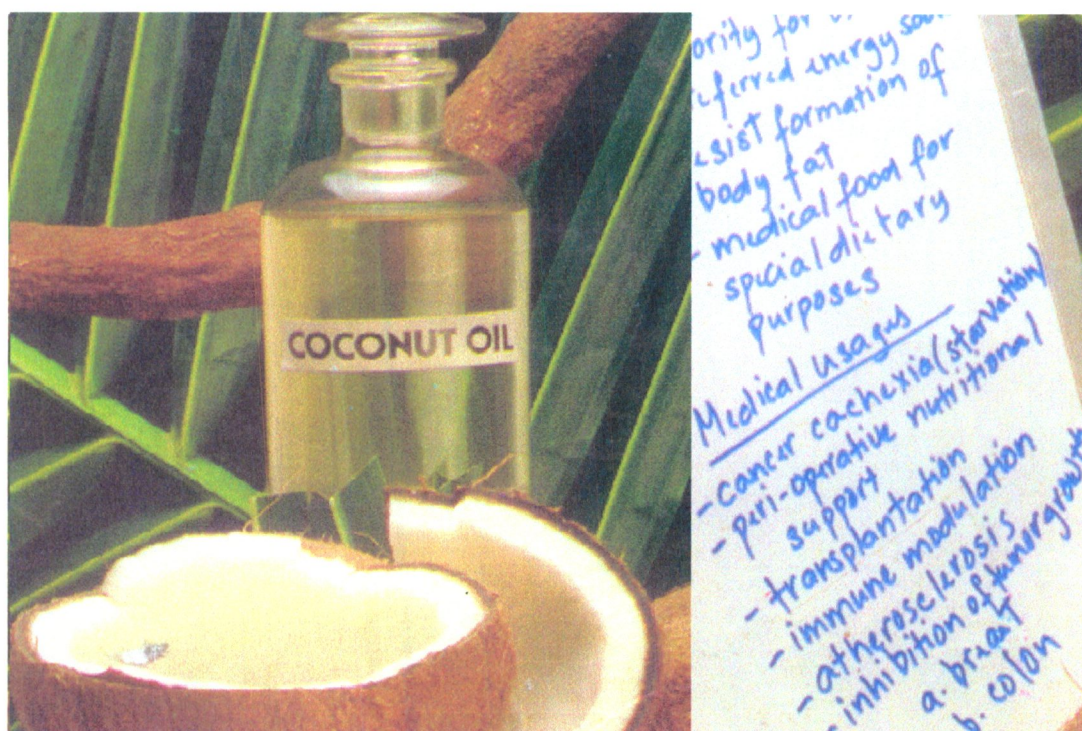


Coconut Oil & Heart Disease

Abstract Bibliography



Coconut Research Institute

Library

Preface

Despite scientific evidence to the contrary, a widespread and sinister disinformation campaign against coconut oil has been going on for some time. As a result some misconceptions on coconut has lead to confusion among the public as well as doctors and nutritionists on the health aspects of coconut oil. It is urgently necessary to resolve such confusion and throw light on the true scenario. It is with this intention that this abstract Bibliography was prepared.

This covers 102 References and abstracts of research and review papers written by scientists based on true scientific research results. A majority of the papers (*those indicated by 'A'*) are available at the Coconut Research Institute library for consultation by those interested in the subject.

We wish that the tide of misinformation on coconut oil would be soon swept up and its miraculous effects be revealed for the benefit of the mankind and the coconut industry.

Librarian
Coconut Research Institute

Coconut Oil and Heart Diseases

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Lipid patterns and dietary habits of adolescent
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- There are misconceptions and conflicting views*
regarding coconut and heart disease as a result of
a large number of publications on the above
subject in the medical literature. Majority of these
come to one conclusion that coconut causes a high
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Populations of coconut consuming countries show low
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- A few pertinent findings on coconut oil are briefed*
ensuring that coconut oil is not harmful for human
health. The kernel oils (lauric fats) such as
coconut are quickly burned and produced
energy in the body. They do not elongate and
desaturate. They do not enter into the
prostaglandin cascade as the long chain
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there is enough linolic acid, the essential fatty
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very acceptable nutritional fat.
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Reevaluation of coconut oil's effect on serum
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- Much debate has existed over the controversial*
issue of diet and cardiovascular disease. Extensive
research on the role lipids play in the atherogenic
process has demonstrated that cholesterol and
various dietary lipids induce
hypercholesterolemia, thus supporting the premise
that diet has an impact on heart disease. Despite
emphasis on "saturated fats" as
hypercholesterolemic, this effect actually depends
on the fatty acid chain length and related
oxidative metabolism. The chemical
characteristics of varying chain lengths need to be
scrutinized carefully, since "tropical oils" such as
coconut oil are still implicated in atherogenesis.
Coconut oil, a medium-chain saturated fat, has
been a frequent research tool for investigating the
theory of saturated vs. polyunsaturated fats'effect
on serum cholesterol, but rarely in a
physiological or clinical trial. This paper reviews
the animal, human and epidemiological data,
emphasizing the error of the accepted
relationships between coconut oil and coronary
vascular disease. Coconut oil has historically
been misrepresented and the scientific community
therefore must be educated on its true metabolic
process and effect on atherogenesis.

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Journal Agriculture and Food Chemistry. Vol.37p.954-957.
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- A new Standard Reference Material (SRM) consisting of coconut oil with various nutrients added has been developed at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in response to the needs of the food measurement community. SRM 1563 consists of ampules of a coconut oil with added cholesterol and selected fat-soluble vitamins and ampules of the natural coconut oil. We have measured cholesterol in this material by a modification of the definitive method based on isotope dilution mass spectrometry coupled with gas chromatography, originally developed for the measurement of cholesterol in serum. The cholesterol concentration, as total cholesterol, in the fortified oil as determined to be 64.2 ± 0.6 mg/100g of oil. This value with its precision complies with the request of the food nutrient measurement community for a standard with an uncertainty within ± 5 per cent of the certified value at 95 per cent confidence limits. The natural oil as found to contain 0.344 ± 0.014 mg/100g of oil.*
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 ✓ **Health and nutritional benefits from coconut oil and its advantages over competing oils. In: Facts about coconut oil** Jakarta; APCC. 35-49.
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- The health and nutritional benefits that can be derived from consuming coconut oil are unique and compelling. These benefits are under appreciated by consumer and producer alike. Coconut oil has*

a place in the arena of physiologically functional foods. A review of the diet/heart disease literature relevant to coconut oil clearly indicates that coconut oil is at worst neutral with respect to atherogenicity of fats and oils, and in fact, is likely to be a beneficial oil for prevention of some heart diseases. Additionally, coconut oil provides a source of anti-microbial lipid for individuals with compromised immune systems and is a non-promoting fat with respect to chemical carcinogenesis.

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American Soybean Association promotion campaign in boosting system sales by warning the health-conscious American consumers that coconut and palm oils are hazardous to the health due to high percentage of saturated fatty acids in these oils leading to increasing the levels of serum

cholesterol, one of the causes of coronary heart disease. Fat consumption and caloric intake patterns of Filipinos in different economic levels are reported in relation to the intake of saturated fats raising the plasma cholesterol levels. Various studies conducted on the role of coconut oil and other animal and vegetable fat sources and their effect on raising cholesterol levels are presented in counteracting the ASA campaign against coconut oil.

INTENGAN, C I

Studies on coconut oil: I. Relation to growth and serum cholesterol levels of rats, II Relation to bile acid excretion in man. PhD Thesis submitted to the University Microfilms 61-3886, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
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KAUNITZ, HANS (Clinical Professor of Pathology, Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons, 630 West 168th Street, New York, N Y 10032, USA) (1996)

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KAUNITZ, HANS (Department of Pathology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York, N Y 10032) (1996)

Nutritional properties of coconut oil. In: *Facts about coconut oil* Jakarta; APCC. 16-25.
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✓ Coconut oil been one of the most widely used vegetable oils since the agricultural revolution. Only in recent years has there been controversy over the desirability of its uses. Controversy has usually stemmed from observed disturbances of calcium or cholesterol metabolism when hydrogenated coconut oil was fed, frequently with inadequate linoleate supplementation, to experimental animals. Furthermore in many of the studies involving cholesterol, entirely unphysiological amounts of cholesterol has been included here that the findings in such studies are the consequence of abnormal nutrition rather than inherent defects in coconut oil. Evidence from epidemiological studies of arteriosclerosis in populations consuming large amounts of coconut oil are cited show that coconut oil in a natural diet is not disadvantageous and may even be of advantage. The high level of medium chain fatty acids in coconut oil is discussed from the point of view that they may contribute to beneficial effects on the part of coconut oil under some abnormal conditions.

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The truth is that no systematic study has been carried out so far on the effect of consumption of coconut oil in human subjects. This paper

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- Young, healthy individuals living in Sri Lanka often consume a diet containing coconut oil as their main source of fat. Blood lipid values and selected platelet related factors have been measured in a group of 16 free living young adults, ages 16 to 21, before and 8 weeks after they had been shifted from their usual diet to a similar one in which the coconut oil was replaced by whole milk powder and corn oil. The results indicate that their blood cholesterol, cholesteryl ester, and several other related circulating blood lipid values, as well as the platelet factor 4 values, were elevated prior to the diet change. Many of these factors, associated as risk factors for atherogenesis, were substantially reduced at the end of the diet change. The only plasma components which were altered substantially were the triglycerides and the HDL cholesterol. These results suggest that the special atherogenic effects of coconut oil that have been demonstrated in so many animal models may be similarly active in humans.*
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- Even though coconut oil has many desirable and unique characteristics as an edible oil, several misconceptions have been perpetuated regarding its use as a dietary fat. Many of these misconceptions originated from the research findings of 1950s based on animal experiments, which had many draw backs, like feeding solely coconut oil without supplementing the essential fatty acids. Since coconut oil is consumed as a part of the diet, the total effect under such a situation may be entirely different. Studies conducted in Polynesia, Sri Lanka and Philippines also point out that coconut oil when taken as a part of normal diet has no linkage with the increased level of cholesterol and the incidence of heart diseases. Of late the Omega nutrition theory put forwarded by famous endocrinologists in India favours consumption of coconut oil, mustard oil and ghee by diabetic and heart patients owing to the low content of Omega-6.*
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*A detailed account on coconut cholesterol and
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daily intake of coconut fat in quantities of 50g or
less has not proved any increase of blood
cholesterol. It was estimated in 1981 that the per
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Hence any increase of heart disease cannot be due
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Ruhuna University College P O Box 70, Galle, Sri
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