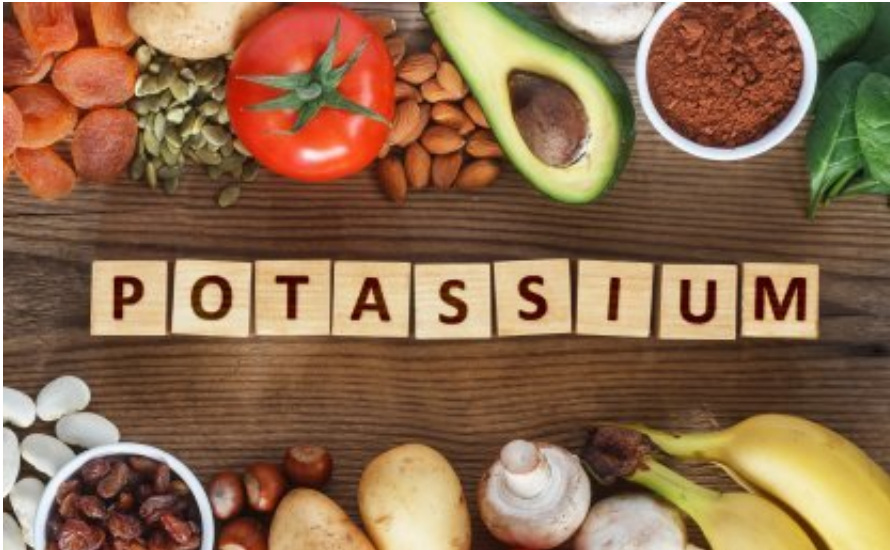


# How much potassium is too much?

January 8 2018

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Credit: University of Queensland

An international collaboration to investigate why and how potassium can help lower blood pressure will be trialled at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane.

The University of Queensland Diamantina Institute's Professor Michael Stowasser will lead the trial to investigate why blood pressure is so sensitive to dietary [potassium](#).

Hypertension, or [high blood pressure](#), is the single greatest contributor to premature death and disability in the world.

"High dietary salt consumption has long been considered to be the primary cause of hypertension, but growing evidence indicates that low potassium consumption has an equally important role to play," Professor Stowasser said.

In this study, Professor Stowasser will investigate the 'NCC' sodium transporter in kidney tubulars, which when activated draws sodium out of urine and into the body.

When a person consumes a low-potassium diet, the renal-potassium switch turns 'on' the NCC, resulting in too much sodium being retained in the body causing increased [blood pressure](#).

Professor Stowasser said a clinical trial would determine the effects of a high potassium diet, compared to a low potassium diet for people with hypertension.

Provided by University of Queensland

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