



Canadian **VIGOUR** Centre  
Bridging Hearts and Minds



# Dietary trials in Heart Failure: SODIUM-HF

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# Disclosures / COI / RWI / RWA

- Available online: [thecvc.ca](http://thecvc.ca)
- PI of SODIUM-HF trial
- Not a dietician



# Salt'n'Pepe



\*There are no RCT involving pepper or Salt'n'Pepe for patients with HF

# What's the real issue with salt?

- Which population?
  - HTN, CAD, prevention, elderly, kids.....
  - PURE etc is all non-HF
- What dietary context?
  - Eating what, when, with whom, and how?
- Sodium measurement issues?
  - Spot urinary sodium vs diet intake
- What outcome?
  - BP vs. mortality

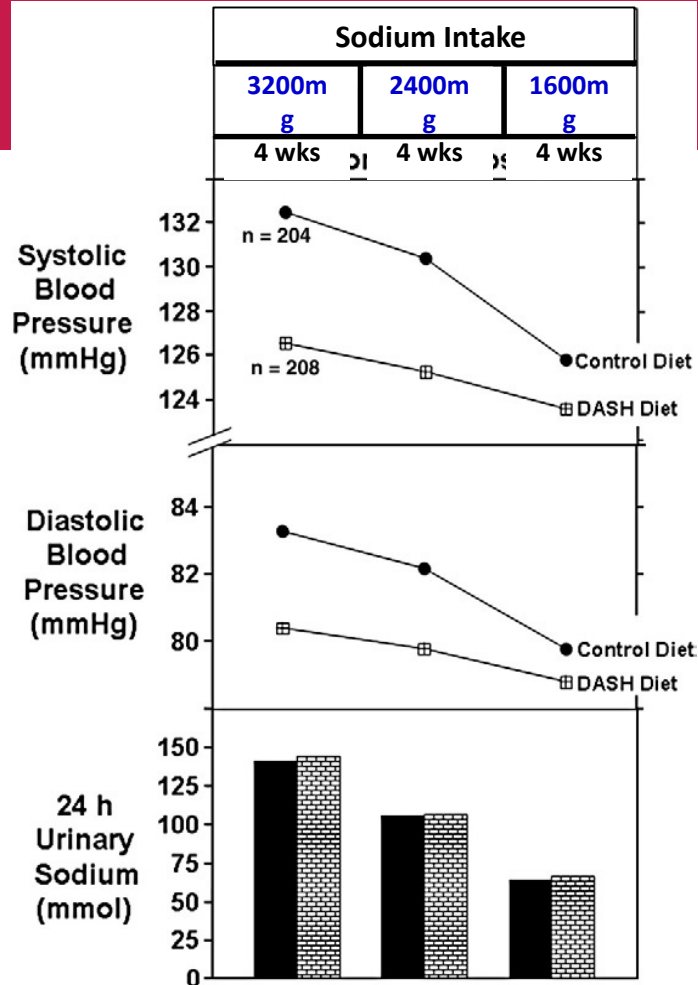


But where did this salt business all start?



Skipping 1800s till 1970s

# DASH Trial



~400 patients w/HTN  
Metabolic kitchen making all meals  
12 weeks total  
Surrogate outcomes

Sacks F et al. N Engl J Med. 2001; 334: 3-10  
Figure adapted from: He J and MacGregor  
GA. Prog in Cardiovasc Dis. 2010; 52:363-82

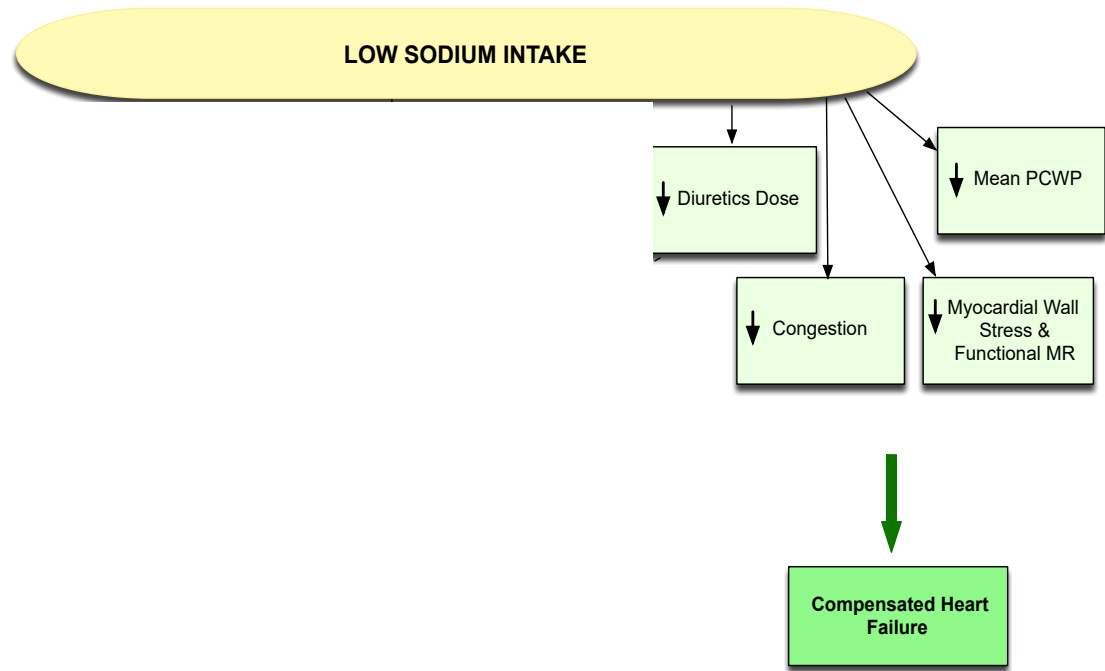


# Heart Failure and Sodium

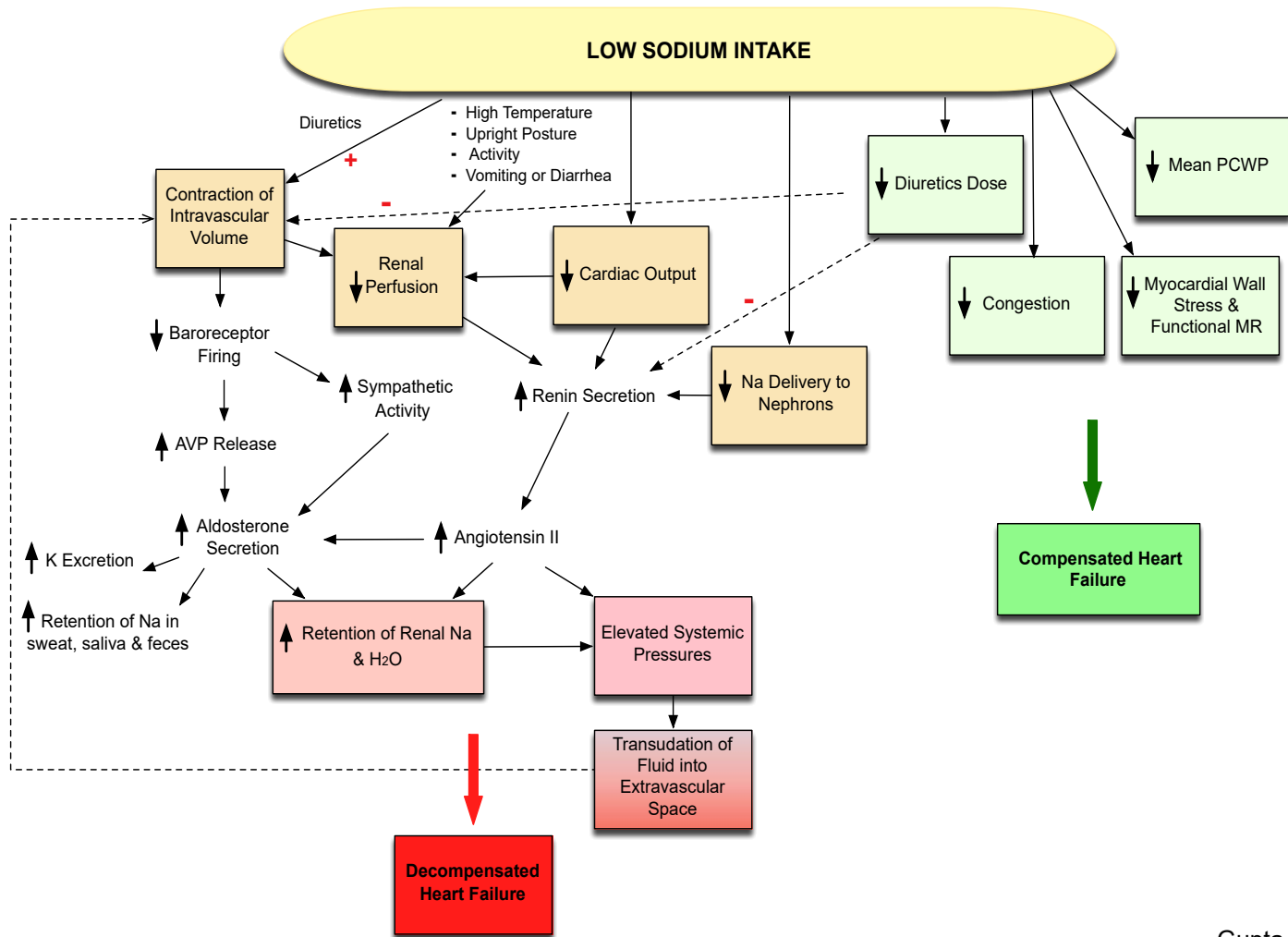
- Heart failure (HF) is associated with neurohormonal activation and abnormalities in autonomic control that lead to sodium and water retention
- Clinicians have focused on dietary sodium and water restriction to minimize the risk of volume overload
- Little evidence supports this practice



We spend +++time (\$) doing this – **VALUE?**







# Observational data



# Clinical question

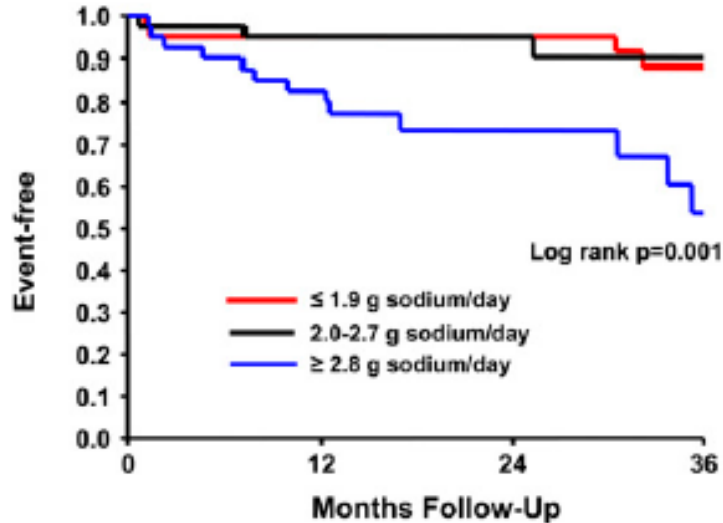
**Does advising a patient to lower the amount of sodium in their diet change the clinical outcome?**



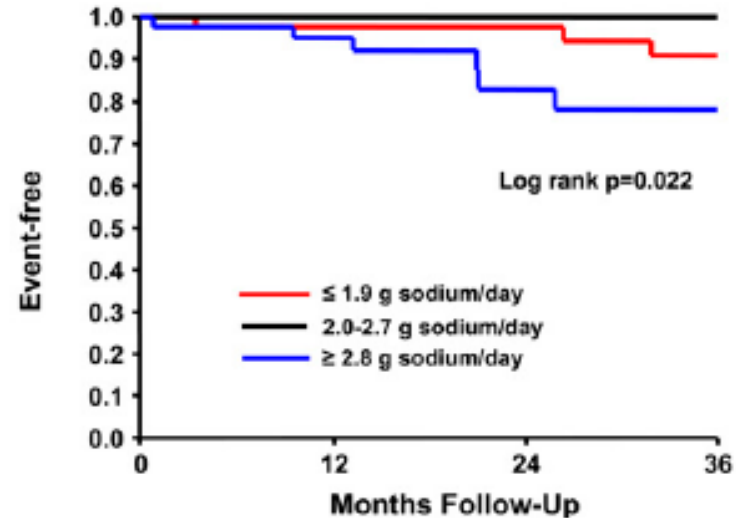
# Observational studies: HF

n= 123 patients with HF

HF Hospitalization



Mortality



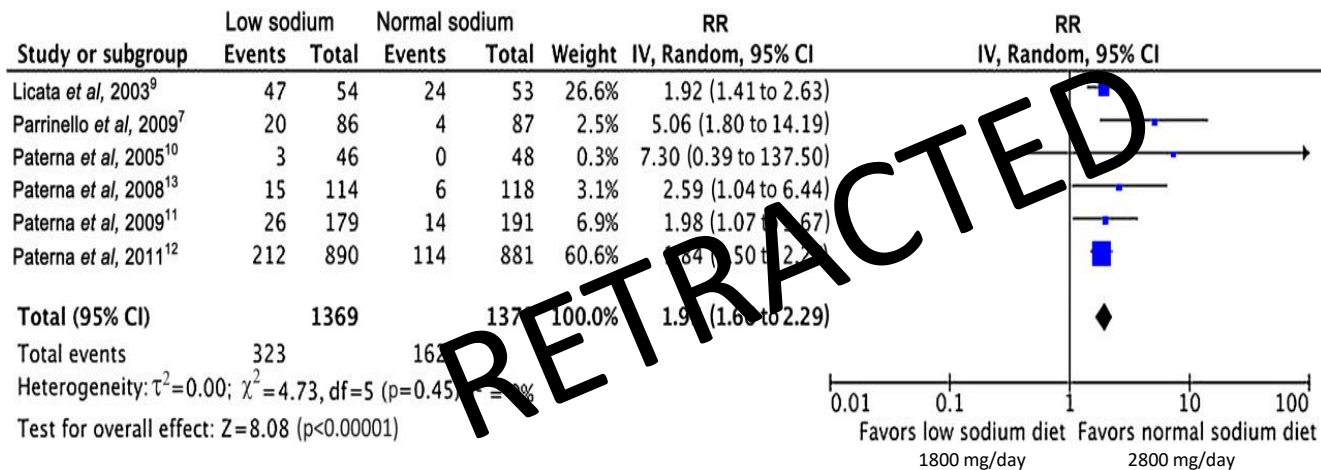


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# RCTs

# Some other RCTs.....

Forest plot of relative risks for mortality



Parenterally administered saline solutions  
250–1000 mg of furosemide daily  
Fluid restriction 1 litre/day



# Low quality RCTs: helpful?

- Small RCT in AHF w/HFpEF
- N=53 patients, 2 groups, 7 days
- 0.8 g / sodium + 800 mls fluid vs usual care (~4g sodium, unlimited fluid)
- No change in BNP, weight, congestion etc
- Increase in thirst in restricted group



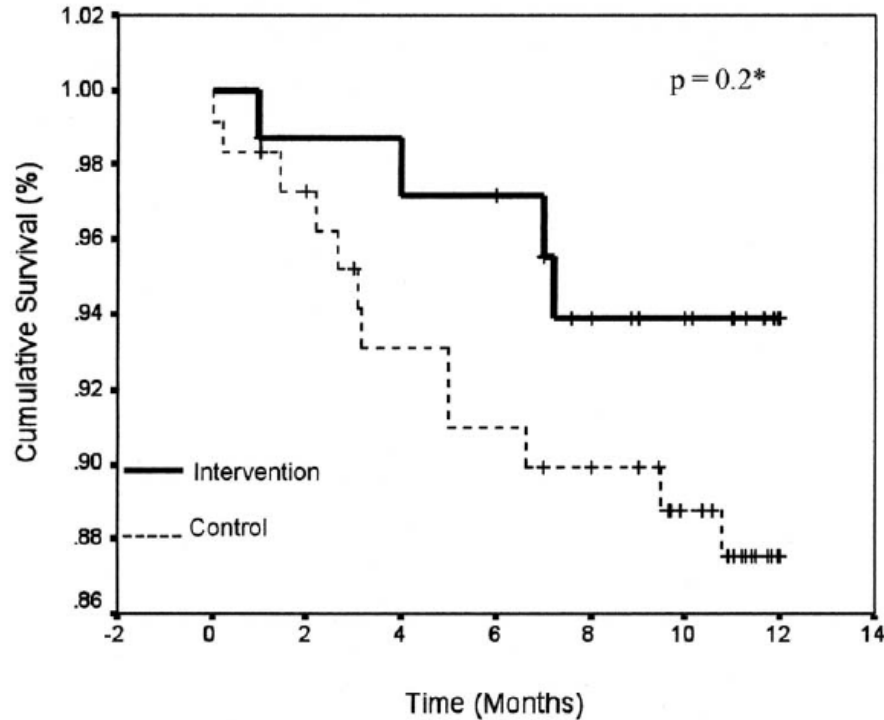
# Small RCT





# Small RCT

n= 195 patients with HF, Outpatient, Mexico city



**Intervention group:** Dietary recommendations for sodium restriction to <2400 mg/day provided by a dietitian.

**Control Group:** Usual dietary recommendations for dietary sodium reduction.



# Dietary sodium recs in HF

<b>Guideline and year</b>	<b>Sodium restriction recommendation / day</b>
Canadian Cardiovascular Society 2017	<2300 mg
AHA/ ACC/ HFSA 2017	None
European Society of Cardiology 2016	None



IOM = <1500 mg/day for all people

**HFC Dietician waiting to pounce....**





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# Measurement

# Measuring Sodium/Adherence?



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## Plasma

Easy

Tightly regulated,  
physiologically

Well-validated lab  
technique

Reflects acute change



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Tightly regulated,  
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Well-validated lab  
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Reflects acute change



## Urine

Easy (spot), hard (24H)

Variability/debate on methods

Depends on excretion /reabsorption

90-95% ingested is excreted (assumed)

Well-validated lab technique



# Measuring Sodium/Adherence?



## Plasma

Easy

Tightly regulated,  
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Well-validated lab  
technique

Reflects acute change



## Urine

Easy (spot), hard (24H)

Variability/debate on methods

Depends on excretion /reabsorption

90-95% ingested is excreted (assumed)

Well-validated lab technique



## Diet

Easy-Hard

Variability in reporting

Need to know food (exact)

Well-validated technique

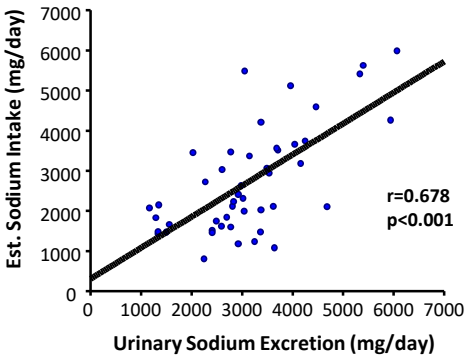
Reflects consumption





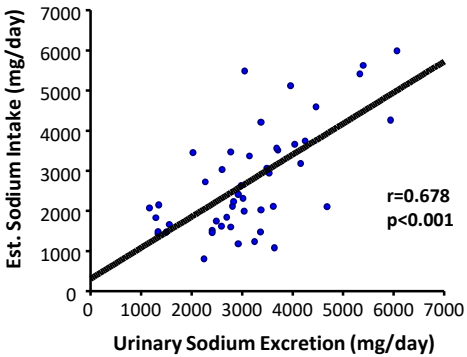
# Food vs. Urine: Diuretics

Patients with HF not on loop diuretics (n=47)

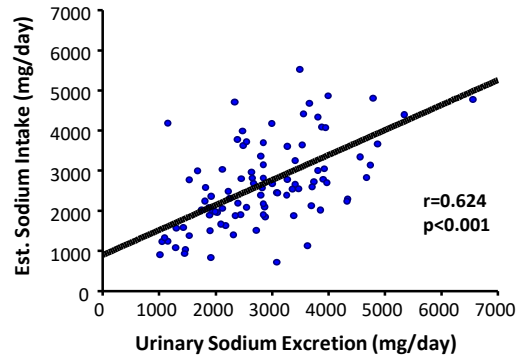


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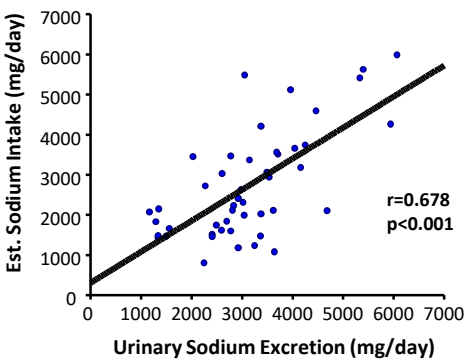


Non-HF cardiac patients (n=96)

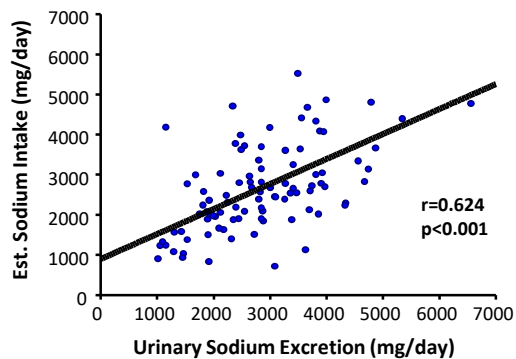


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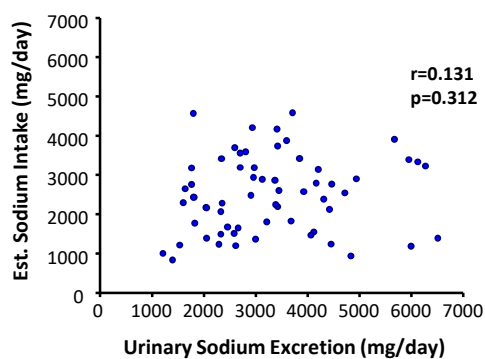
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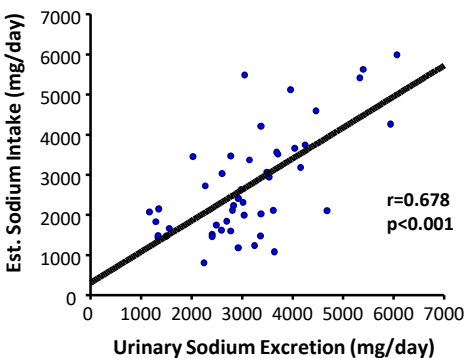


Patients with HF on loop diuretics (n=62)

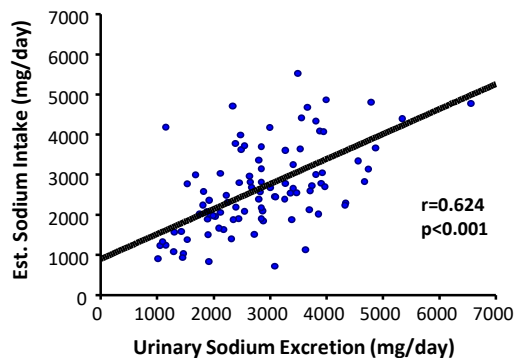


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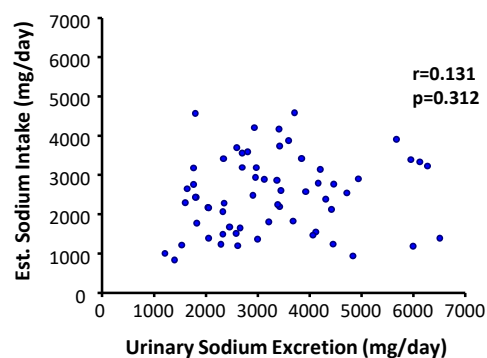
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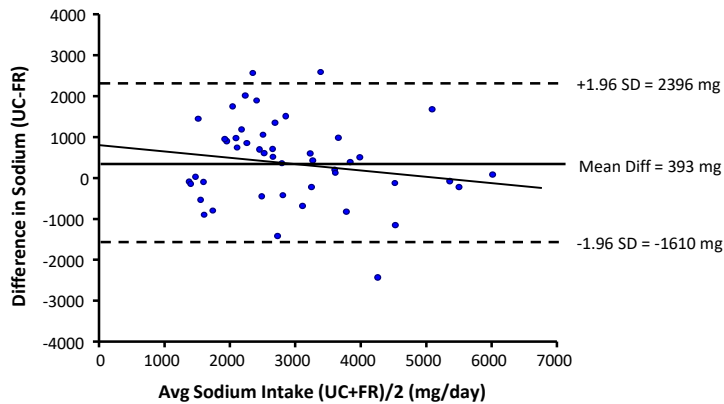
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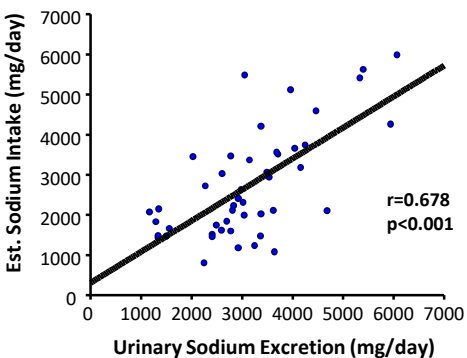


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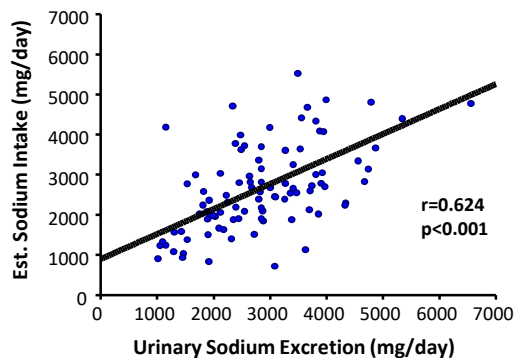


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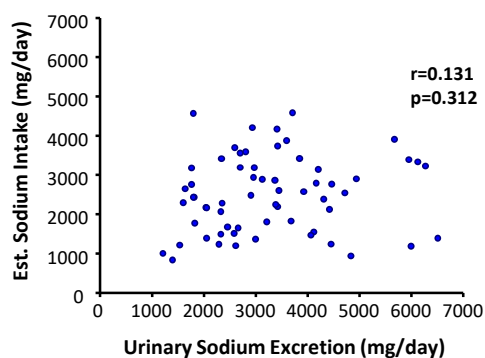
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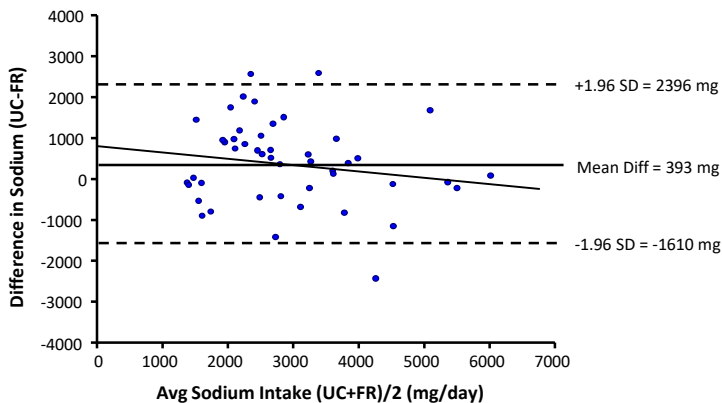
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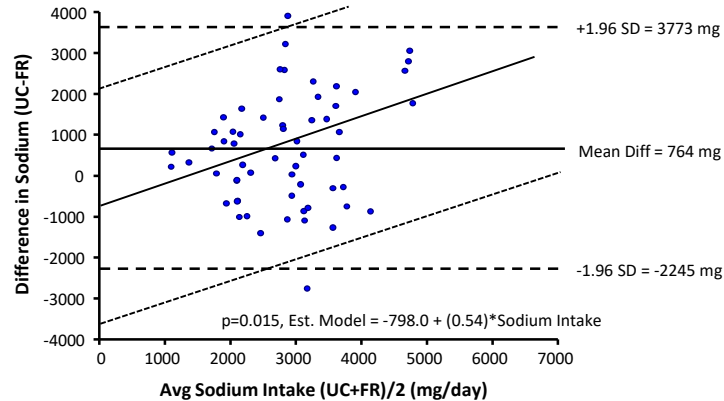
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HF patients not on a loop diuretic (n=47)



HF patients on a loop diuretic (n=62)



# Measurement: Food records

- Food recall: underestimates total c/w 24UNA
  - 15-25% underestimate
- Food records:
  - 1-14 days
  - Not much more info after 3-5 days
  - Actual record, not a recall
- Input into program (e.g. Food Processor, ESHA) which spits out every detail



# Low Sodium vs Regular

## Nutrition Facts Valeur nutritive

Per 1/2 cup (125 mL) / par 1/2 tasse (125 mL)

Amount Teneur	% Daily Value % valeur quotidienne
------------------	---------------------------------------

**Calories / Calories** 20

**Fat / Lipides** 0 g 0 %

Saturated / saturés 0 g 0 %  
+ Trans / trans 0 g

**Cholesterol / Cholestérol** 0 mg 0 %

**Sodium / Sodium** 400 mg 17 %

**Carbohydrate / Glucides** 4 g 1 %

Fibre / Fibres 1 g 4 %

Sugars / Sucres 3 g

**Protein / Protéines** 1 g

Vitamin A / Vitamine A 6 %

Vitamin C / Vitamine C 10 %

Calcium / Calcium 8 %

Iron / Fer 2 %

## Nutrition Facts Valeur nutritive

Per 1/2 cup (125 mL) / par 1/2 tasse (125 mL)

Amount Teneur	% Daily Value % valeur quotidienne
------------------	---------------------------------------

**Calories / Calories** 20

**Fat / Lipides** 0 g 0 %

Saturated / saturés 0 g 0 %  
+ Trans / trans 0 g

**Cholesterol / Cholestérol** 0 mg 0 %

**Sodium / Sodium** 15 mg 1 %

**Potassium / Potassium** 260 mg 8 %

**Carbohydrate / Glucides** 4 g 1 %

Fibre / Fibres 1 g 6 %

Sugars / Sucres 3 g

**Protein / Protéines** 1 g

Vitamin A / Vitamine A 6 %

Vitamin C / Vitamine C 10 %

Calcium / Calcium 8 %

Iron / Fer 2 %



# Food Records

- Prospective
- Recording and measurement of all food and beverages each day, for any # of days
- Weighted or volume measurements
- Not dependant on memory

			(include water, spices, and salt)	grams, tsp, #, # of shakes, etc.)	Prepared?
BREAKFAST	8:45am	HOME	HARMONY 2% ORGANIC MILK	259g	
	:		BANANA BREAD (RECIPE INCL)	90g	HOMEMADE
	:				
LUNCH	1:30pm	HOME	HABITANT PEA SOUP	190g	
	:		AFRICUS-NONAME SODA CRACKERS (PLAIN TOPS)	12g	
	:		SALTED BUTTER	2g	
	:		2% ORGANIC MILK	509g	
	:		RAW CAULIFLOWER	41g	
	:		RAW KIWI	38g	
	:		CHOCOLATE EASTER EGG	6g	
	:				
DINNER	5:00pm	HOME	ROTINI (PASTA)	168g	
	:		CLASSICO TOMATO PESTO SAUCE	199g	
	:		PC BLUE MENU PARMESAN CHEESE	2g	
	:		CANADIAN GOURMET ITALIAN BEEF MEATSALCS	146g	RICE CHOPPER
	:		2% ORGANIC MILK	495g	
	:		COMPLIMENTS GARLIC BREAD	28g	RICE CHOPPER
	:		YOPLAIT SOURCE STRAWBERRY YOGURT	97g	
	:				
SNACK	8:30pm	HOME	MANGO SOUP (RECIPE INCL.)	108g	
	:		ASTRO ORIGINAL BALKAN STYLE NATURAL YOGURT	7g	
	:		CORIANDEUR LEAVES (FRESH)	1g	
	:				
	:				






# Clinical/Research question

## **Does advising a patient to lower the amount of sodium in their diet change the clinical outcome?**

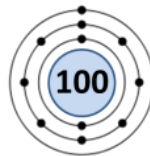
PILOT: Am Heart J. 2015 doi: 10.1016/j.ahj.2014.11.013. **The long-term effects of dietary sodium restriction on clinical outcomes in patients with heart failure. The SODIUM-HF (Study of Dietary Intervention Under 100 mmol in Heart Failure): a pilot study.**

 Design paper: Am Heart J. 2018 Nov;205:87-96. doi: 10.1016/j.ahj.2018.08.005. **Rationale and design of the Study of Dietary Intervention Under 100 MMOL in Heart Failure (SODIUM-HF).**



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SODIUM-HF



# Study of Dietary Intervention Under 100 MMOL in Heart Failure



CIHR IRSC



Canadian Institutes of Health Research  
Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada



University  
Hospital  
Foundation



@sodiumhf

<https://www.sodiumhftrial.com/>

# What are the main trial objectives?

- Evaluate the long-term effects of a low-sodium containing diet in patients with HF on a composite clinical outcome of:
  - All-cause mortality
  - CV hospitalizations
  - CV ED visits
- Secondary objectives include the evaluation of a low-sodium containing diet on:
  - Quality of life
  - Exercise capacity
  - NYHA class
  - Clinical outcomes (CV events + mortality) to 24 months



# SODIUM-HF: Trial Design

- Multicentre, multinational
  - 25 sites
  - Canada, Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Australia, New Zealand
  - N=1000 subjects (n=650 enrolled)
  - Randomized, Open-label
  - Blinded adjudicated endpoint
- **Study Population:** patients with chronic HF (REF, PEF are eligible), NYHA 2-3, >1500 mg dietary Na



# SODIUM-HF: Intervention

Patients randomized to one of two study arms:

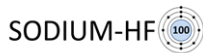
1. Low-sodium containing diet (65 mmol or 1500 mg daily)
2. Usual care (general advice to limit dietary sodium as provided in routine clinical practice)



# Intervention: Sample menus

Samples of menus at different levels of energy requirement (1400-2200 kcal) are available:

- In accordance with information provided in the meal plan and are intended to guide the patients in following their meal plan.
- Patient might **interchange** any of the **food items** included in the menus by another one included in the **recommended foods lists** of the **same food group** that the original one included in the menu.
- If energy requirements are **adjusted** during a follow-up visit, sample menus should be provided accordingly.



# SODIUM-HF: Challenges

- Enrolment
- New strategies to continually engage site personnel doing the recruiting +RDs
- Lower site budget as a barrier to site participation
- Local logistics unique to each site when implementing dietary intervention
- Changing context of clinical trials research – e.g., online consent, e-signatures for patients, secular trends in volunteerism




# SODIUM-HF: Successes

- Intriguing research question for MDs, RNs, NPs, RDs
- Simple, straightforward eCRF
- Top enrolling sites have a 1 FTE coordinator, available dietitian(s) and engaged PI
- Minimal source collected for adjudication of events
- Sites sought independent funding for sub-grants
- 100% remote monitoring
- Low administrative burden for sites
- Every site dietitian on a Dietician Working Group
- Steering Committee: includes every site PI







SODIUM-HF 

THE WORLD



# Summary / conclusions



**Test unproven dogma**  
**Think about the patient, intervention, control**  
**Time for observation fini; interv'n is needed**  
**SODIUM-HF and other RCT ongoing**