

Mediterranean eating plan may help keep T2DM patients off meds

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(HealthDay)—A Mediterranean eating plan (Med-EatPlan) plus extra

virgin olive oil (EVOO) may delay the need for first glucose-lowering medication among participants with type 2 diabetes, according to a study published in the August issue of *Diabetes Care*.

F. Javier Basterra-Gortari, M.D., Ph.D., from the University of Navarra in Pamplona, Spain, and colleagues randomly assigned 3,230 [participants](#) from the Prevención con Dieta Mediterránea (PREDIMED) trial with type 2 [diabetes](#) to the Med-EatPlan supplemented with EVOO, Med-EatPlan supplemented with mixed nuts, or a low-fat eating plan. Two outcomes were assessed: (1) introduction of the first glucose-lowering [medication](#) (oral or injectable) for participants on lifestyle management at enrollment and (2) insulin initiation.

After a median follow-up of 3.2 years, the researchers found that after adjustment for baseline characteristics and propensity scores, the hazard ratios for starting a first glucose-lowering medication were 0.78 (95 percent confidence interval [CI], 0.62 to 0.98) and 0.89 (95 percent CI, 0.71 to 1.12) for Med-EatPlan + EVOO and Med-EatPlan + nuts, respectively, versus control. After a median follow-up of 5.1 years, the adjusted hazard ratios for starting insulin treatment were 0.87 (95 percent CI, 0.68 to 1.11) and 0.89 (95 percent CI, 0.69 to 1.14) for Med-EatPlan + EVOO and Med-EatPlan + nuts, respectively, versus the control eating plan.

"Our study results show that PREDIMED participants with type 2 diabetes who underwent an intervention with an energy-unrestricted MedEatPlan + EVOO had significantly lower rates of initiation of glucose-lowering medications," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the biopharmaceutical and nutrition industries.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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