intake and disease incidence independently of age and sex. Although separate analyses were conducted, thus excluding patients with a history of circulatory diseases, rheumatic heart disease, and heart operations, no other comorbid conditions were controlled for.

Finally, level of physical fitness has been shown to have an inverse association with all-cause mortality. Increased physical activity also increases appetite. It is possible that individuals with the highest intakes were also the most active, and would thus yield the lowest mortality rate.

The validity of some of the analyses performed is also questionable. It is accepted by many that 24-hour recalls provide good estimates of group average intakes, as long as there are a large number of subjects and adequate representation of days of the week. Data on a single day's diet, however, no matter how accurate, are a very poor descriptor of an individual's usual nutrient intake, owing to day-to-day intrapersonal variability. Because of this, analyses that are based on individual scores, such as multiple regression, are inappropriate. As such, the results from the multivariate analysis should be interpreted with caution.

The authors concede that the observed associations may not be causally related and that their data thus provide no support for either maintaining or changing current recommendations regarding sodium consumption. Despite certain design limitations, the data are nonetheless intriguing, indicating that further research on sodium, blood pressure, and mortality should be encouraged.


Erratum

On page 236 of the special article "Open or Closed? A World of Difference: A History of Homocysteine Research" (Nutrition Reviews Vol. 56, No. 8 [August 1998]:236-244), it was erroneously stated that Rembrandt in 1932 pictured Nicolaas Tulp in the painting The Anatomy Lesson. It should be 1632. In the legend to Figure 1 on page 236, the copperplate made by Nicolaas Tulp was erroneously stated to have been published in 1941. It should be 1641.

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