained by Vertrani, et al. [26], were in agreement with earlier studies which concentrated on MCT's supplementation at the time of energy restricted diets [18,19]. Actually, 2 meta-analysis [18,19], illustrated that isoenergetic substituting LCTs with MCT's at the time of energy restricted dietary intervention led to small decrease in body weight ( $-0.5$  to  $-0.7 \text{ kg}$ ) as well as WC ( $-1.5$ - $1.8 \text{ cm}$ ) in middle aged overweight /obese subjects. Nevertheless, once studies took into account which implicated VLCKD ( $<800 \text{ kcal}$  daily) with MCT's supplementation the average weight decrease was akin to that found in Vertrani, et al. [26], study (average  $-8 \text{ kg}$ ).

The way detailed previously metabolism of MCT's is different from that of LCTs, in view of MCT's possess the capacity of directly gaining entry into the liver, subsequent to intestinal absorption where they might undergo metabolism by mitochondrial oxidation as well as do not get stored [16]. Further, as detailed earlier, MCT's possessed the capacity of escalating thermogenesis in addition to diminished fat accumulation, thereby aiding in reduction in body weight [20].

Actually, Hill, et al. [27], illustrated that MCT's escalated thermogenesis by 50% subsequent to 6 days MCT's supplementation. Thereby such mechanistic modes might offer the reasoning of greater efficacy of reduction in body weight, which they found subsequent to initiating MCT's supplementation prior to VLCKD. Despite reduction in fat mass was found in both VLCKD as well as MCT's supplementation groups escalated muscle mass was found just in the VLCKD + early MCT's group in contrast to control group.

## Conclusion

In reference to mechanistic modes by which VLCKD utilization is done for the avoidance of comorbidities correlated with obesity, is reduction of systemic inflammation, in view of its antioxidant along with anti-inflammatory actions [28]. This is obtained by separate mechanistic modes for instance by hampering activation of nuclear factor- $\kappa$ B, light chain enhancer of activated B cells (NF $\kappa$ B), nucleotide-binding domain, leucine-rich-repeat containing family, pyrin domain-containing (NLRP3) inflammasome in addition to hampering histone deacetylases. Noticeably, maximum weight reduction was found in the VLCKD + early MCT's group in contrast to rest of groups, plausibly in view of over flow of KB's [29].

Having reviewed the role of different antiobesity agents, bariatric surgery, role of GM in obesity, T1D, role of Probiotics in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD along with other co-morbidities of obesity along with T2DM recent again shift has come towards dietary perspectives like use of MD diet, VLCKD in therapy of obesity as well as alterations in gut microbiota (GM) subsequent to VLCKD) [30-34]. Here it is displayed that MCT's supplementation prior to VLCKD is further helpful in attaining the goal.

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