# Betaine alleviates hepatic lipid accumulation via enhancing hepatic lipid export and fatty acid oxidation in rats fed with a high-fat diet

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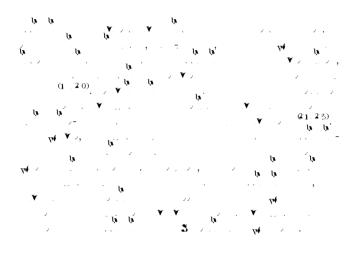
#### Abstract

 $\mathbf{v}^{\mathbf{t}} = \mathbf{100} \mathbf{f} \mathbf{250}, \quad \mathbf{v}^{\mathbf{t}} \mathbf{v}$ 

Key words:

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# Materials and methods

#### Animal experimental procedure

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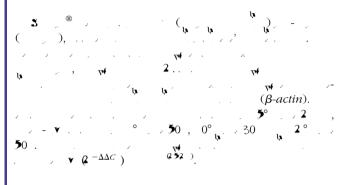
# Sampling

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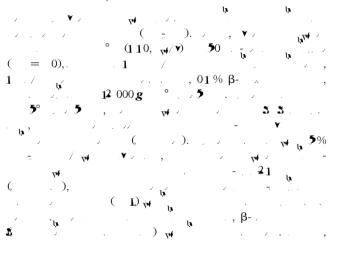
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Gene	Forward primer (from 5' to 3') Reverse primer (from 5' to 3')	PCR product size (bp)	GenBank accession number
β-Actin	GGA AAT CGT GCG TGA CAT TA	183	NM_031144
BHMT	AGG AAG GAA GGC TGG AAG GAG GGGCAGAAGGTCAATGAAGCT	108	NM 030850
ו ואוחם	ACCAATGCATCCCCTTCGT	100	NM_030830
$PPAR\alpha$	TGCGGACTACCAGTACTTAG	167	M88592
	CGACACTCGATGTTCAGTGC		
FGF21	CGACAGAGGTATCTCTACACAGATGACG	206	NM_130752
	GATCCATAGAGAGTTCCATCTGGTTGTT		
AMPK	TGTGACAAGCACATTTTCCAA	156	NM_019142.2
	CCGATCTCTGTGGAGTAGCAG		
CPT1	GCTCGCACATTACAAGGACAT	250	AF020776
	TGGACACCACATAGAGGCAG		

BHMT, betaine-homocysteine methyltransferase; FGF21, fibroblast growth factor 21; AMPK, AMP-activated protein kinase; CPT1, carnitine palmitoyltransferase 1.



#### Western blot analysis





#### Statistical analysis

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#### Results

#### Assessment of body weight

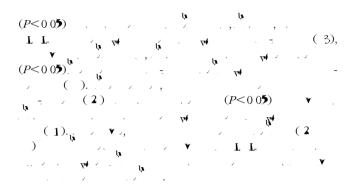
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#### Effects of betaine on serum lipid metabolites

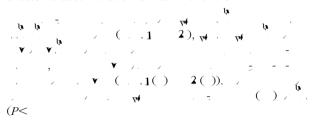
**Table 3.** Changes of body weight during 4 weeks (g)(Mean values and standard deviations, n 7)

	T1		T	2	т	3	T	Τ4		
_	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
0 d	100.02	0.15	100.15	0.28	99.91	0.13	99.95	0.36		
7 d	150.00	2.58	148.75	3.14	152.12	3.46	149.12	3.03		
14 d	202.00	5.42	205.5	6.75	207.75	7.45	206.17	7.60		
21 d	228.74	16.83	244.13	17.55	227.61	26.12	253.83	31.47		
28 d	290.58	9.86	296.03	14.26	287.26	15.80	305.75	25.67		

T1, basal diet; T2, basal diet with betaine administration; T3, high-fat diet; T4, high-fat diet with betaine administration.



# Oral administration of betaine effectively alleviated the excessive accumulation of fat in the liver



Betaine increased the activity, gene and protein expression of fibroblast growth factor 21, and elevated the gene expression of AMP-activated protein kinase in the liver

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Table 5. Effects of betaine on hepatic lipid metabolism
(Mean values and standard deviations, n 7)

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## Discussion

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	T1		T2		тз	3	Τ4		
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
TAG (mg/g)	7·81 <sup>b</sup>	0.66	7.47 <sup>b</sup>	0.58	9·20 <sup>a</sup>	1.42	7.96 <sup>b</sup>	0.84	
NEFA (µmol/g protein)	32·73 <sup>b</sup>	9.16	39·44 <sup>b</sup>	11.77	57.93 <sup>a</sup>	12.76	67∙08 <sup>a</sup>	12.27	
TC (mg/g)	2·21 <sup>b,c</sup>	0.17	2.46 <sup>a,c</sup>	0.47	2.58 <sup>a,c</sup>	0.48	2.76 <sup>a</sup>	0.49	
Lecithin (ng/g) 1.00° 14.6/aLecithinepatic1anmol/gVLDL pr		0.05	1.10 <sup>b</sup>	0.05	1.04 <sup>c</sup>	0.05	1.17 <sup>a</sup>	0.02	

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### Acknowledgements

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