OBESITY INDUCED BY A SUCROSE-RICH DIET PROMOTES DEFICITS IN BONE MINERALIZATION AND MICROARCHITECTURE

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Introduction

Obesity and osteoporosis, chronic, non-transmissible diseases in public health, share increasingly relevant characteristics and prevalence. Although studies have attributed the positive effect of obesity on bone tissue parallel to this, studies indicating the contrary have appeared. The aim of this study was to evaluate the effects of obesity induced by sucrose ingestion, on the body mass, glycemia and biometry, as well as to determine the plasma concentration of leptin and insulin, and evaluate biophysical parameters of the bone tissue of Wistar rats.

Methods

Animals

The experiment is in accordance with the ethical principles of Animal Experimentation and was approved by the Ethics Commission on Animal Experimentation (CEEA) - Protocol No. 2008-002809. Twenty male Wistar rats, 3 months old, of the Rattus norvegicus albinus breed, supplied by the Vivarium of the School of Dentistry, UNESP – São Paulo State University, Araçatuba, Brazil, were randomly selected. The animals were kept in an acclimatized environment (21 ± 2°C) and light/dark cycle (12:12 hours/day) and free access to Purina-Labina® rations and water. Randomly, the animals were divided into two experimental groups: 10 rats in each: C – Control Group; S – Sucrose group that received sucrose solution prepared daily at a concentration of 30% (v/v), for eight (8) weeks.

DXA

Densitometric evaluation was performed at the beginning of the experiment, at the time the two groups were separated, and again after the animals were sacrificed. For the initial densitometric evaluation, the animals were anesthetized by intramuscular administration of ketamine (0.07 ml/100g bw/ip – Fort Dodge Salade Animal Ltda, Brazil) and xilazine (0.03 ml/100g bw/ip - Dopers Laboratories Calier S.A., Barcelona, Spain). Afterwards the animals were placed in a head-to-tail position with the tibia aligned with the laser light beam of the appliance to begin image capture. The tibias were submitted to densitometric analysis by dual energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA) by means of model DPX-ALPHA LUNAR densitometer, with special software for small animals, with high resolution, with the tibia bone as a whole being scanned for subsequent analysis of results.

µCT

Bone microtomography was performed by means of a computerized microtomograph SkyScan 1172 (SkyScan, Aartelaar, Belgium) used for non-destructive tridimensional evaluation of bone architecture. The spongy bone region of interest was manually interpolated, and 100 slices below the growth plate were analyzed at a resolution of 12µm. The tibia was placed in a head-to-tail position for analysis. The parameters analyzed were as follows: BV/TV ( %) – trabecular bone volume as a percentage of tissue volume; Tb.Th (μm) – trabecular thickness; Tb.N (1/mm) - number of trabeculae per millimeter of tissue, and Tb.Sp (μm) – trabecular separation.

Conclusion

In view of the results obtained, it was concluded that obesity induced by means of a sucrose-rich diet promoted a change in the dietary behavior of the rats, with a consequent reduction in bone mineralization, in addition to negatively influencing their bone microarchitecture.