

The graphic features a central dark blue circle containing the text 'UIC' in light blue. This circle is surrounded by a yellow ring, which is further enclosed by a red ring. Three thick lines radiate from the center: a yellow line extending towards the top right, a red line extending towards the bottom right, and a yellow line extending towards the bottom left. The background is a solid light blue color.

**UIC**

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SCIENCES**



Alumni  
Exchange

# Health benefits of Intermittent fasting

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Professor of Nutrition

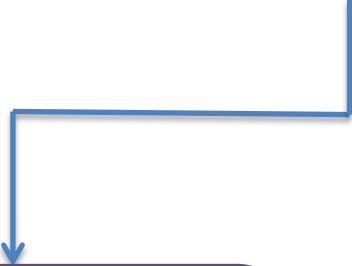
Dept Kinesiology and Nutrition

College of Applied Health Sciences

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APPLIED HEALTH  
SCIENCES

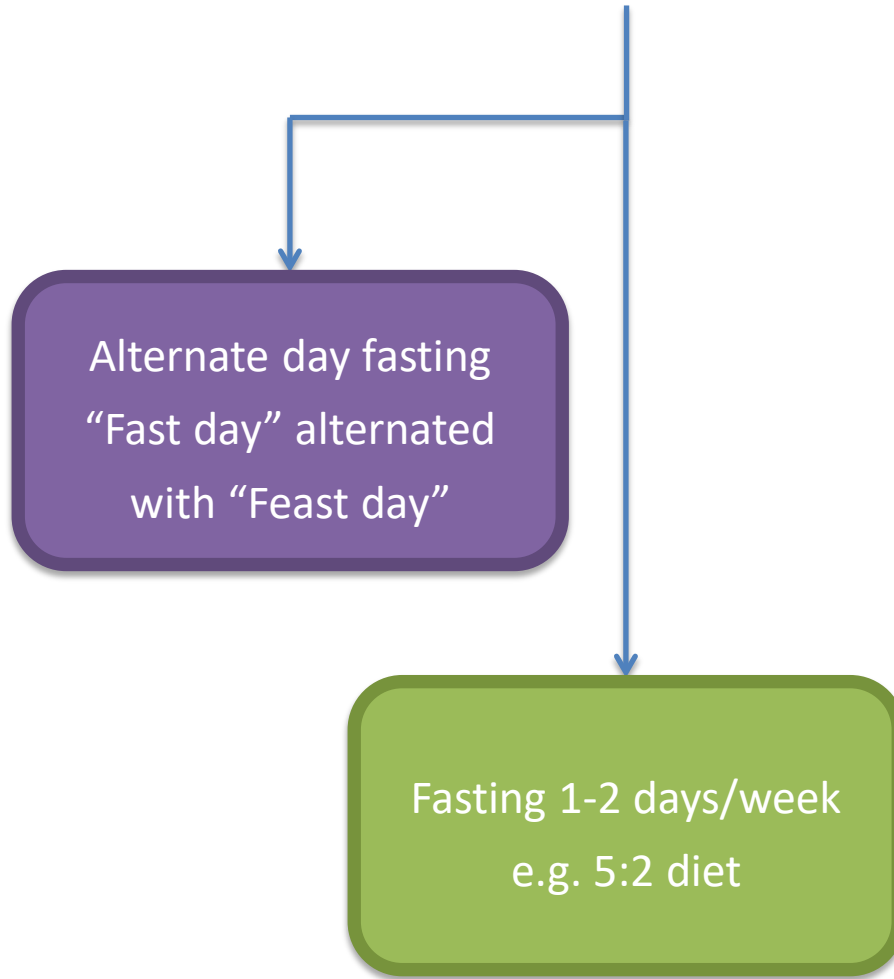
What is intermittent fasting?

# Intermittent fasting

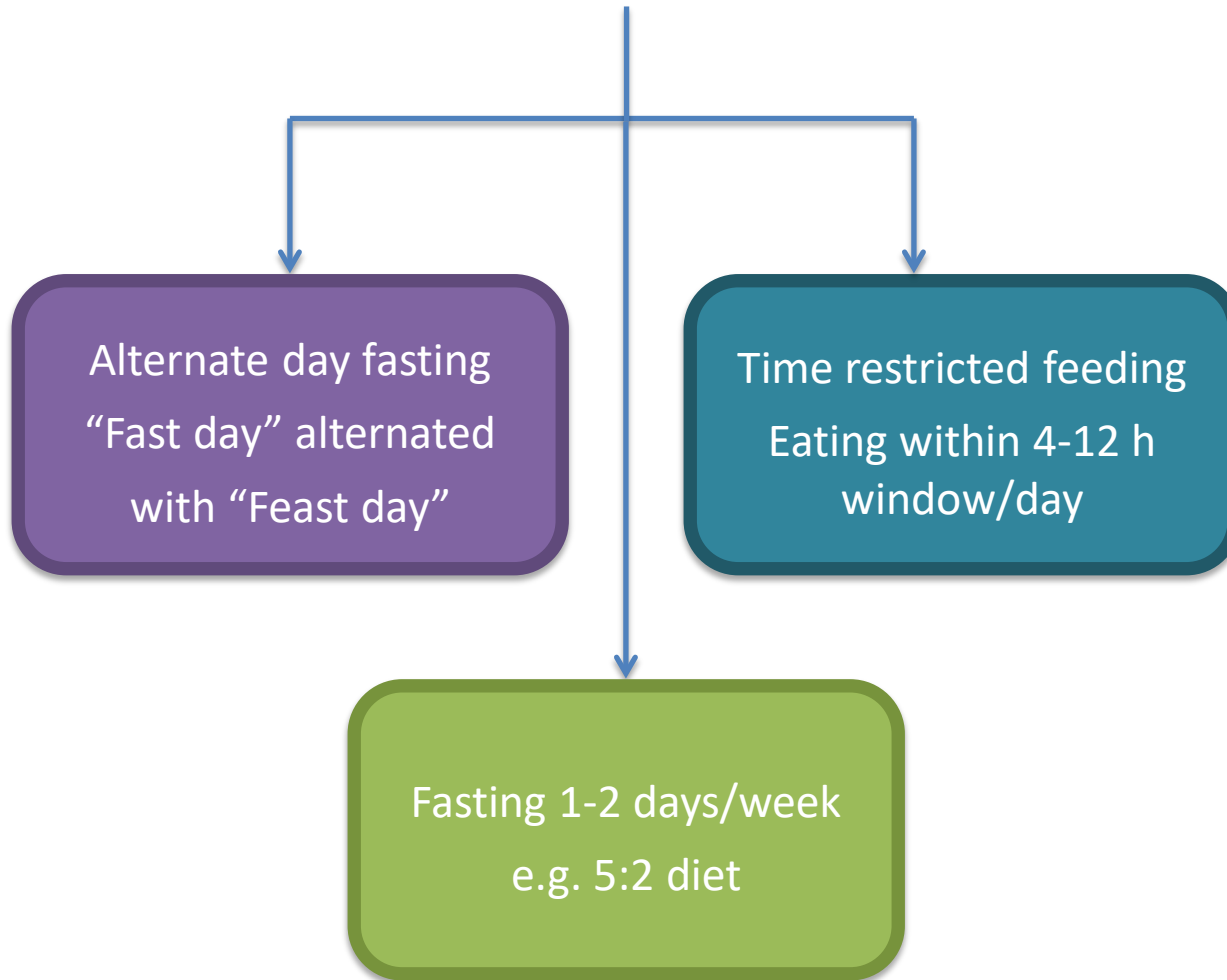


Alternate day fasting  
“Fast day” alternated  
with “Feast day”

# Intermittent fasting



# Intermittent fasting

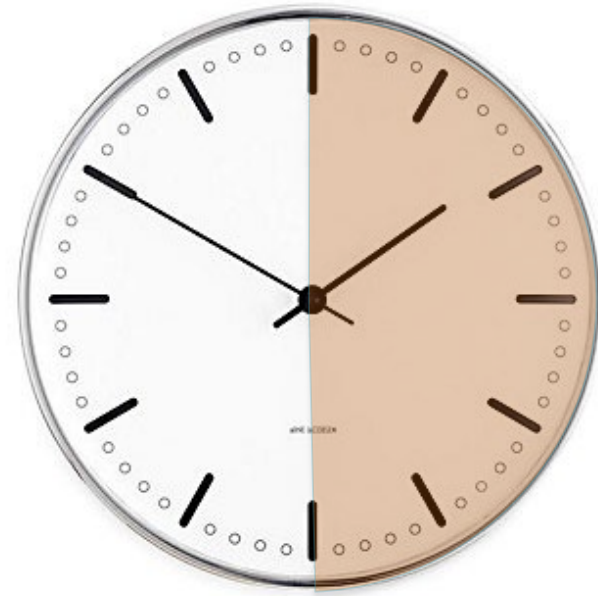


# Time restricted feeding (TRF)

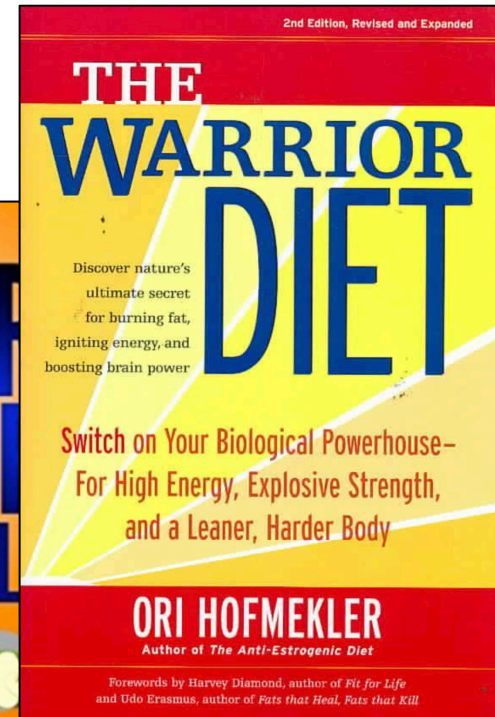
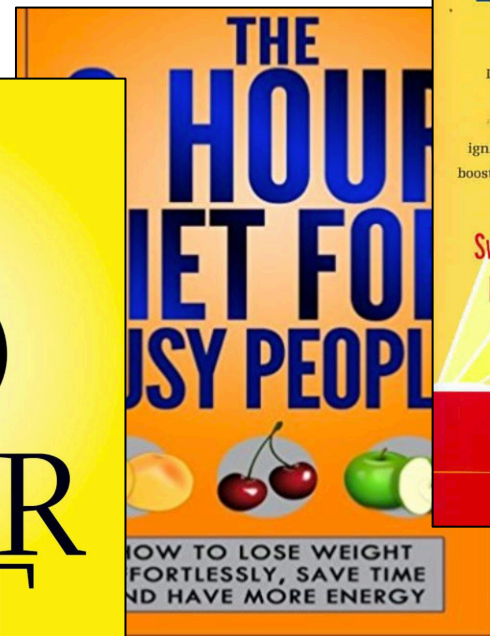
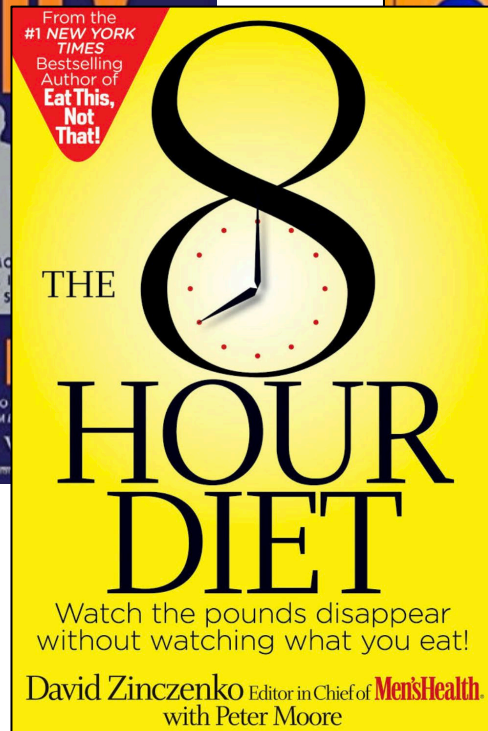
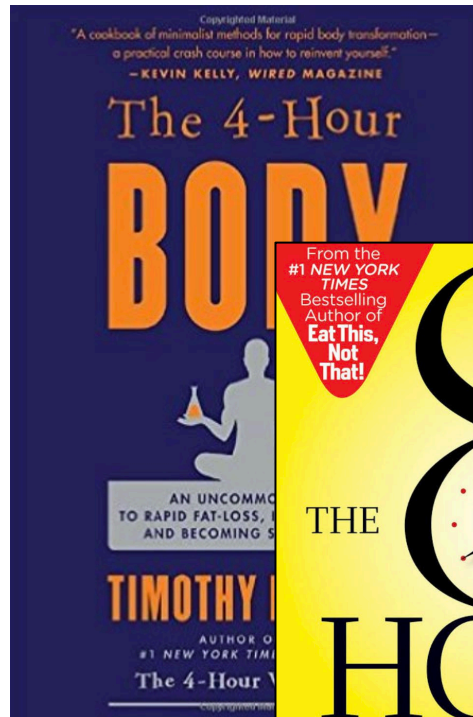
Eating within an 8-h window  
10am-6pm



Eating within an 6-h window  
12pm-6pm

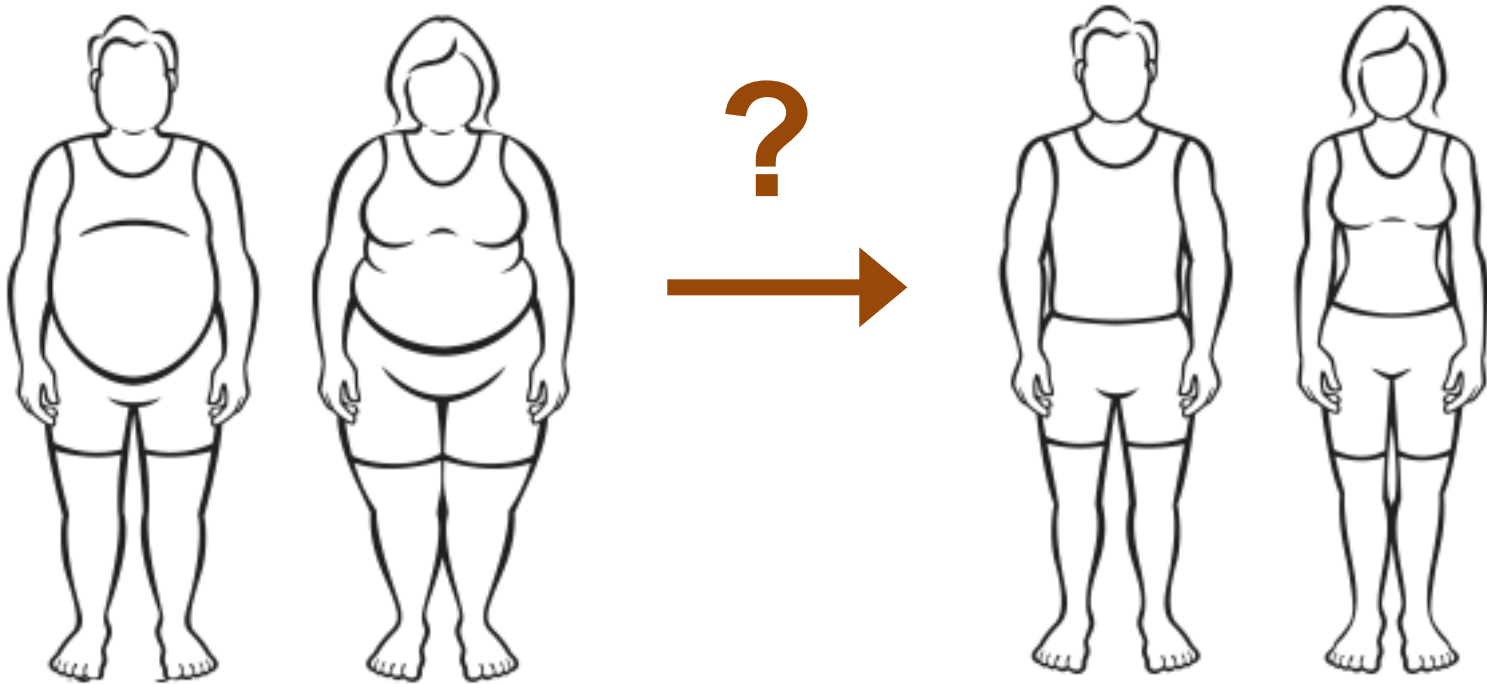


# Lots of TRF books, but few human trials!





# Time restricted feeding effective for weight loss in individuals with obesity?



# Experimental design – 8h TRF study

## 12-WEEK STUDY

TRF n = 23

Eating 10am-6pm, fasting 6pm-10am

Control n = 23

Usual diet, no timing restrictions



### Baseline

Body weight  
Adherence/Diet  
Metabolic disease risk

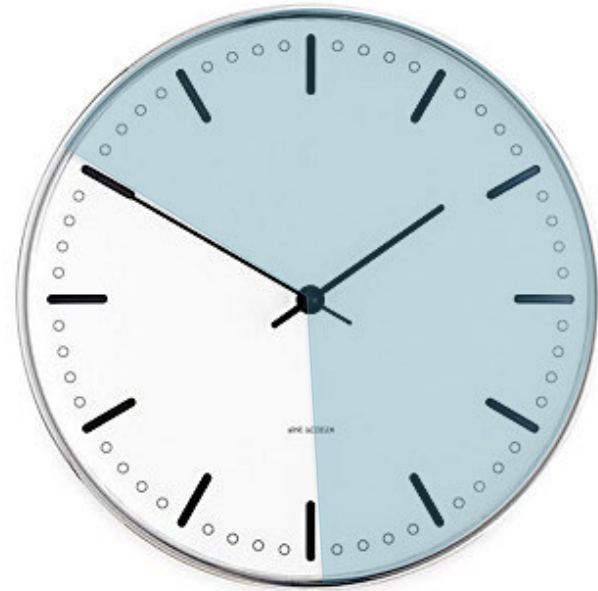


### Week 12

Body weight  
Adherence/Diet  
Metabolic disease risk

TRF = No calorie monitoring necessary!

Just watch the clock



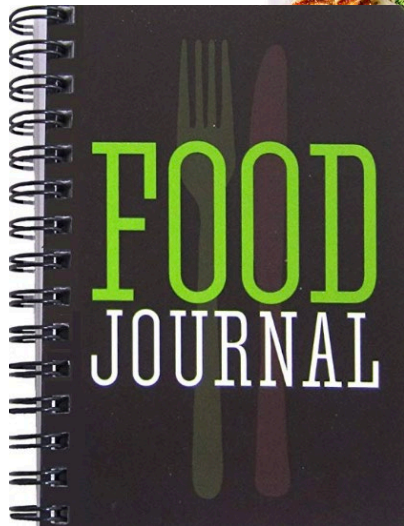
# Log - Adherence and timing of food intake

Timing of food intake log

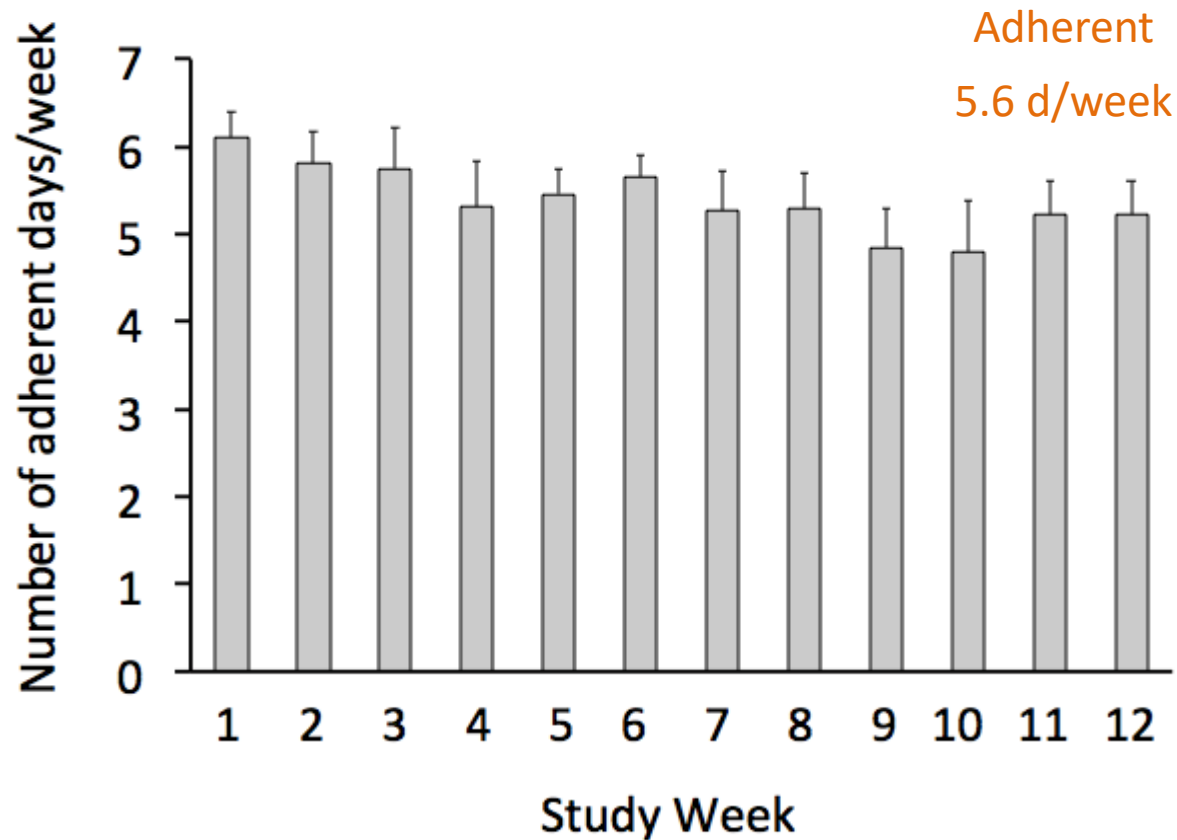
Subject ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Study week: \_\_\_\_\_

Day	Date	Start eating Time	Stop eating Time	To be completed by dietician (leave blank)	
				Adherent	Not adherent
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monday				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# 7-d food record used to assess energy intake

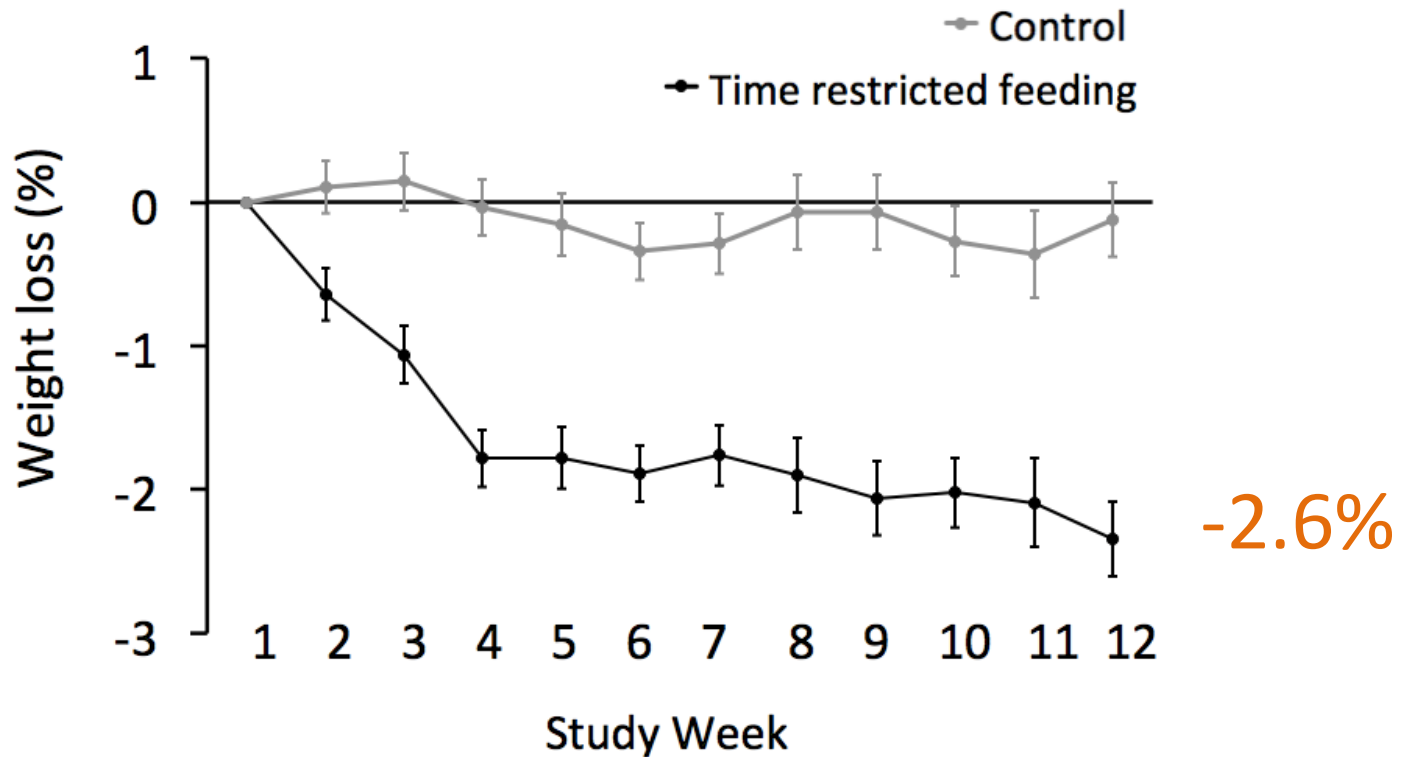


# Adherence to the 8h feeding window



All values reported as mean  $\pm$  SEM. TRF group was compliant with the prescribed eating window on  $5.6 \pm 0.3$  d/week, and this level of adherence did not change over the course of the trial.

# Weight loss by 8h TRF



All values reported as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Data were included for 46 participants; means were estimated using an intention-to-treat analysis using last observation carried forward. Body weight decreased in the time restricted feeding group relative to controls over 12 weeks ( $P < 0.001$ ).

# Unintentional calorie restriction - 8h TRF

8h reduced energy intake by ~350 kcal/d

	Time restricted feeding (n = 23)		Control (n = 23)		P-value Time × group
	Baseline	Week 12	Baseline	Week 12	
Energy (kcal)	1676 ± 114	1335 ± 162	1645 ± 113	1654 ± 191	0.04
Protein (%)	16 ± 1	17 ± 1	17 ± 1	17 ± 1	0.40
Carbohydrates (%)	47 ± 2	46 ± 2	46 ± 2	45 ± 2	0.61
Fat (%)	37 ± 1	37 ± 2	37 ± 1	38 ± 2	0.74
Cholesterol (mg)	279 ± 24	214 ± 27	275 ± 27	265 ± 37	0.32
Fiber (g)	16 ± 2	13 ± 1	14 ± 1	15 ± 2	0.17

All values reported as mean ± SEM. Data were included for 46 participants; means were estimated using an intention-to-treat analysis using last observation carried forward.



# Changes in metabolic risk by 8h TRF

	Time restricted feeding (n = 23)		Control (n = 23)		P-value Time × group
	Baseline	Week 12	Baseline	Week 12	
Systolic BP (mm Hg)	128 ± 4	121 ± 3	123 ± 4	124 ± 3	0.02
Diastolic BP (mm Hg)	83 ± 2	82 ± 2	81 ± 2	82 ± 2	0.41
Heart rate (bpm)	69 ± 2	71 ± 2	73 ± 2	73 ± 3	0.33
Total cholesterol (mg/dl)	177 ± 7	178 ± 9	192 ± 7	185 ± 7	0.15
LDL cholesterol (mg/dl)	108 ± 5	110 ± 7	114 ± 7	112 ± 6	0.54
HDL cholesterol (mg/dl)	48 ± 2	49 ± 2	61 ± 3	55 ± 2	0.11
Triglycerides (mg/dl)	105 ± 11	93 ± 9	89 ± 7	89 ± 11	0.43
Fasting glucose (mg/dl)	79 ± 4	82 ± 2	87 ± 2	87 ± 2	0.77
Fasting insulin (uIU/ml)	8.3 ± 1.0	5.7 ± 0.7	9.2 ± 1.4	10.3 ± 1.9	0.16
HOMA-IR	1.6 ± 0.2	1.0 ± 0.2	2.0 ± 0.3	2.2 ± 0.4	0.21

# Changes in metabolic risk by 8h TRF

	Time restricted feeding (n = 23)		Control (n = 23)		P-value Time × group
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Systolic BP (mm Hg)	128 ± 4	121 ± 3	123 ± 4	124 ± 3	0.02
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Fasting insulin (uIU/ml)	8.3 ± 1.0	5.7 ± 0.7	9.2 ± 1.4	10.3 ± 1.9	0.16
HOMA-IR	1.6 ± 0.2	1.0 ± 0.2	2.0 ± 0.3	2.2 ± 0.4	0.21

Is time restricted feeding (TRF) safe?



# Self-reported adverse events during 8h TRF

Adverse events	Baseline (%)	Wk 1 (%)	Wk 12 (%)	P
<b>Gastrointestinal</b>				
Nausea	0	0	6	1.00
Vomiting	0	0	0	1.00
Diarrhea	0	0	12	1.00
Constipation	17	29	24	1.00
Bad Breath	18	14	12	0.50
Dry Mouth	32	14	12	0.13
<b>Neurological</b>				
Dizziness	9	0	18	1.00
Weakness	14	0	6	0.50
Headache	32	24	24	0.50
Fatigue	14	10	12	1.00
Irritability	23	19	6	0.25
Unhappiness	14	14	0	1.00

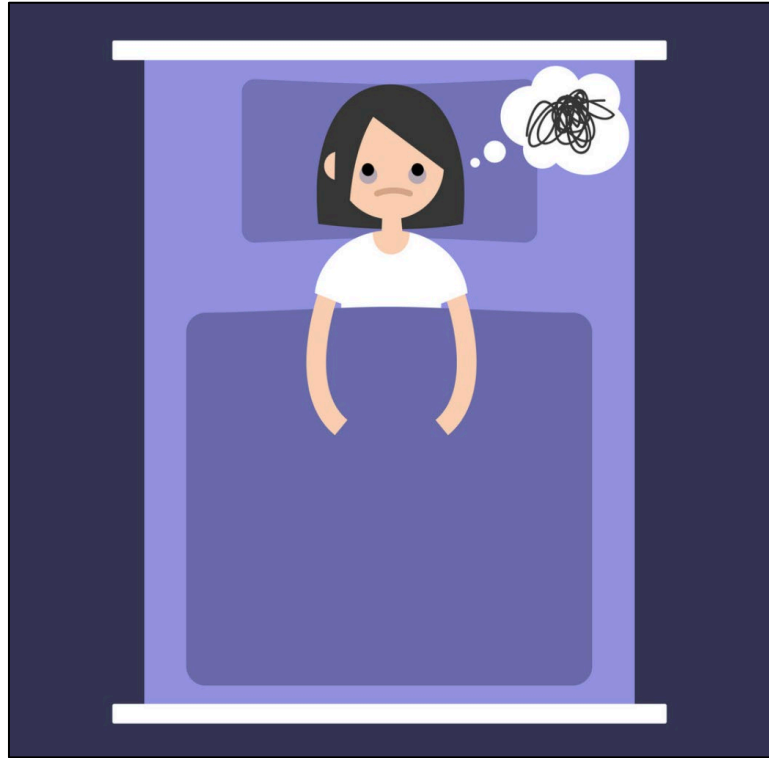
**Note:** Values reported as mean percent occurrences at each time point (baseline:  $n = 23$ ; week 1:  $n = 23$ ; week 12:  $n = 17$ ). Baseline values were measured 2 weeks before the start of the intervention (week 1).  $P$  value: McNemar's test.

# Eating disorder symptoms during 8h TRF

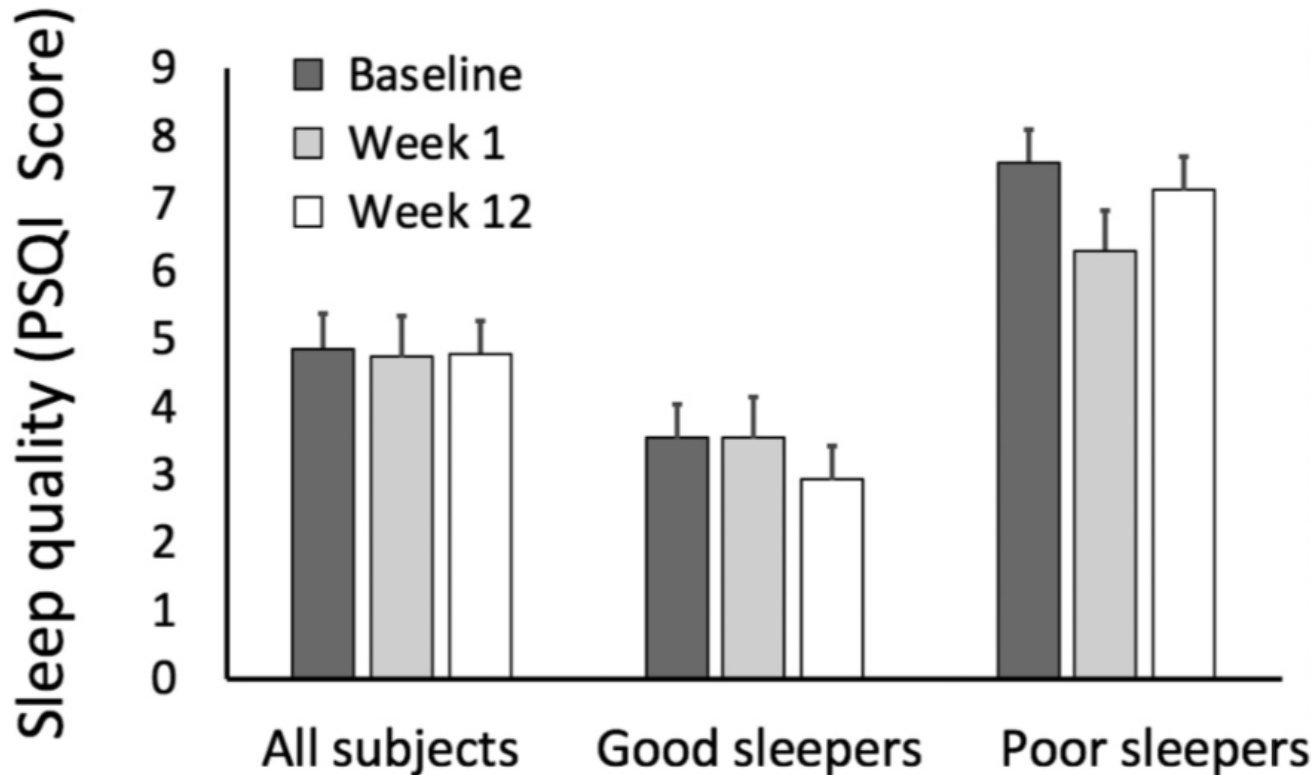
	Baseline	Wk 1	Wk 12	P
<b>Eating disorder symptoms</b>				
Depression	32±1	32±1	32±1	0.90
Binge Eating	28±2	27±1	27±1	0.79
Purgative behavior	13±1	11±1	12±1	0.23
Fear of fatness	41±2	39±2	41±2	0.89
Restrictive eating	28±2	27±2	29±2	0.68
Avoidance of forbidden foods	37±2	38±2	38±2	0.93
<b>Body image perception</b>				
Concerns about body size/shape	47±3	46±3	47±3	0.96
<b>Eating behaviors</b>				
Dietary restraint	17±1	16±1	17±1	0.51
Uncontrolled eating	18±1	18±1	18±1	0.89
Emotional eating	7±1	7±1	6±1	0.96

**Note:** Values reported as means ± SEM (baseline:  $n = 23$ ; week 1:  $n = 23$ ; week 12:  $n = 17$ ). Baseline values were measured 2 weeks before the start of the intervention (week 1).  $P$  value: ANOVA.

But won't I be too hungry to sleep?



# Sleep quality after 12 weeks of 8-h TRF



Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI) questionnaire. “All subjects” ( $n = 23$ ).

“Good sleepers” ( $n = 13$ ) PSQI total score equal to or below 5 at baseline

“Poor sleepers” PSQI total score greater than 5 at baseline ( $n = 10$ ).

No significant changes between baseline, week 1, and week 12 in any group.

# Summary of findings – 8h TRF



## Body weight

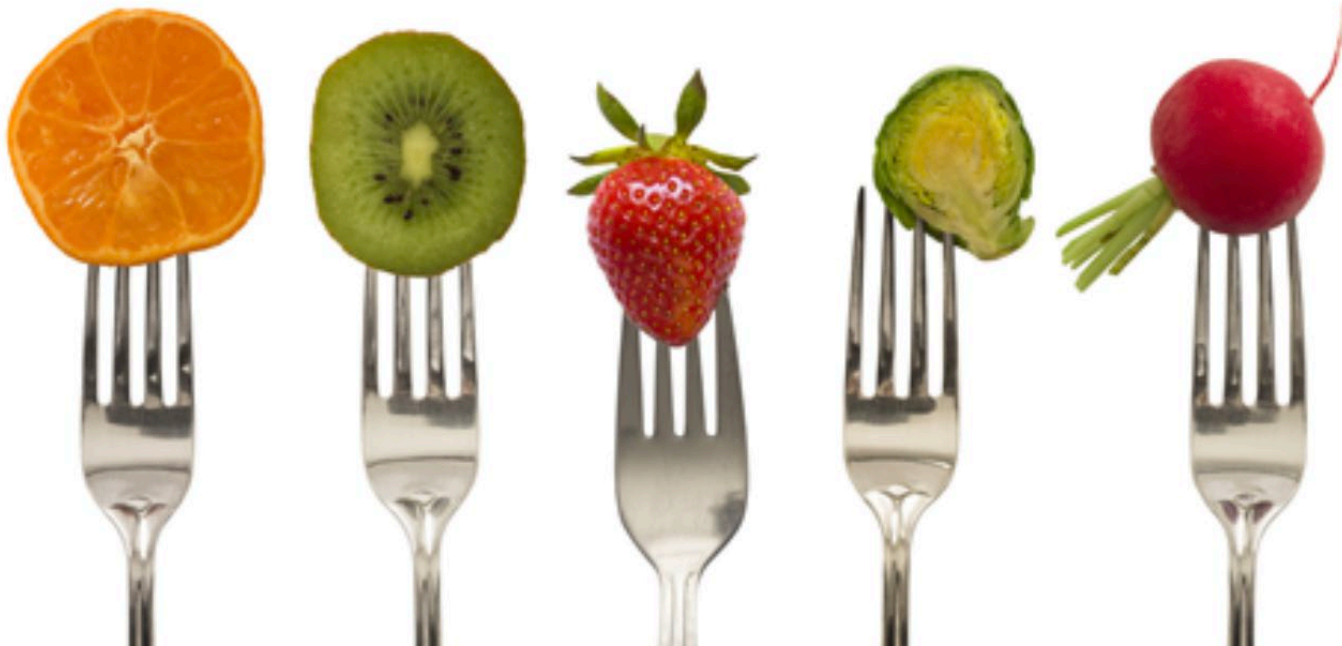
- ~3% weight loss in 3 months
- Self-reported adherence was high (80%)
- Unintentional kcal restriction (~350 kcal/d)

## Metabolic disease risk and safety

- Systolic blood pressure decreased
- No change plasma lipids/glucoregulatory
- TRF appears to be safe



Do shorter feeding windows (4h or 6h)  
produce greater weight loss?



# Experimental design – 4h vs 6h TRF study

## 8-WEEK STUDY

4h TRF

Eating 3pm-7pm, fasting 7pm-3pm

6h TRF

Eating 1pm-7pm, fasting 7pm-1pm

Control

Usual diet, No timing restrictions



**Baseline**

Body weight

Adherence

Metabolic disease risk



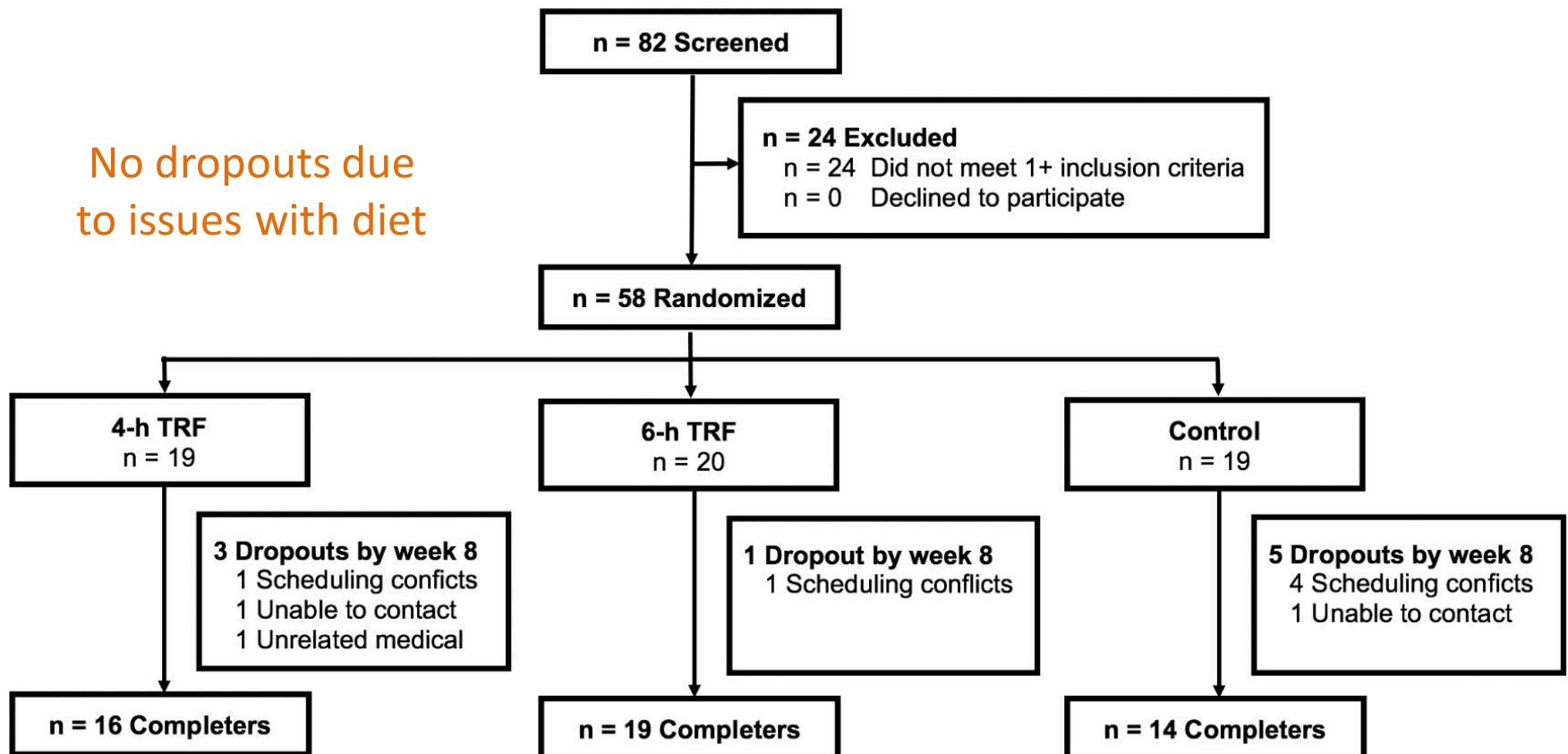
**Week 8**

Body weight

Adherence

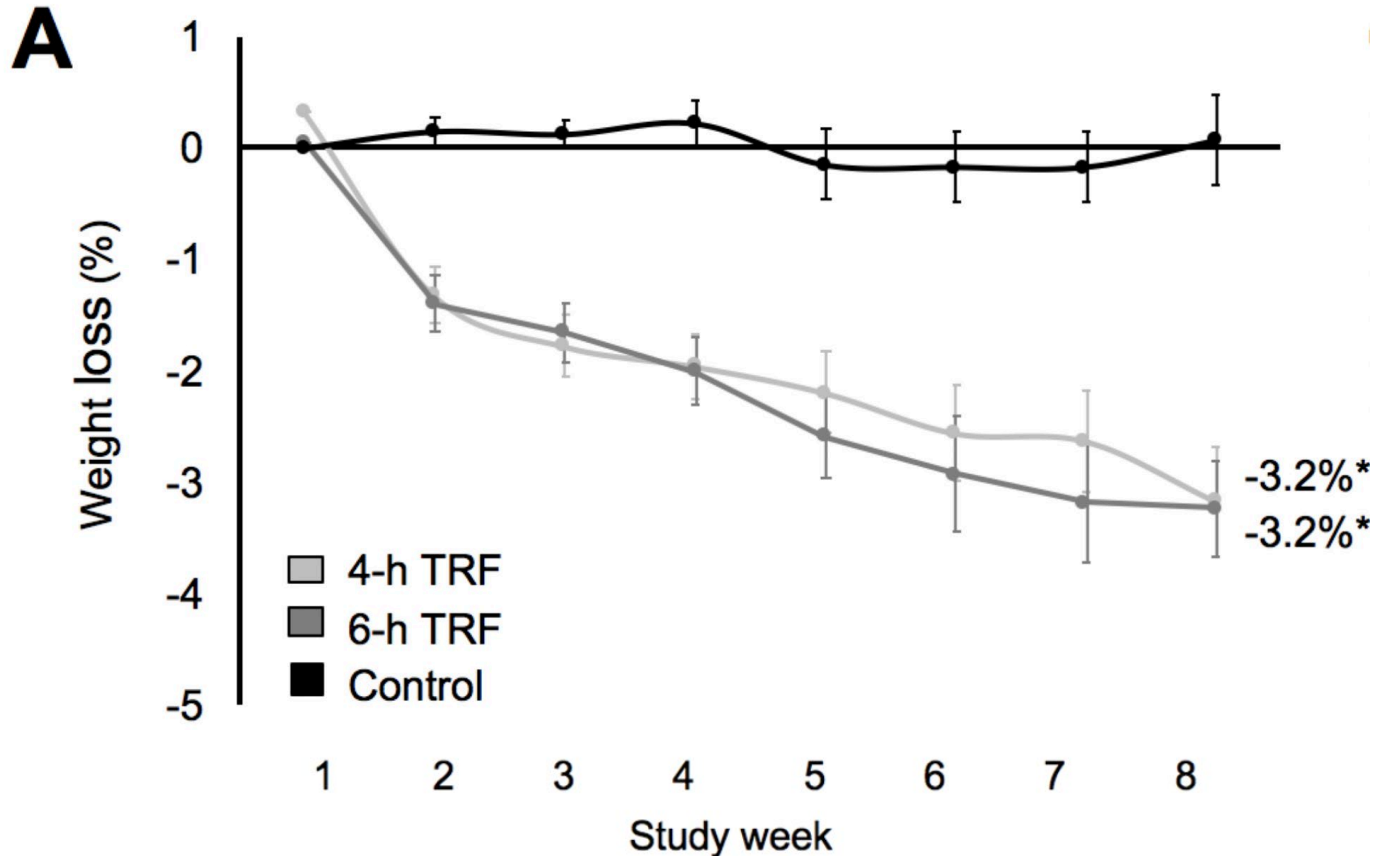
Metabolic disease risk

# Subject flow chart – 4h vs 6h TRF study



# Weight loss - 4h vs 6h TRF

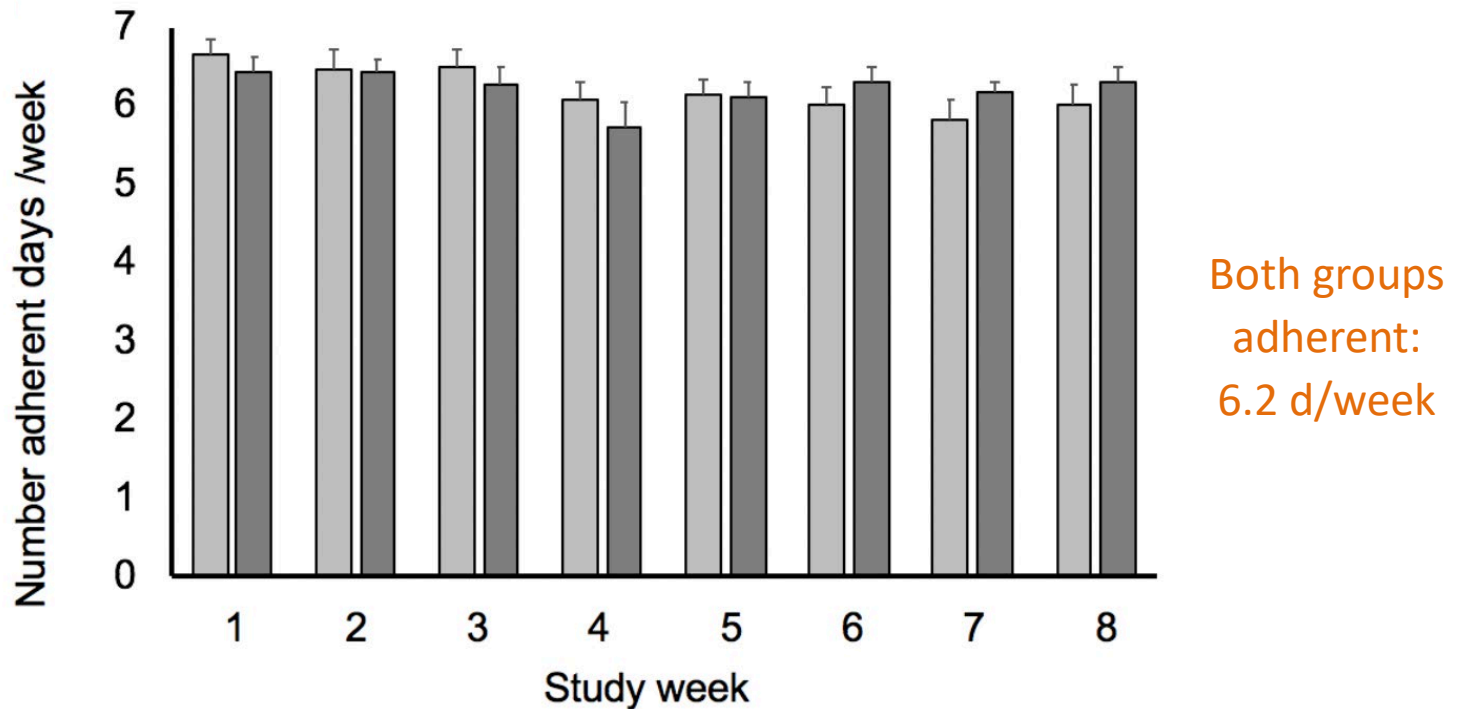
4h and 6h produced similar reductions in body weight



All values reported as mean  $\pm$  SEM. The 4-h TRF and 6-h TRF interventions produced nearly identical weight loss, relative to controls ( $P < 0.001$ ).

# Adherence to the eating window - 4h vs 6h TRF

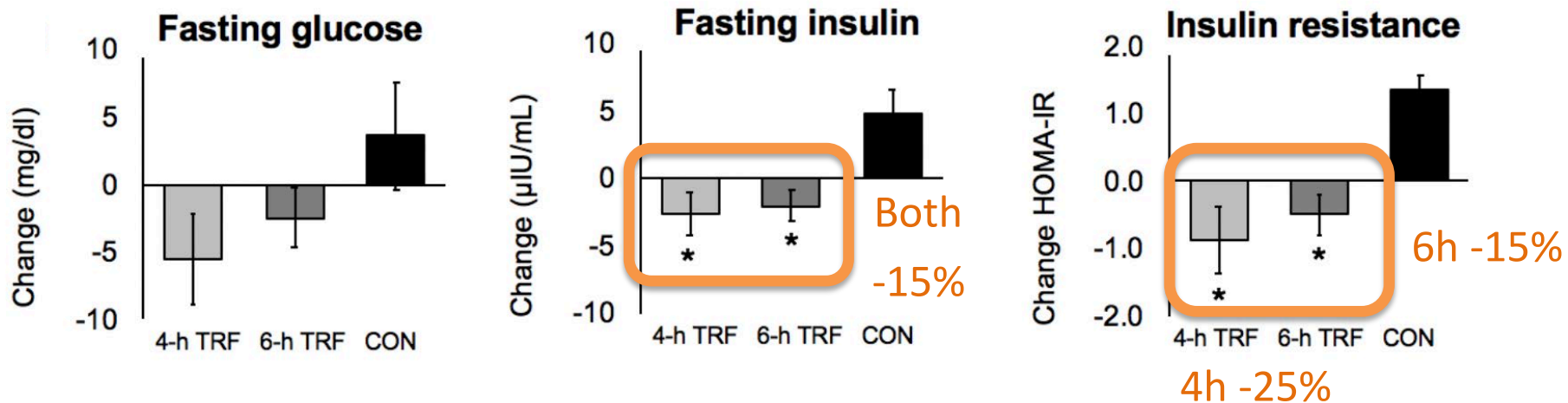
4h and 6h had similar adherence to the eating window



All values reported as mean  $\pm$  SEM. 4 h and 6 h TRF were compliant with their prescribed eating windows on  $6.2 \pm 0.2$  d/week, and this level of adherence did not change over the course of the trial.

# Glucoregulatory factors - 4h vs 6h TRF

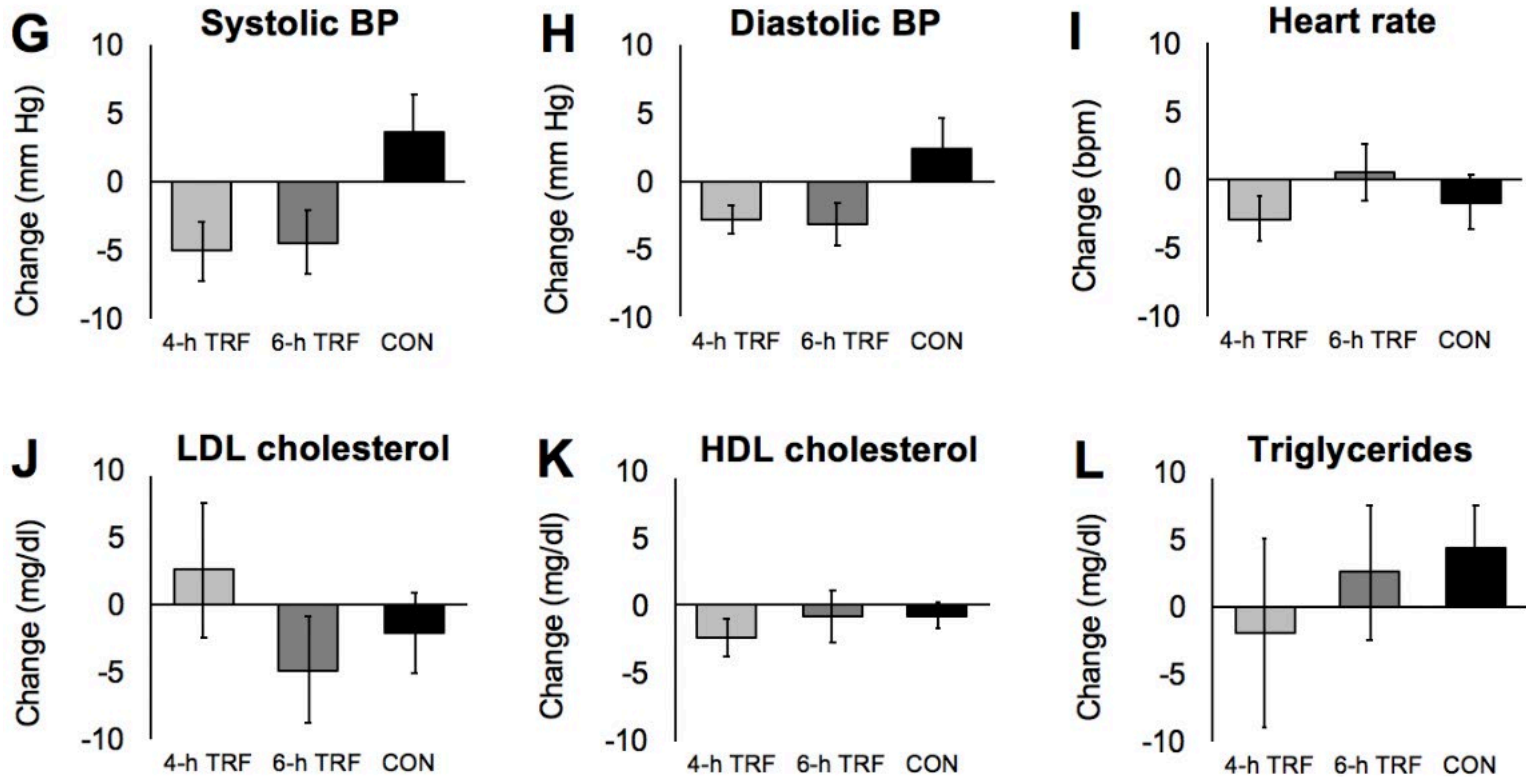
4h and 6h produced similar reductions in insulin and insulin resistance



All values reported as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Fasting glucose was not affected by either 4-h or 6-h TRF. Fasting insulin and insulin resistance decreased similarly by 4-h TRF and 6-h TRF. \*P < 0.05 relative to controls.

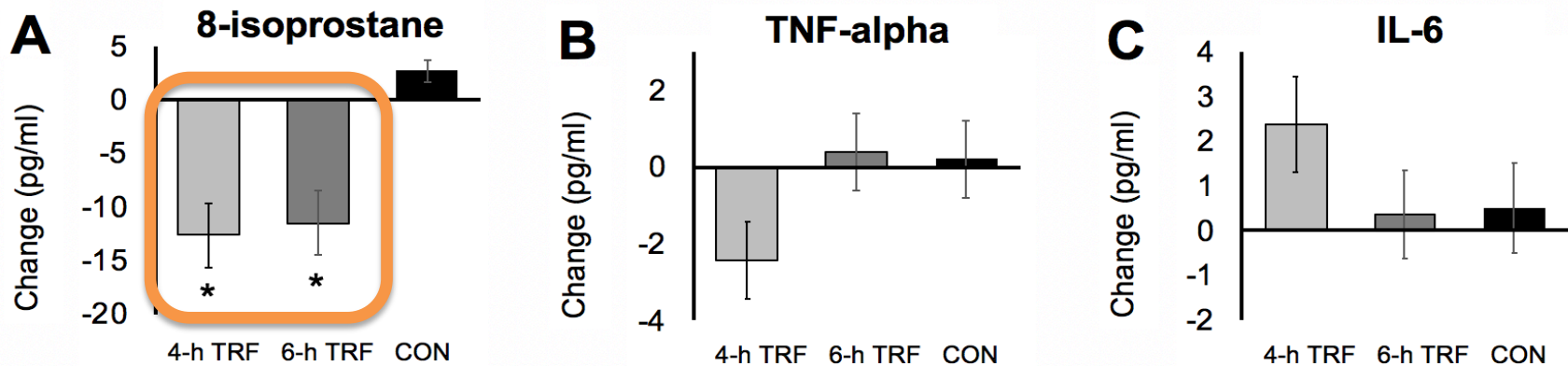
# Blood pressure and lipids - 4h vs 6h TRF

4h and 6h have no effect on blood pressure or plasma lipids



# Oxidative stress and inflammation - 4h vs 6h TRF

4h and 6h produce similar reductions oxidative stress



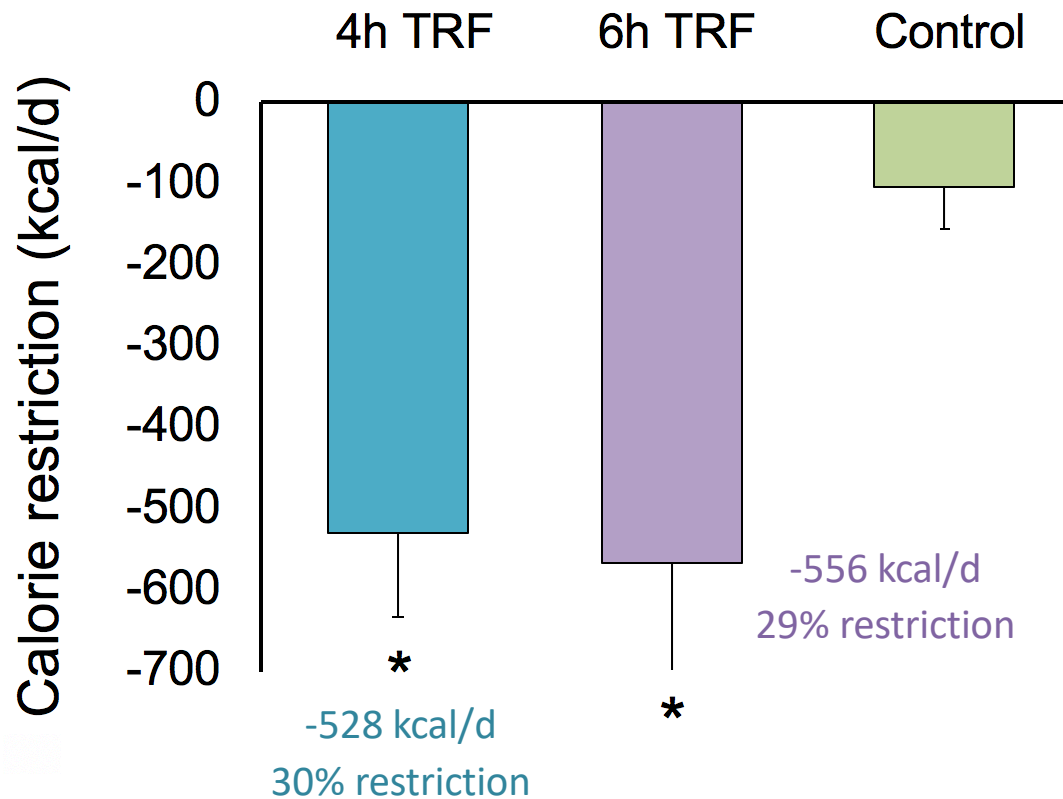
Both -35%

All values reported as mean  $\pm$  SEM. 4-h and 6-h TRF produced similar decreases in 8-isoprostane (marker of oxidative stress to lipids). Inflammatory markers were not changed. \*P < 0.05 vs controls.



# Unintentional calorie restriction - 4h vs 6h TRF

4h and 6h produced similar reductions energy intake (~550 kcal/d)



All values reported as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Comparable decreases in energy intake were observed in the 4h TRF group and 6-h TRF group, versus controls. \*P < 0.05 relative to controls.

# Summary of findings – 4h vs 6h TRF



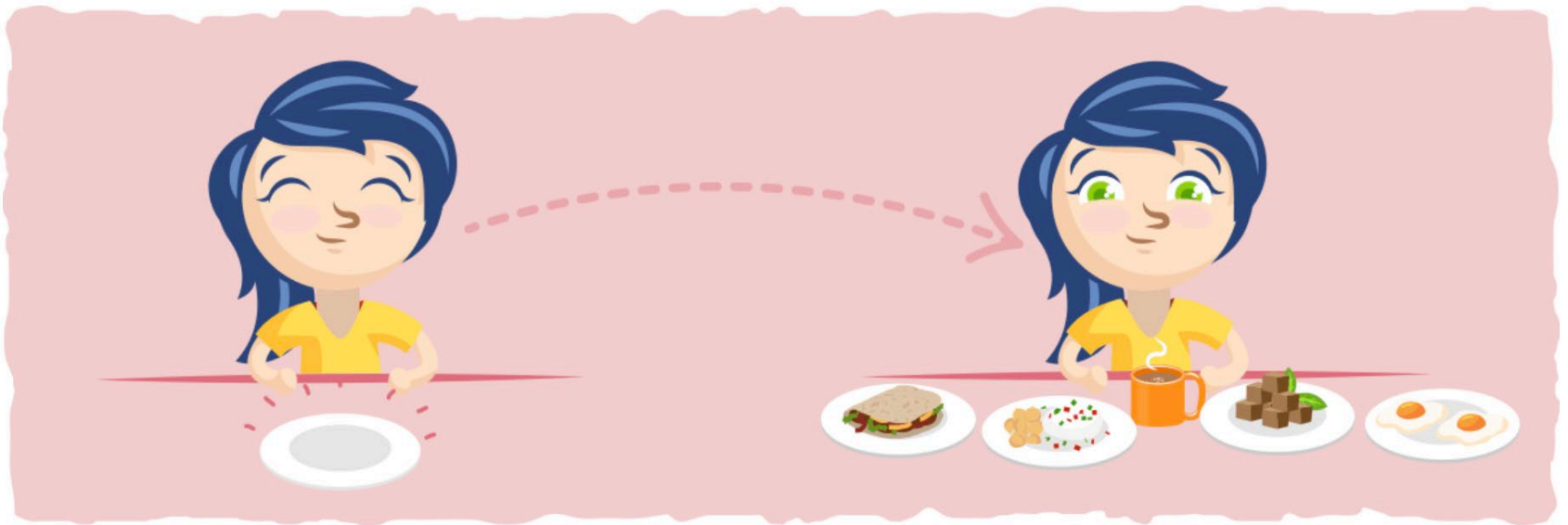
## Body weight (similar findings 4h vs 6h)

- ~3% weight loss in 2 months
- Self-reported adherence was high (90%)
- Unintentional kcal restriction (~550 kcal/d)

## Metabolic risk reductions (similar 4h vs 6h)

- Insulin and insulin resistance
- Oxidative stress
- No effect on lipids/inflammation

# Alternate day fasting



# Alternate day fasting

## Feast day

Day of ad libitum feeding

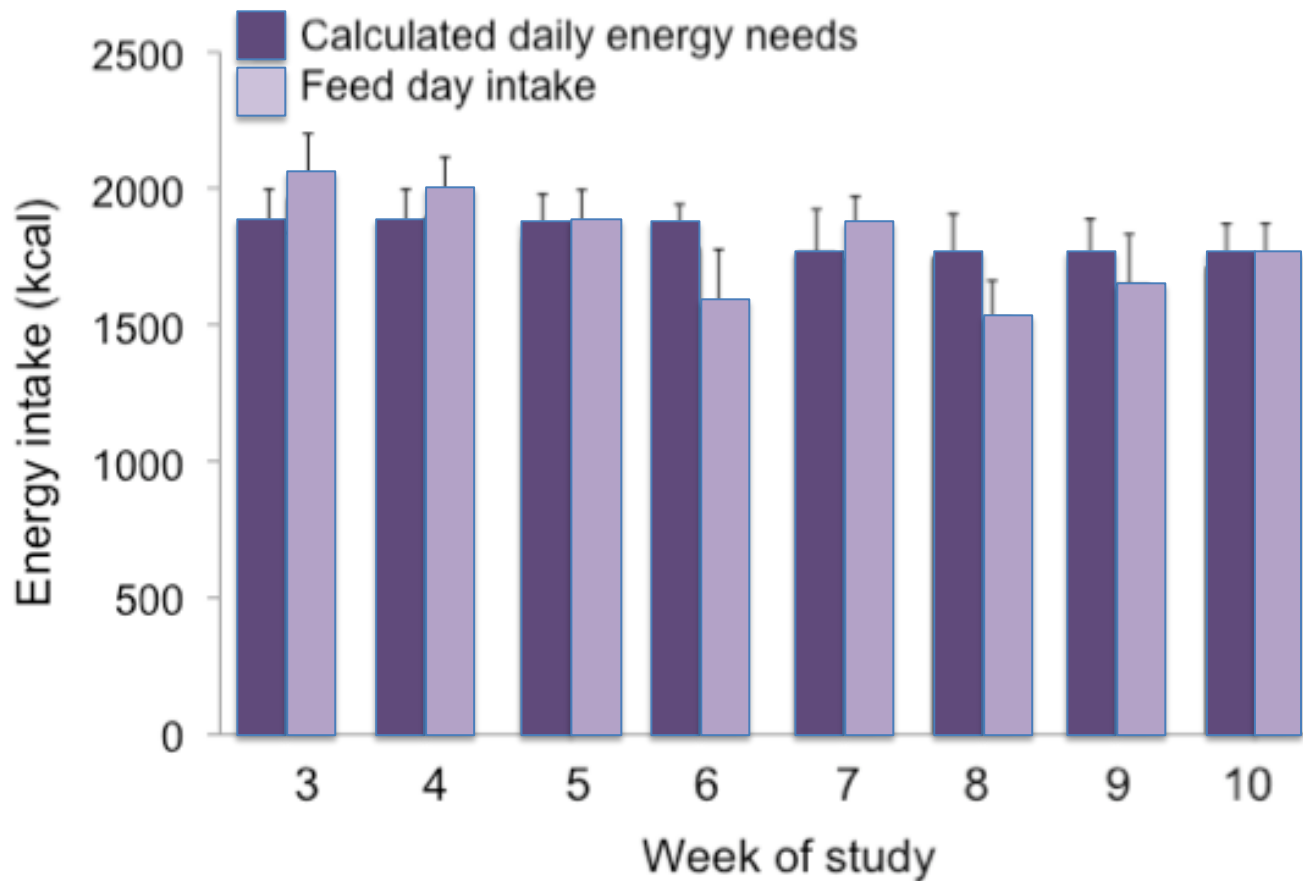


## Fast day

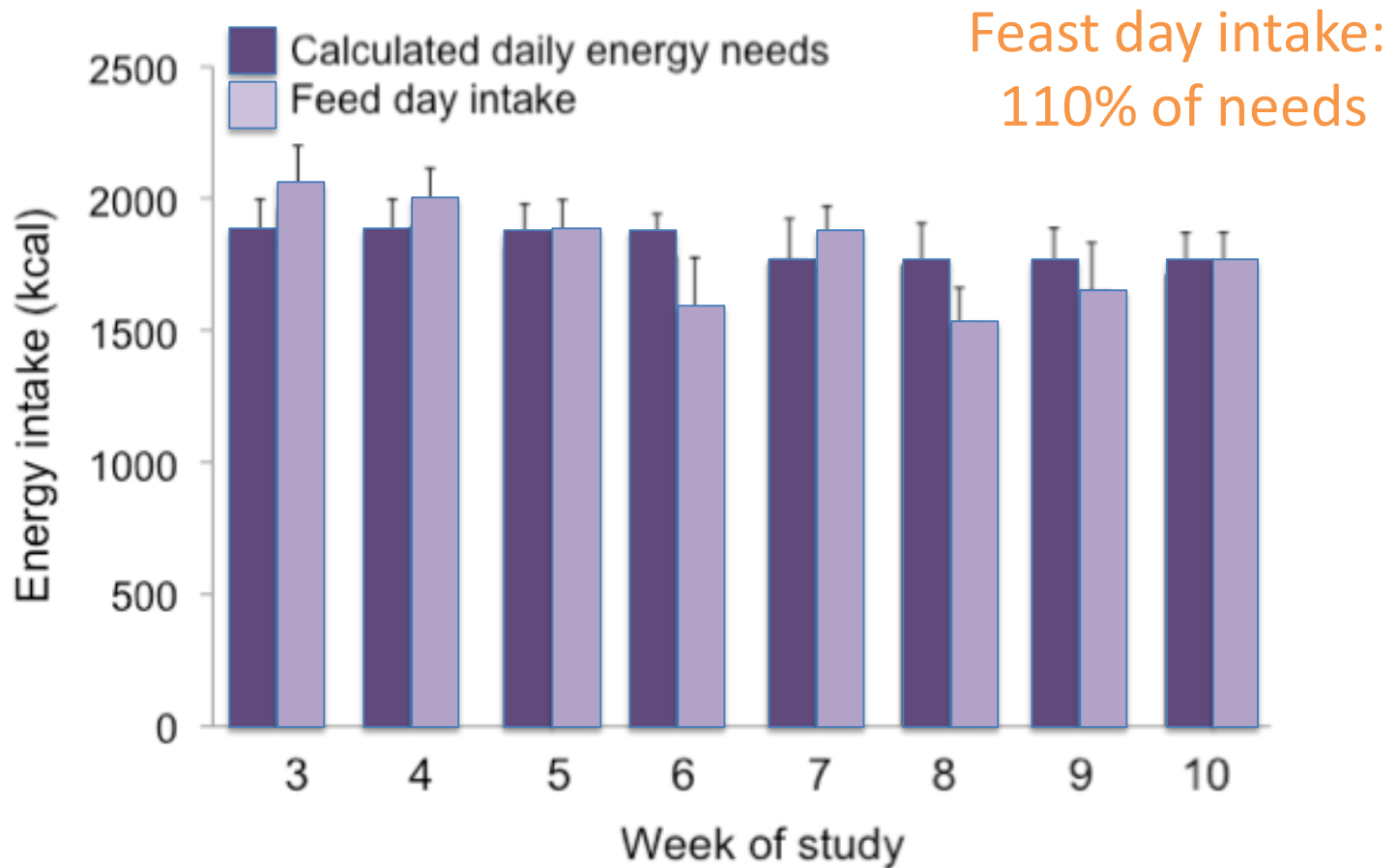
25% energy intake (500-600 kcal)  
Meal consumed at lunch or dinner



# How much do people eat on the feast day?



# How much do people eat on the feast day?



Inability to overeat on the feast day =



Inability to overeat on the feast day =  
Weight loss

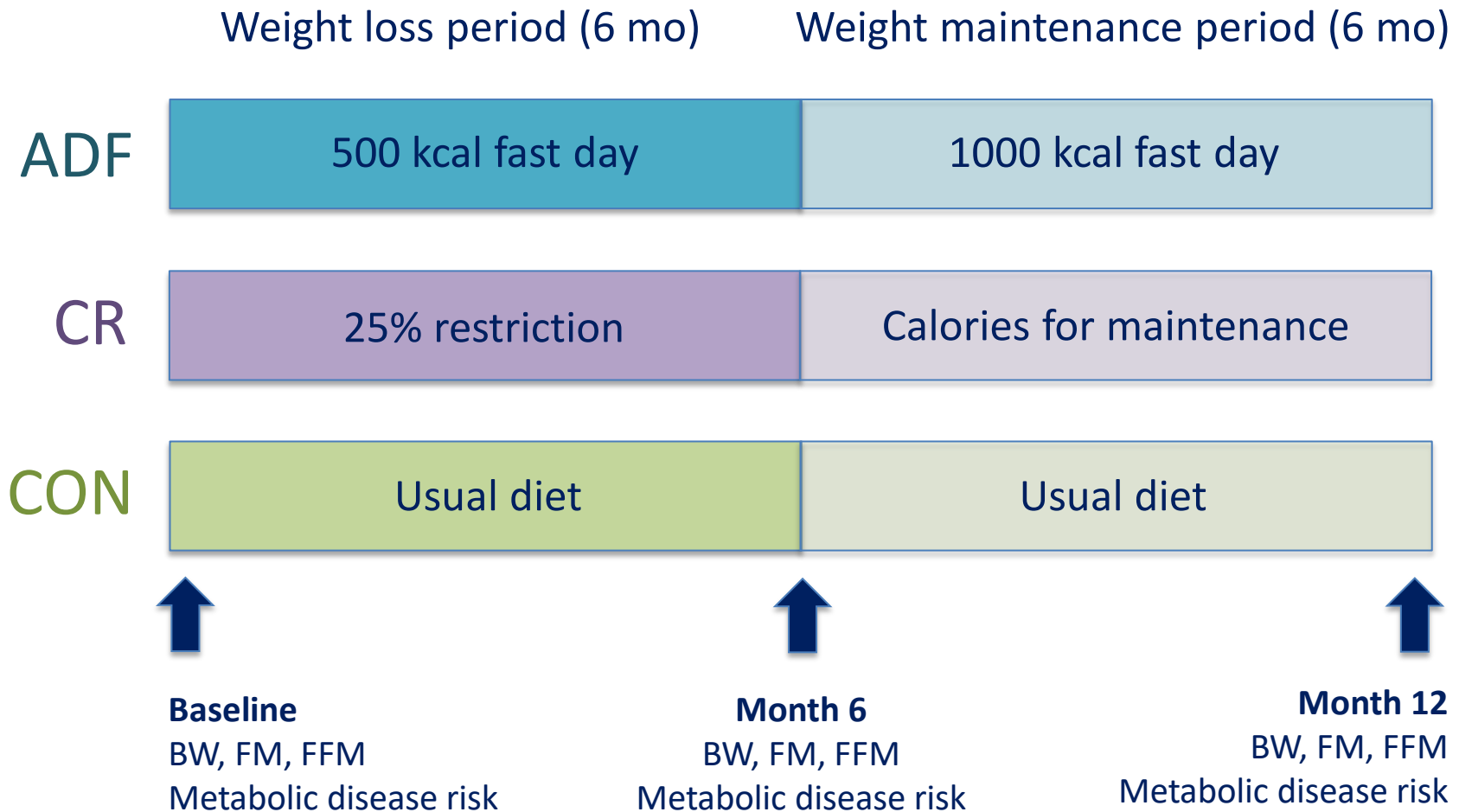




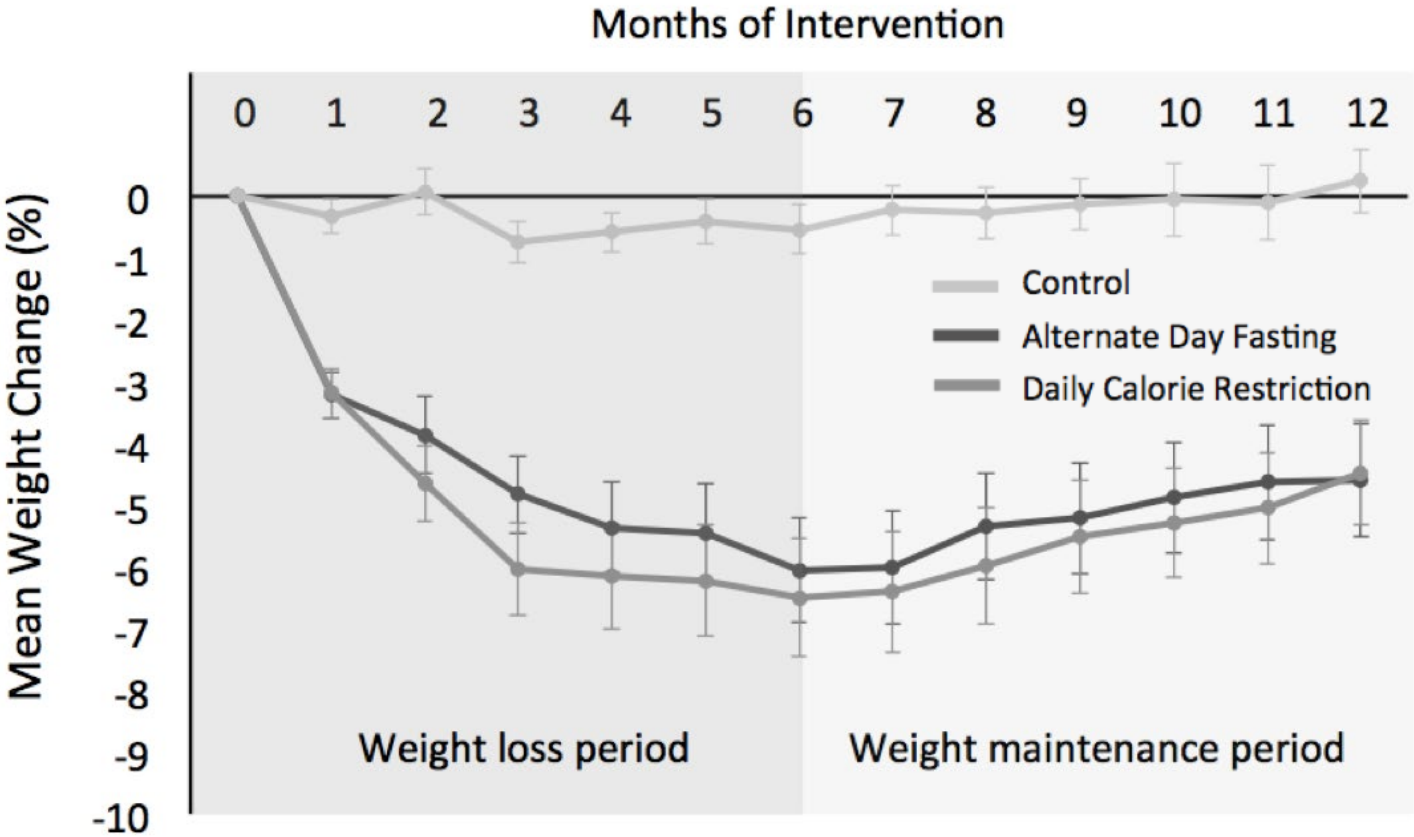
Is **fasting** better for weight loss vs.  
daily **calorie restriction**?



# Experimental design – ADF vs CR study

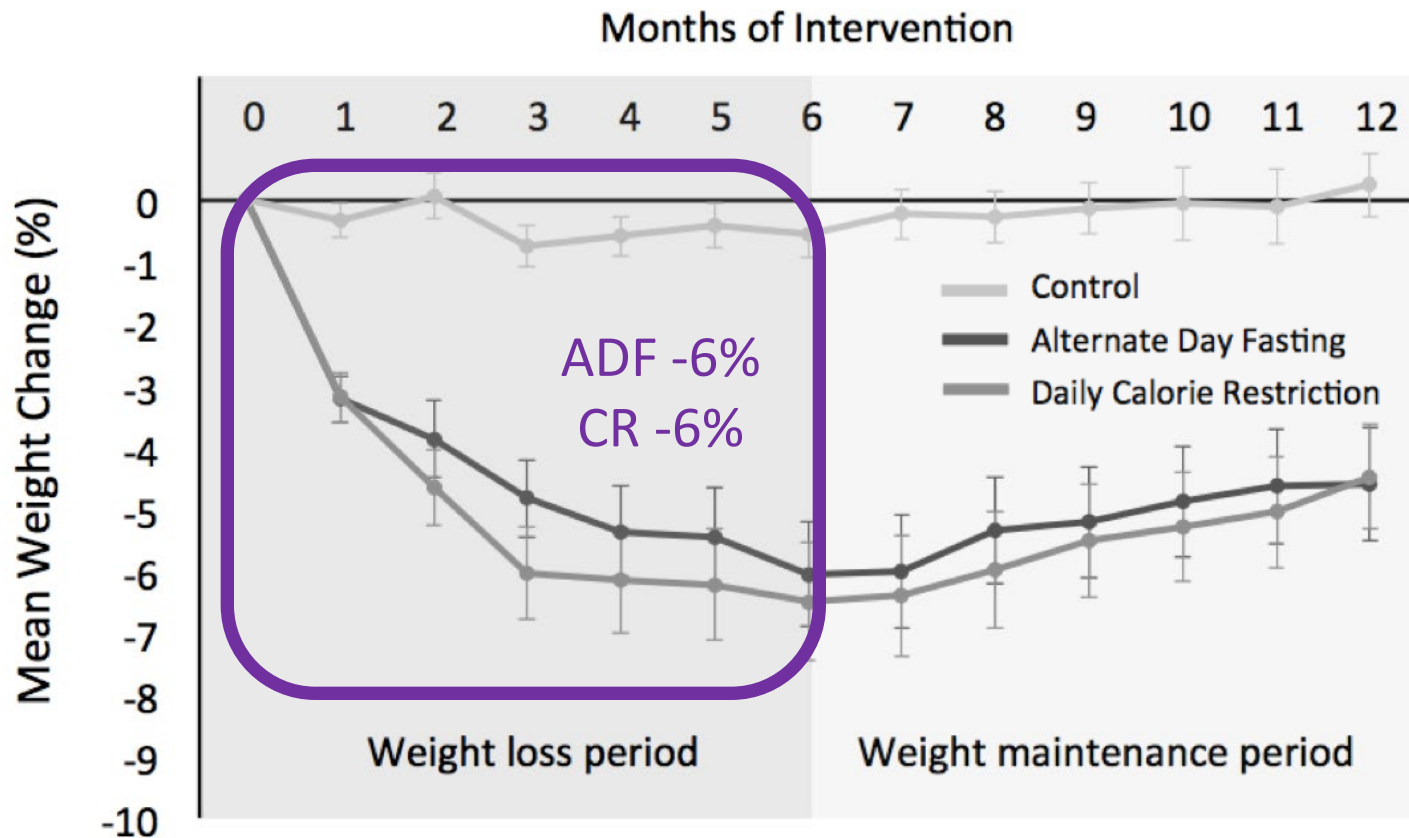


# ADF and CR produced similar weight loss after 1 year



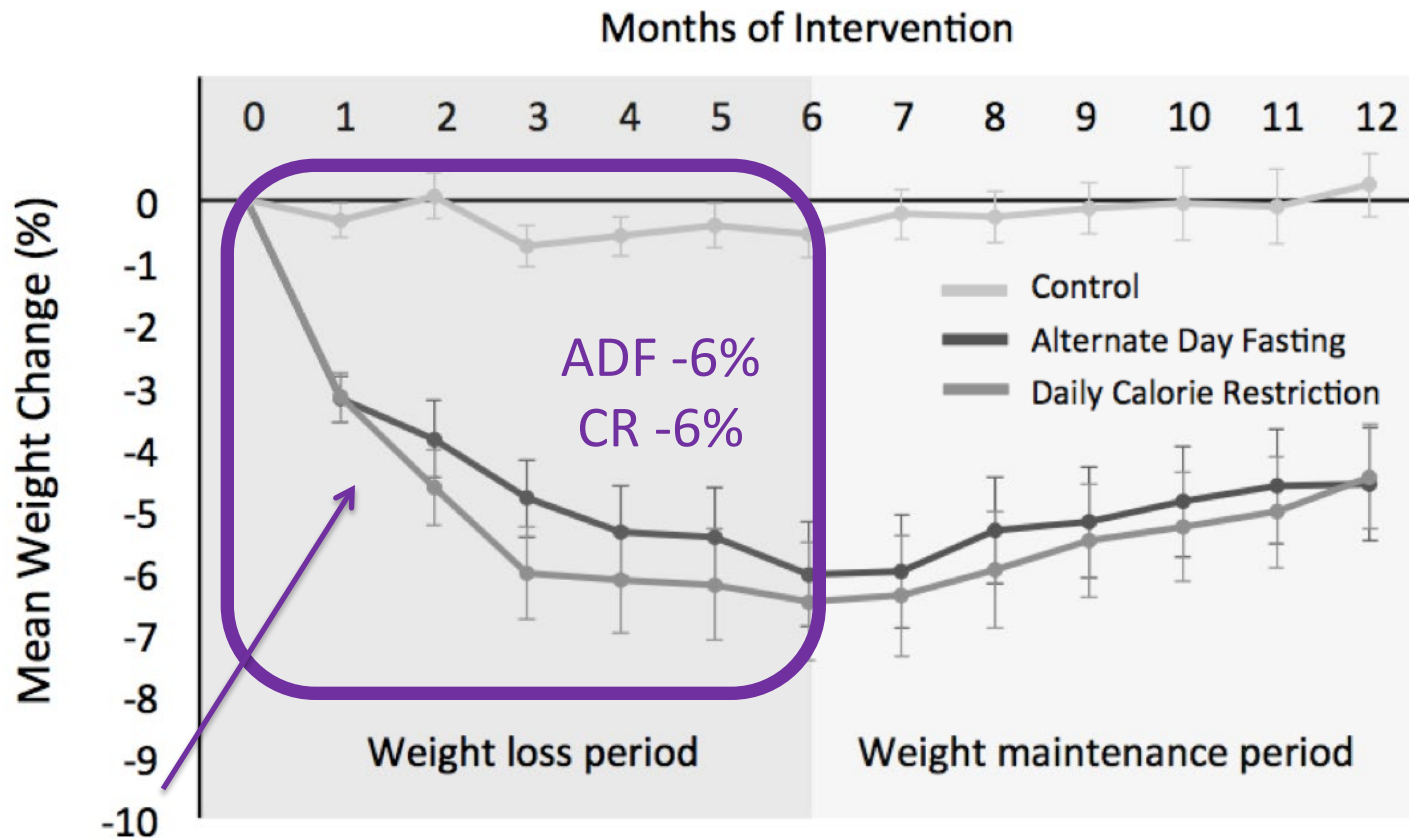
Data were included for 100 participants; means were estimated using an intention-to-treat analysis using a linear mixed model.

# ADF and CR produced similar weight loss after 1 year



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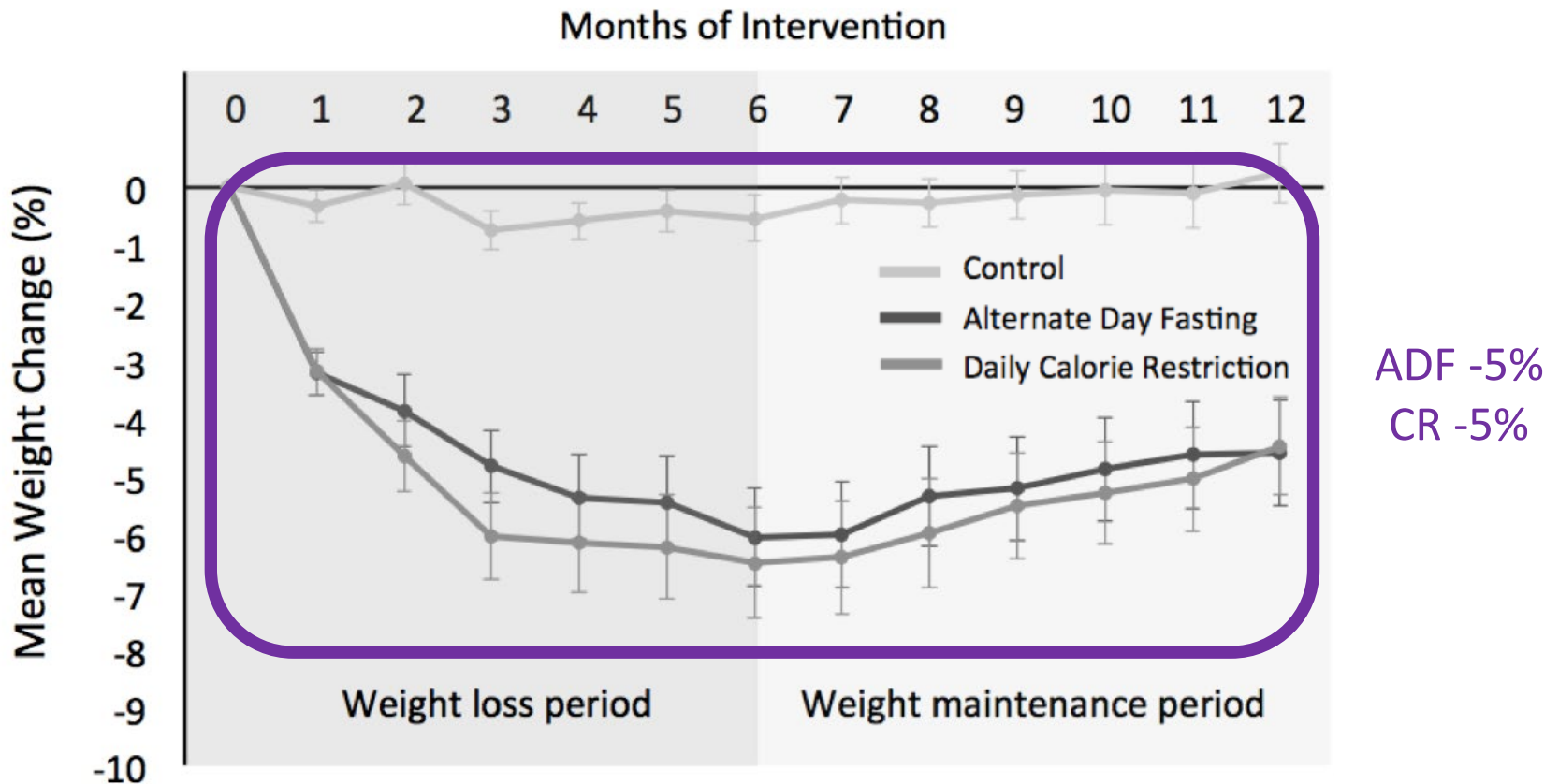
# ADF and CR produced similar weight loss after 1 year



Most weight loss occurred in first 3 months

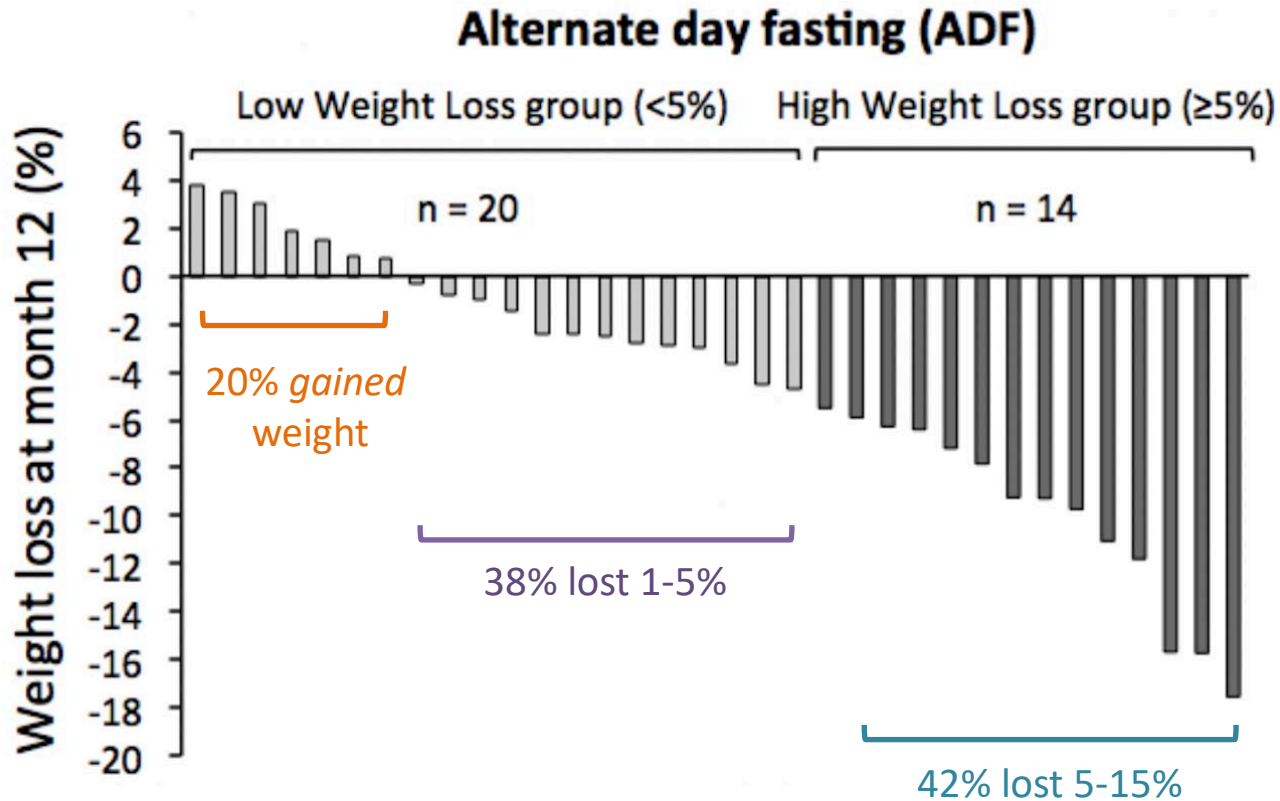
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# ADF and CR produced similar weight loss after 1 year

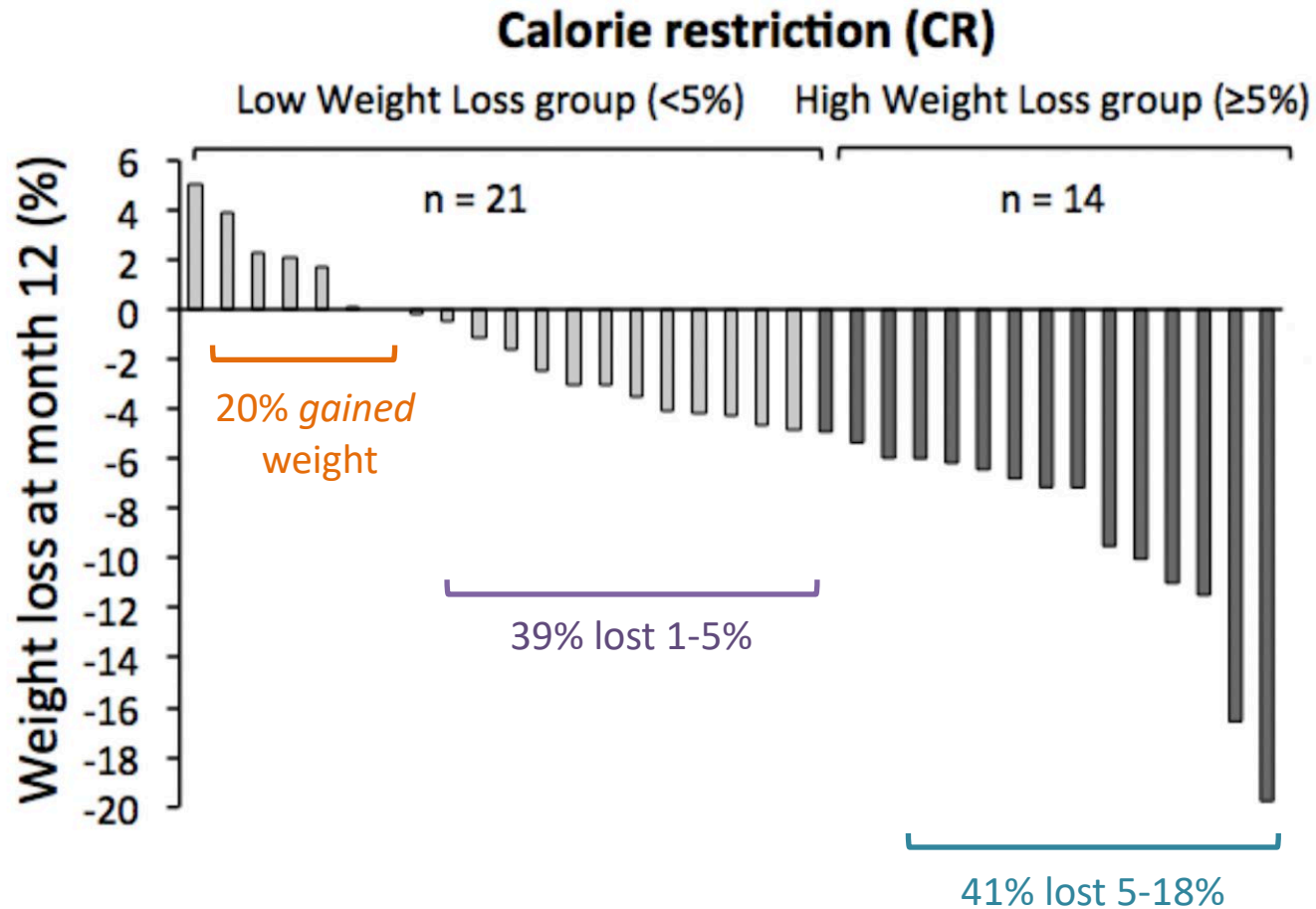


Data were included for 100 participants; means were estimated using an intention-to-treat analysis using a linear mixed model.

But not everyone loses weight with fasting...



...Which is very similar to daily calorie restriction



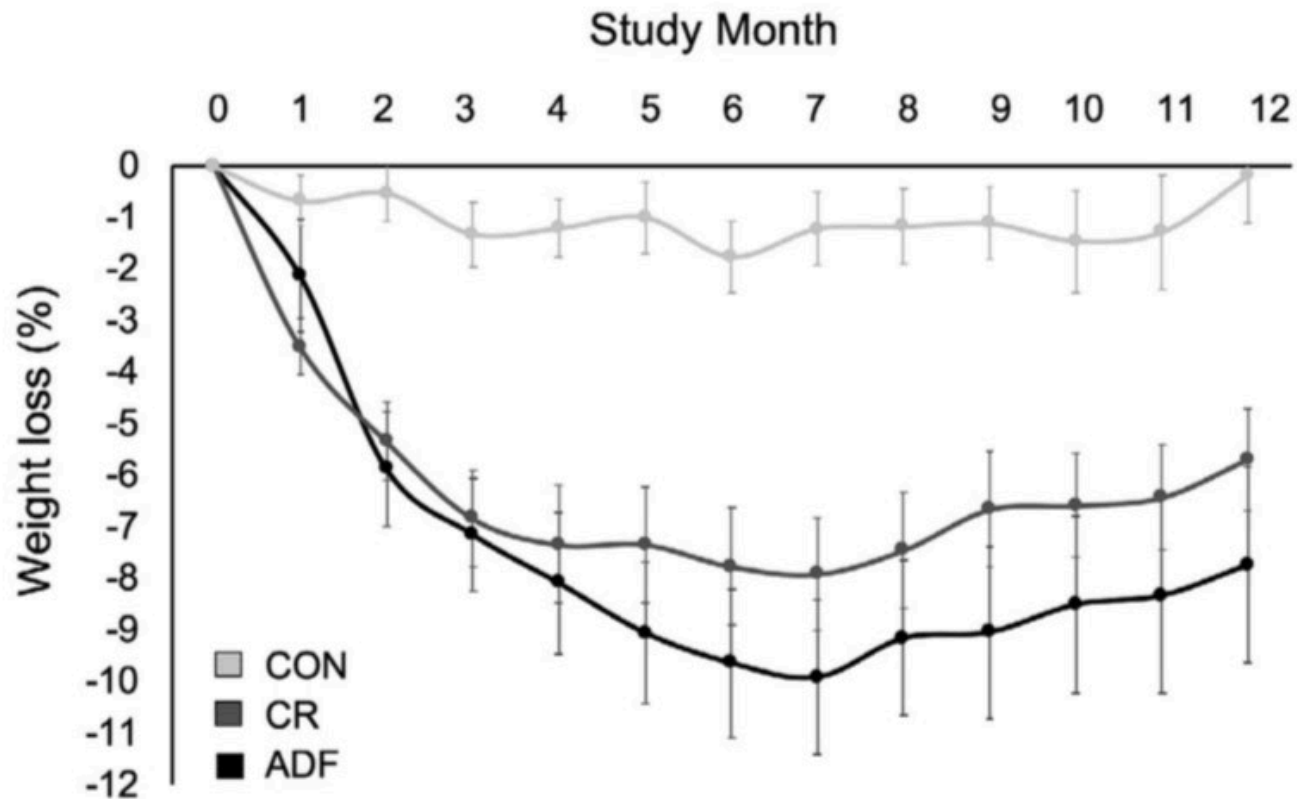


## 12 months of ADF vs. CR in healthy adults with obesity

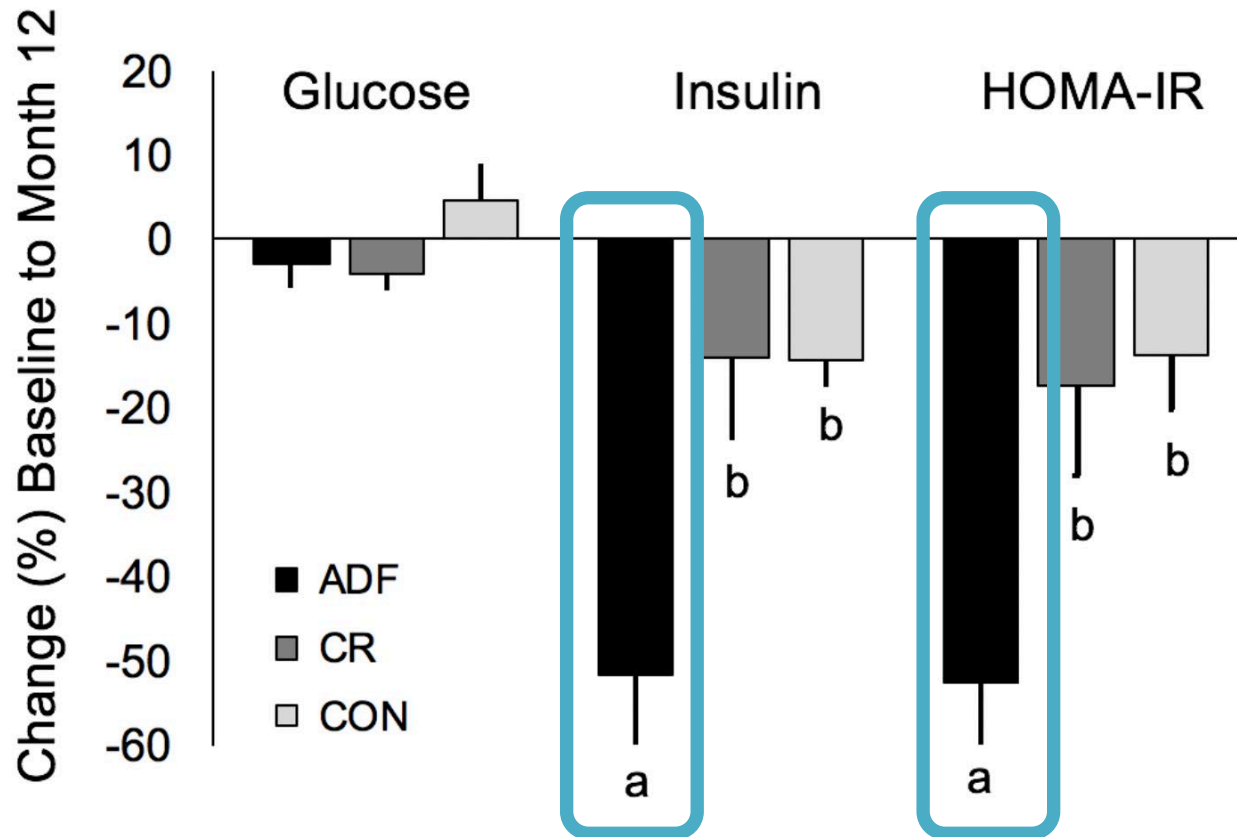
	<b>ADF</b>	<b>CR</b>
Body weight	↓ -5%	↓ -5%
Blood pressure	X	X
Heart rate	X	X
Lipids	↓ TG	↓ LDL
Glucose	X	↓
Insulin	X	X
HOMA-IR	X	X

BUT! ADF may be more effective than CR  
in subjects with obesity and insulin resistance

## Weight loss was similar by ADF and CR in subjects with insulin resistance



ADF produced greater reductions in insulin resistance, versus CR, in subjects with insulin resistance



# Practical considerations



# Who should not do intermittent fasting?



- Pregnant women
- People with binge eating disorders
- Shift workers
- Frequent snackers

## Advice when starting intermittent fasting...



- First 10 days are rough
- Most common complaint: headaches
- Eventually you feel boost of energy on fast days
- Eat 50 g protein on fast day – keep hunger low

# Which diet should I choose?

Alternate day fasting

Faster weight loss  
10-15 pounds in 3 months

Harder to follow  
Need to count calories

Time restricted feeding

Slower weight loss  
5-10 pounds in 3 months

Easier to follow  
Don't need to count calories



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Cynthia Kroeger, Kristin Hoddy, Monica Klempel, Adrienne Barnosky, John Trepanowski

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- Dr. Joe Rigdon (Stanford Statistician)

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