

This is the peer reviewed version of the following article:

Association Between Western and Mediterranean Dietary Patterns and Mammographic Density

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Obstet Gynecol. 2016 Sep;128(3):574-81.

which has been published in final form at

<https://doi.org/10.1097/AOG.0000000000001589>

1 **Title: Association between Western and Mediterranean dietary patterns and**
2 **mammographic density.**

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36 **SOURCES OF SUPPORT**

37

38 This study was supported by Carlos III Institute of Health FIS (Spanish Public Health Research
39 Fund: PI060386 FIS; PS09/00790 and PI15CIII/0029 research grants); the Spanish Ministry of
40 Health (EC11-273); the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (IJC1-2014-

41 20900); the Spanish Federation of Breast Cancer Patients (FECMA: EPY 1169-10); and the
42 Association of Women with Breast Cancer from Elche (AMACMEC: EPY 1394/15).

43

44 **Short title: Dietary patterns and mammographic density**

45 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

46 Authors which to acknowledge the financial support provided by Carlos III Institute of Health
47 (PI060386 FIS;PS09/0790 and PI15CIII/0029), the Spanish Ministry of Economy and
48 Competitiveness (IJCI-2014-20900), the Spanish Federation of Breast Cancer Patients
49 (FECMA EPY 1169-10) and the Association of Women with Breast Cancer from Elche
50 (AMACMEC EPY 1394/15).

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52

53 **Précis**

- 54 High adherence to the *Western* dietary pattern is associated with higher mammographic density.
55 However, the *Mediterranean* dietary pattern is not associated with mammographic density.

56 **Abstract**

57 **Objective:** To examine the association between two dietary patterns (*Western* and
58 *Mediterranean*), previously linked to breast cancer risk, and mammographic density. **Methods:**
59 This cross-sectional study included 3584 women attending population-based breast cancer
60 screening programs and recruited between October 7th, 2007 and July 14th, 2008 (participation
61 rate: 74.5%). Collected data included anthropometric measurements, demographic, obstetric
62 and gynecologic characteristics, family and personal health history, and diet in the preceding
63 year. Mammographic density was blindly assessed by a single radiologist and classified into
64 four categories: <10%, 10–25%, 25–50%, and >50%. The association between adherence to
65 either a *Western* or a *Mediterranean* dietary pattern and mammographic density was explored
66 using multivariable ordinal logistic regression models with random center-specific intercepts.
67 Models were adjusted for age, body mass index, parity, menopause, smoking, family history,
68 hormonal treatment and calorie and alcohol intake. Differences according to women's
69 characteristics were tested including interaction terms.

70 **Results:** Women with a higher adherence to the *Western* dietary pattern were more likely to
71 have high mammographic density (n(%)=242(27%)) than women with low adherence
72 (n(%)=169 (19%)) with a fully adjusted odds ratio (aOR_{Q4vsQ1}) of 1.25(95% Confidence Interval
73 (CI)=1.03;1.52)). This association was confined to overweight/obese women
74 (aOR_{Q4vsQ1}(95%CI)= 1.41(1.13;1.76)). No association between *Mediterranean* dietary pattern
75 and mammographic density was observed.

76 **Conclusion:**

77 The Western dietary pattern was associated with increased mammographic density among
78 overweight/obese women. Our results might inform specific dietary recommendations for
79 women with high mammographic density.

80 **Introduction**

81 Breast cancer is the most common malignant tumor among women worldwide and one
82 of the main causes of female mortality in medium and high income countries (1). Early
83 detection and therapeutic advances have improved breast cancer prognosis, but the number of
84 new cases keeps increasing (2) emphasizing the need to prioritize prevention as an
85 indispensable tool to reduce the burden of disease.

86 High mammographic density is an important risk factor for breast cancer (3). Some
87 results indicate a possible mediating effect of mammographic density in breast cancer risk (4),
88 and this phenotype is currently being used to improve the discrimination of classical predictive
89 models (5). Therefore, it is reasonable to presume that some of the factors associated to breast
90 cancer onset might exert their effect by modifying mammographic density.

91 We have recently identified two dietary patterns associated with breast cancer risk: a
92 *Western* dietary pattern associated to increased risk (Odds Ratio (OR)_{high-vs-low-adherence}
93 (95%Confidence Interval (CI))=1.46(1.06;2.01)) and a protective *Mediterranean* pattern
94 (OR_{high-vs-low-adherence}(95%CI)=0.56(0.40;0.79)) (6). The identification of dietary habits
95 associated with mammographic density may inform the design of dietary recommendations for
96 women attending screening who have high mammographic density and, therefore, at higher risk
97 for breast cancer (3). Unfortunately, since a few studies have explored the association between
98 dietary patterns and mammographic density, current evidence remains inconclusive (7, 8). The
99 objective of this study is to explore the association between adherence to the *Western* and
100 *Mediterranean* dietary patterns and mammographic density.

101 **Materials and Methods**

102 In this cross-sectional study (“Determinants of Mammographic Density in Spain”) we recruited
103 women aged 45-69 attending breast cancer screening in one of the 7 centers from the
104 population-based public Spanish Breast Cancer Screening network. Women with a previous
105 cancer diagnosis (except non-melanoma skin cancers), attendees unable to respond to the
106 questionnaire or women with a physical limitation preventing the performance of the
107 mammogram were excluded. Among those eligible, women were randomly selected on a daily
108 basis from the list of attendees scheduled for that particular day, taking into account the number
109 of interviews that could be scheduled for the day. These women were invited to participate and,
110 if they accepted, their appointment was re-scheduled to allow enough time for the interview
111 before the mammogram. With an average participation rate of 74.5% (ranged 64.7–84.0%
112 across centers) and a pre-set minimum sample size of 500 women for each of the 7 sites, the
113 recruitment period lasted from October 7th, 2007 through July 14th, 2008, during which, a total
114 of 3,584 women were recruited.

115 The company Demometrica (<http://www.demometrica.com/>) provided trained
116 interviewers (one per center) to collect anthropometric, demographic, occupational, physical
117 activity, obstetric and gynecologic data, as well as family and personal history (including
118 weight and height at age 18). Data were entered in a data file in Demometrica headquarters. An
119 internal validation was performed using a random sample of 10% of the questionnaires. In
120 addition, all questionnaires were digitalized to make them easily accessible to researchers for
121 checking for possible inconsistencies and unusual values. One hundred and fifty women were
122 re-interviewed to verify their answers. This second interview took place between 2 and 9
123 months after the first one and results from both interviews were highly concordant.

124 Smoking status was defined as “current smoker” for those women who smoke at the
125 time of mammography or quit less than 6 months before; and as “nonsmoker” otherwise.
126 Dietary intake during the preceding year was collected using a 117-items food frequency
127 questionnaire (Appendix 2) similar to Willett questionnaire (9) and suitably adapted to and
128 validated in Spanish adult populations (10, 11). Post-menopausal status was defined as self-
129 reported absence of menstruation in the last 12 months. Weight, height, waist and hip
130 circumferences were measured twice using the same protocol and identical balance scales,
131 stadiometers and measuring tapes. A third measure was taken when the first two were not
132 similar.

133 Mammographic density was blindly assessed by a single radiologist, unaware of the
134 survey data. He read the craniocaudal mammogram of the left breast using a visual
135 semiquantitative score with six categories proposed by Boyd (12) based on percentage of dense
136 tissue in the breast, i.e., categories A (0%), B (0-10%), C (10–25%), D (25–50%), E (50–75%)
137 and F (>75%). This scale has been associated with subsequent development of sporadic and
138 familial breast cancer (3, 13) . Given the small percentage of women in categories A (4%) and
139 F (5%), the two lowest and two highest categories were grouped together, creating the definitive
140 outcome variable categorized as: <10%, 10–25%, 25–50%, and >50%.

141

142 Here we examined two dietary patterns identified in a previous case-control study (6) as being
143 associated with breast cancer risk: a) *Western* dietary pattern, characterized by a high intake of
144 high-fat dairy products, processed meat, refined grains, sweets, caloric drinks, convenience
145 food and sauces and by low intakes of low-fat dairy products and whole grain, was associated
146 with increased risk of breast cancer; and b) the *Mediterranean* dietary pattern characterized by
147 high intake of fish, vegetables, legumes, boiled potatoes, fruits, olives and vegetable oil, and a

148 low intake of juices, was associated with a reduced risk of breast cancer . These two dietary
149 patterns were identified applying principal components analysis without rotation of the
150 variance-covariance matrix over 26 inter-correlated food groups (14). This method reports a set
151 of weights (pattern loadings) associated with each food group that represents the correlation
152 between food consumption and the component/pattern scores that can be used to reproduce such
153 patterns in other samples as explained in detail in Castelló et al.(15). Briefly, we grouped 95 of
154 the 117 items of the food frequency questionnaire (excluding non-caloric and alcoholic
155 beverages) into 26 food groups (**Table 1**), and calculated the level of adherence scores for the
156 *Western* and *Mediterranean* dietary patterns as a linear combination of the weights for each
157 food group and pattern published in Castelló et al. (6) and the food group consumption reported
158 the participants in the current study

159
160 Regarding the statistical analysis, first, we calculated basic descriptive statistics of the
161 anthropometric, sociodemographic and lifestyle characteristics for all women, and by
162 categories of mammographic density. Normally distributed continuous variables were
163 described using the mean±standard deviation. Differences across categories of mammographic
164 density were tested with ANOVA tests. Non-normally distributed continuous variables were
165 described using the median (interquartile interval) and differences by mammographic density
166 were tested with non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis tests. Categorical variables were described
167 using the number of cases and corresponding percentages, and differences by mammographic
168 density were tested with chi-square tests.

169 Associations between adherence to either dietary pattern and mammographic density
170 were evaluated using ordinal logistic regression models with random center-specific intercepts
171 including center as a random effect. As fixed-effects terms, age, body mass index (BMI), parity,
172 menopausal and smoking status, family history of breast cancer, use of hormonal replacement

173 therapy and calorie and alcohol intake were considered as potential confounders. Three mixed
174 models were adjusted in order to explore the confounding effect of different sets of variables.
175 Model 1 was only adjusted by age and BMI (additionally to the random effects term); Model 2
176 also included parity, menopausal and smoking status, family history of breast cancer, and use
177 of hormonal replacement therapy. Finally, calorie and alcohol intake were added to Model 3.
178 Both, categorical (grouping the scores of adherence into quartiles) and continuous (1-standard
179 deviation increase) associations with the scores were examined with all three models. For
180 Model 3, nonlinear associations between the adherence to each pattern and mammographic
181 density were assessed by fitting fractional polynomials.

182 With regards to the sample size, 22.8% of women had a mammographic density of over
183 50%. Therefore, our data allowed us to detect differences of 8% or more in the percentage of
184 women classified in this category between extreme quartiles of adherence to each dietary
185 pattern with a power of 80%.

186 Finally, when significant associations were found, separate analyses were performed by
187 categories of all potential confounders above mentioned and represented in forest plots .
188 Heterogeneity of effects was tested in model 3 by including an interaction term between the
189 score of adherence and the corresponding variable.

190 Analyses were performed using STATA/MP (version 14.0, 2015, StataCorp LP) and statistical
191 significance was set at 2-sided $p < 0.05$.

192 The protocol study “Determinants of Mammographic Density in Spain” was formally
193 approved by the bioethics and animal welfare committee at the Carlos III Institute of Health
194 and all participants signed an informed consent, including permission to publish the results from
195 the research.

196

197 **RESULTS**

198 Thirty-six participants were excluded from analyses: 10 women who developed breast cancer
199 within 6 months of study entry and mammography, 16 did not have mammographic density
200 assessment, 2 did not have BMI information, and 8 participants reported a daily kcal intake
201 under 750 Kcal or above 4500 Kcal. Therefore, analyses included data from 3548 women for
202 whom we had complete information regarding all the variables of interest. As expected,
203 pre/perimenopausal women showed a higher percentage of dense tissue (higher
204 mammographic density). An elevated mammographic density was also associated with family
205 history of breast cancer, tobacco use, high calorie and alcohol intake, younger age and lower
206 BMI and parity (**Table 2**).

207 Crude associations summarized in **Table 2** showed that, compared to women in the lowest
208 quartile of adherence to the Western dietary pattern, a higher proportion of those in the highest
209 quartile had a mammographic density of over 50% (19% (n=169) vs. 27% (n=242),
210 respectively). This association was not observed for the *Mediterranean* dietary pattern, 21%
211 (n=187) of women in the lowest quartile of adherence and 24% (n=211) of those in the highest
212 quartile of adherence had mammographic density of over 50%.

213 Multivariable analyses supported these findings confirming that, while breast density did not
214 differ by level of adherence to the *Mediterranean* dietary pattern (aOR_{Q4vsQ1}(95% CI)=
215 0.99(0.81-1.21) and aOR_{1-standard deviation increase} (95% CI)= 1.02(0.95-1.09)), those with a high
216 adherence to the *Western* dietary pattern had higher mammographic density
217 (aOR_{Q4vsQ1}(95% CI)= 1.25(1.03;1.52) and aOR_{1-standard deviation increase} (95% CI)= 1.09(1.02;1.18))
218 (**Table 3**). No statistically significant departure from linearity was observed in this association
219 when the analysis with fractional polynomials was performed (data not shown).

220 Stratified analysis by subgroups revealed that, the effect of the *Western* dietary pattern
221 on mammographic density was confined to women with a BMI over 25 (aOR_{Q4vsQ1}(95%CI)=
222 1.41(1.13;1.76), heterogeneity p-value=0.068). Our results also suggested some differences
223 according to parity, calorie intake and tobacco consumption, but none of the interaction terms
224 reached statistical significance (**Figure 1**).

225

226 **DISCUSSION**

227 Our results suggest that, whereas the Mediterranean diet was not related to
228 mammographic density, a higher adherence to the Western dietary pattern was associated with
229 higher mammographic density. Subgroup analyses suggest that this effect may be confined to
230 overweight/obese women, and to be stronger among parous, non-smokers, and women with
231 elevated calorie intake. However, our tests for heterogeneity approached significance at best,
232 probably for lack of power. Thus, larger studies are needed to confirm these potential
233 differential effects of diet on mammographic density.

234 Taking into account that high mammographic density is considered one of the key risk
235 factors for breast cancer (3) , we expected to identify associations between dietary patterns and
236 mammographic density similar in direction to those found for dietary patterns and breast cancer
237 by Castelló et al. (6). However, while we found a positive association for the *Western* dietary
238 pattern, mammographic density was not influenced by adherence to the *Mediterranean* dietary
239 pattern.

240 Our findings support previous studies exploring the association between
241 mammographic density and specific nutrients or foods included in the *Western* dietary pattern
242 that reported positive associations with total energy, (16) high density foods (17), total,

243 saturated, and cholesterol fats (18, 19), proteins (18) and meat (20). Not surprisingly, a Western-
244 type diet contrasts with the recommendations issued by the World Cancer Research Fund and
245 the American Association for Cancer Research to reduce cancer burden. Adherence to these
246 recommendations has been positively associated with a reduction of breast cancer risk (21) and
247 mammographic density (17) in our context.

248 On the other hand, a weak inverse association with the *Mediterranean* dietary pattern
249 (8) or with some of its main components such as olive oil (16), vegetables and fiber (22) has
250 been previously reported. Others have found an absence or even a positive association of some
251 of these items with mammographic density (19, 23, 24). . These inconclusive findings suggest
252 that a reduction in mammographic density may not be one of the key mechanisms through
253 which the Mediterranean diet lowers breast cancer risk. A possible explanation for the
254 contradictory effect of a *Mediterranean* diet on mammographic density and breast cancer, is
255 that this diet could be influencing the fat deposit of the breast without altering the percentage
256 of dense tissue. Obesity, a condition inversely associated with mammographic density,
257 increases breast cancer risk via several mechanisms, including the inflammatory effect of
258 adipokines (25), while the *Mediterranean* diet seems to counteract an inflammatory state (26).

259 It is worth mentioning that the effect of the *Western* dietary pattern on mammographic
260 density was only observed among overweight/obese women. Adipocytes are potent endocrine
261 cells that produce hormones and growth factors; obesity strongly influences this endocrine
262 milieu (27). Our results may reflect a synergic effect of this dietary pattern and the local adipose
263 tissue on the fibro glandular component of the breast.

264 For its kind, this is a fairly large and carefully-conducted study on risk factors and
265 mammographic density; however, it presents some limitations. First, the sample size was
266 insufficient to detect significant interactions even when some differences by subgroups are

267 observed. Second, the representativeness of the selected sample might be slightly biased since
268 healthy screening participants might be more concerned about their health than non-
269 participants. However, participation rates in Spanish breast cancer screening programs are high
270 (28) and women in our study are very similar to the women in the Spanish National Health
271 Survey in terms of age range, socioeconomic level, prevalence of smoking and physical activity
272 (29). Third, the visual assessment of breast density by a single radiologist, may imply a degree
273 of subjectivity. However, the radiologist had very high intra-observer concordance (30), and
274 we have confirmed that the visual scale used here is a predictor of subsequent breast cancer
275 development risk (3). Additionally, the collection of data with different mammographic devices
276 and interviewers in different centers might introduce some heterogeneity. These unmeasured
277 sources of variability were taken into account by including random center-specific intercepts in
278 our regression models. Finally, it should be noted that the cross-sectional design of the current
279 study precludes the establishment of causal relationships between adherence to dietary patterns
280 and mammographic density. However, it is hard to think that this association is acting in the
281 other direction since information on diet was collected before the mammographic exploration.

282

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TABLES

Table 1: Composition of food groups based on the food frequency questionnaire of the “Determinants of Mammographic Density in Spain” study

FOOD GROUP	FOOD^a
HIGH-FAT DAIRY	Whole-fat milk, w_1^b ·A+D enriched milk, w_1^b ·Folate enriched milk, double cream, condensed milk, whole-fat yogurt, semi-cured, cured or creamy cheese, custard, flan, pudding, ice-cream
LOW FAT DAIRY	Semi-skimmed and skimmed milk, Omega3 enriched milk ^c , w_2^b ·A+D enriched milk, w_2^b ·Folate enriched milk, soy milk, soy yogurt, skimmed yogurt, cottage or fresh white cheese
EGGS	Eggs
WHITE MEAT	Chicken with skin, skinless chicken, game (turkey, rabbit, etc.)
RED MEAT	Pork, beef, lamb, liver (beef, pork or chicken), entrails, hamburger
PROCESSED MEAT	Serrano ham and other cold meat, sausages, bacon, p \hat{a} te, foie-gras
WHITE FISH	1/3·all kind of fried fish, Fresh white fish (hake, sea bass, sea bream)
OILY FISH	1/3·all kind of fried fish, Fresh blue fish (Tuna, swordfish, sardines, anchovies, salmon), canned tuna, canned sardines or mackerel, salted and smoked fish
SEAFOOD/SHELLFISH	1/3·all kind of fried fish, Clams, mussels, oysters, squid, cuttlefish, octopus, prawn, crab, shrimp, lobster
LEAFY VEGETABLES	Spinach, chard, lettuce, endive, escarole
FRUITING VEGETABLES	Tomato, eggplant, zucchini, cucumber, pepper, artichoke
ROOT VEGETABLES	Carrot, pumpkin
OTHER VEGETABLES	Cooked cabbage, cauliflower or broccoli, onion, green beans, asparagus, mushrooms, corn, garlic, vegetable soup
LEGUMES	Legumes, soy sprouts
POTATOES	Roasted or boiled potatoes
FRUITS	Orange, mandarin, banana, apple, pear, peach, nectarine, apricot, watermelon, melon, grapes, plums or prunes (dried or fresh), strawberries, kiwi
NUTS	Almonds, peanuts, pine nuts, hazelnut
REFINED GRAINS	White-flour bread, rice, pasta
WHOLE GRAINS	Whole-grain bread and partial whole-grain bread, breakfast cereals, wheat germs
OLIVES AND VEGETABLE OIL	Olives, added olive oil to salads, bread and dishes, other vegetable oils (sunflower, corn, soybean)
OTHER EDIBLE FATS	Margarine, butter
SWEETS	Chocolate and other sweets, cocoa powder, plain cookies, chocolate cookies, pastries (croissant, donut, cake, pie or similar)
SUGARY	Jam, Honey, Sugar
JUICES	Tomato Juice, freshly squeezed orange juice, juice (other than freshly squeezed)
CALORIC DRINKS	Sugar-sweetened soft drinks
CONVENIENCE FOOD AND SAUCES	Fried potatoes, crisps, pizza, chicken and Serrano ham croquette, mayonnaise, tomato sauce, ketchup, fish sticks

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^aLog-transformed centered intake in grams.

^bWeighted within the high and low fat dairy categories according to the consumption of whole, semi-skimmed and skimmed milk.

w_1 = whole / (whole + semi- skimmed + skimmed)

w_2 = (semi-skimmed + skimmed) / (whole + semi skimmed + skimmed)

w_1 and w_2 where 0.5 if consumption was 0 grams for whole, semi-skimmed and skimmed milk.

^cAll the Omega3 enriched milk brands that have been examined are skimmed or semi-skimmed

393 **Table 2:** Description of anthropometric, sociodemographic and lifestyle characteristics for all women and by mammographic density classification (Boyd
 394 scale)(12).

CHARACTERISTICS	ALL WOMEN n=3548	MAMMOGRAPHIC DENSITY				p ^a
		<10% n=870	10-25% n=733	25-50% n=1136	>50% n=809	
Age (years) Mean±standard deviation	56.20±5.46	58.28±4.89	57.04±5.03	55.87±5.45	53.66±5.34	<0.001
BMI (Kg/m2) Mean±standard deviation	28.03±4.99	30.77±5.47	28.79±4.80	27.37±4.25	25.33±3.81	<0.001
Parity n(%)						<0.001
Nulliparous	318 (9%) ^b	48 (15%) ^c	47 (15%) ^c	110 (35%) ^c	113 (35%) ^c	
1	541 (15%) ^b	95 (18%) ^c	90 (17%) ^c	181 (33%) ^c	175 (32%) ^c	
2	1703 (48%) ^b	408 (24%) ^c	350 (21%) ^c	567 (33%) ^c	378 (22%) ^c	
≥3	986 (28%) ^b	319 (32%) ^c	246 (25%) ^c	278 (28%) ^c	143 (15%) ^c	
Menopausal Status n(%)						<0.001
Pre/Perimenopausal	816 (23%) ^b	107 (13%) ^c	108 (13%) ^c	268 (33%) ^c	333 (41%) ^c	
Postmenopausal	2732 (77%) ^b	763 (28%) ^c	625 (23%) ^c	868 (32%) ^c	476 (17%) ^c	
Smoking n(%)						<0.001
Never or former ≥6 months	2179 (61%) ^b	599 (28%) ^c	460 (21%) ^c	701 (32%) ^c	419 (19%) ^c	
Smoker or former <6 months	1369 (39%) ^b	271 (20%) ^c	273 (20%) ^c	435 (32%) ^c	390 (28%) ^c	
Family History of Breast Cancer n(%)						0.005
No	3289 (93%) ^b	815 (25%) ^c	696 (21%) ^c	1045 (32%) ^c	733 (22%) ^c	
Yes	259 (7%) ^b	55 (21%) ^c	37 (14%) ^c	91 (35%) ^c	76 (30%) ^c	
Use of Hormonal Replacement Therapy n(%)						0.117
No	3200 (90%) ^b	768 (24%) ^c	664 (21%) ^c	1026 (32%) ^c	742 (23%) ^c	
Yes	348 (10%) ^b	102 (29%) ^c	69 (20%) ^c	110 (32%) ^c	67 (19%) ^c	

Calorie Intake (kcal) Mean±standard deviation	2054±481	1989±471	2023±476	2076±472	2122±498	<0.001
Alcohol Intake (Ethanol in grs) Median(IQR)	0.85 (0.00-5.68)	0.04 (0.00-3.19)	0.89 (0.00-5.68)	0.85 (0.00-5.83)	1.20 (0.00-7.05)	<0.001
Quartiles(Q) of adherence to the Western dietary Pattern n(%)						<0.001
Q1	888(25%) ^b	285(32%) ^c	183(21%) ^c	251(28%) ^c	169(19%) ^c	
Q2	886(25%) ^b	218(25%) ^c	181(20%) ^c	302(34%) ^c	185(21%) ^c	
Q3	887(25%) ^b	205(23%) ^c	193(22%) ^c	276(31%) ^c	213(24%) ^c	
Q4	887(25%) ^b	162(18%) ^c	176(20%) ^c	307(35%) ^c	242(27%) ^c	
Quartiles(Q) of adherence to the Mediterranean dietary Pattern n(%)						0.725
Q1	887(25%) ^b	223(25%) ^c	200(23%) ^c	277(31%) ^c	187(21%) ^c	
Q2	887(25%) ^b	221(25%) ^c	180(20%) ^c	289(33%) ^c	197(22%) ^c	
Q3	886(25%) ^b	221(25%) ^c	173(20%) ^c	278(31%) ^c	214(24%) ^c	
Q4	888(25%) ^b	205(23%) ^c	180(20%) ^c	292(33%) ^c	211(24%) ^c	

395 ^a p-value for differences among mammographic density categories resulting from ANOVA test when comparing means, from Kruskal-Wallis test when comparing Medians and from
396 Chi-Square tests when comparing percentages.

397 ^b Column percentages

398 ^c Row percentages

399 **Table 3:** Adjusted Logistic regression analyses of adherence to Western or Mediterranean dietary
 400 patterns on mammographic density--All women.

DIETARY PATTERNS	MODEL 1^a OR (95% CI) ^b	MODEL 2^a aOR (95% CI) ^c	MODEL 3^a aOR (95% CI) ^d
WESTERN			
QUARTILES (Q) ^e			
Q1	1	1	1
Q2	1.11 (0.93-1.32)	1.09 (0.92-1.3)	1.06 (0.89-1.27)
Q3	1.13 (0.95-1.35)	1.11 (0.93-1.32)	1.05 (0.87-1.26)
Q4	1.34 (1.12-1.59)	1.35 (1.13-1.61)	1.25 (1.03-1.52)
p-trend ^f	0.002	0.001	0.039
Per 1-standard deviation increase ^g	1.11 (1.05-1.19)	1.12 (1.05-1.20)	1.09 (1.02-1.18)
MEDITERRANEAN			
QUARTILES (Q) ^e			
Q1	1	1	1
Q2	1.07 (0.90-1.27)	1.06 (0.89-1.26)	1.01 (0.85-1.20)
Q3	1.06 (0.89-1.27)	1.05 (0.88-1.25)	0.97 (0.80-1.16)
Q4	1.12 (0.94-1.34)	1.12 (0.94-1.34)	0.99 (0.81-1.21)
p-trend ^f	0.234	0.228	0.811
Per 1-standard deviation increase ^g	1.06 (0.99-1.13)	1.06 (1.00-1.13)	1.02 (0.95-1.09)

401 ^a All models included center as a random effect.

402 ^b Odds Ratio and 95% confidence interval adjusted by age and BMI.

403 ^c Odds Ratio and 95% confidence interval adjusted by age, BMI, parity, menopausal and smoking status, family history
 404 of BC and use of HRT.

405 ^d Odds Ratio and 95% confidence interval adjusted by age, BMI, parity, menopausal and smoking status, family history
 406 of BC, use of HRT, and calorie and alcohol intake.

407 ^e Odds Ratio and 95% confidence interval for quartiles of adherence.

408 ^f p value for trend resulting from the Wald test associated to the categorical variable include as continuous in the regression
 409 models.

410 ^g Odds Ratio and 95% confidence intervals per 1-standard deviation increase in the score of adherence to the specified
 411 dietary pattern.

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Adela Castelló

414 **Figure 1:** Adjusted Odds Ratios (aOR) and 95% Confidence Intervals (95%CI) for the risk of high
415 mammographic density in women in the fourth quartile of adherence to the Western dietary pattern
416 according to women characteristics.

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418 ^a All interaction models were adjusted by all the variables included in the figure and included center as a random effect.

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420 **Supplemental digital content I: Appendix 1: Researchers involved in the study**

421 **“Determinants of Mammographic Density in Spain” (Determinantes de la Densidad**

422 **Mamográfica en España).**

423 Marina Pollán (IP), Adela Castelló, Nieves Ascunce, Dolores Salas-Trejo, Carmen Vidal, Carmen
424 Sanchez-Contador, Carmen Santamariña, Carmen Pedraz-Pingarrón, Maria Pilar Moreno, Beatriz
425 Pérez-Gómez, Virginia Lope, Nuria Aragonés, Jesús Vioque, Pilar Moreo, M^a Soledad Abad,
426 Francisca Collado, Francisco Casanova, Jose Antonio Vázquez, Milagros García, Manuela
427 Alcaraz, M^a Soledad Laso, Josefa Miranda, Francisco Ruiz Perales and Maria Ederra.

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Supplemental digital content II: English translation of the food frequency questionnaire used to collect dietary information from the study “Determinants of Mammographic Density in Spain” (Determinantes de la Densidad Mamográfica en España).

FOOD FREQUENCY QUESTIONNAIRE OF DDM-SPAIN

Dear Madame, the aim of this part of the questionnaire is to assess your diet in the past year. Your answers will be very useful and that is why we demand you all your attention and collaboration. When a type of food does not match complete your consumption pattern you can try to answer approximately with the indicated quantities. We will help you with examples and instructions.

For each type of food, please average your use of these foods in the past year. You must take into account when food is to consume alone or when it is to add to other foods. For example, if you prepare eggs consider when you eat them alone (E.g. fried or boiled) and when you add them to another food. If you have eaten a 2-eggs omelet every two days you will answer "1 daily". Do not take into account the eggs used to prepare baked goods or sweets.

Do not forget to fill up every line

I. DAIRY PRODUCTS		Never ó <1 month	1-3 per mo	1 per week	2-4 per week	5-6 per week	1 per day	2-3 per day	4-5 per day	6+ per day
Milk (One glass, 200 cc)	Whole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Semi-skimmed	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Skimmed or low fat	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Other milk: with Soy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	with Omega-3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	with Calcium and vitamins A+D	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	with Folate	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Condensed milk (1 table spoon)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Full cream, e.g. added coffee, whipped (1 table spoon)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Full fat or Greek yogurt (125 g carton)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Low fat yogurt (125 g carton)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Soy yogurt (125 g carton)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Cottage cheese, low fat soft cheese (medium serving, 100 g)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Cheese e.g. Cheddar, Brie, Edam (medium serving, 50 g)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Custard, cream caramel, pudding (one)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Ice cream (1 cup or cornet)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
II. EGGS, MEAT, FISH		Never ó <1 month	1-3 per mo	1 per week	2-4 per week	5-6 per week	1 per day	2-3 per day	4-5 per day	6+ per day
Poultry eggs (one)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chicken WITH skin (one medium size serving, 90 g)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chicken WITHOUT skin (one medium size serving, 90 g)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Meat as main dish: roast, steak, mince, stew or casserole (one medium size serving, 125g)	Beef	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Pork	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Lamb	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Game: rabbit, quail, duck (one medium size serving, 100g)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Hamburger (one medium, 100 g)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Liver beef, pork, chicken (one medium serving, 100g)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Trips, brains, sweetbreads (one serving, 100 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Serrano or cocked ham (one serving, 50 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Other Cold meat: salami type sausage, salami, bologna (one serving, 50 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sausages and similar (one, 50 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Pâté, liver pâté (medium serving, 50 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Pork fat (lard), bacon (2 slides, 50 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Fish fried and mixed (1 medium serving, 100 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
White fish fried or grilled fish: haddock, sole, gilthead (1 serving, 100 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Blue fish boiled or grilled: tuna fish, swordfish, bonito (1 serving, 100 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Other dark meat fish: mackerel, sardines, anchovy, salmon (1 serving, 100 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Canned tuna fish in oil (small can)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Canned sardines or mackerel in oil (small can)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Salted fish and/or smoked fish: anchovy, cod, salmon (small serving, 50g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Clams, mussels, oysters (one serving, 100 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Squid, sepia, octopus (one serving, 100 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Shellfish: prawns, crabs, lobster (one serving 100 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
III. VEGETABLES AND LEGUMES	Never ó <1 month	1-3 per mo	1 per week	2-4 per week	5-6 per week	1 per day	2-3 per day	4-5 per day	6+ per day
Spinach or beet, cooked (1 medium serving, 100 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, cooked (1 medium serving, 100 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Lettuce, green salad (1 medium serving, 60 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Onions (1 medium size, 50 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tomatoes (1 medium size, 100 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tomato juice (one glass, 200cc)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tomato sauce (half a cup, 100 cc)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Carrot, pumpkin (1 or small dish, 50 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
French bean, cooked (1 serving, 100 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Aubergine, marrow, cucumber (one, 100 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Peppers (one, 75 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Artichokes (1 serving, 100 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Asparagus (1 serving, 75 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Mushrooms (1 serving, 100 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sweet corn (1 serving or small can, 82 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Soya sprouts (a handful, 30g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Wheat germ (a handful, 10g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Legumes: lentils, chickpeas, dark or white beans (1 medium dish, 140 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
IV. FRUITS	Never ó <1 month	1-3 per mo	1 per week	2-4 per week	5-6 per week	1 per day	2-3 per day	4-5 per day	6+ per day
Oranges, mandarins (one)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Orange juice, fresh fruit (small glass, 125 cc)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bananas (one)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Apple, pears (one medium size)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Peaches, apricots (one medium size)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Watermelon, melon (1 slice medium)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Grapes (medium bunch of grapes or dessert dish)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Prunes, plum, dried or fresh (one)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Strawberries (7-8 units)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Kiwi (one)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Olives (15 small olives)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Dried fruit: almonds, peanuts, pinions, hazelnut (1 small dish or small packet, 30g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
V. BREAD, CEREALS AND SIMILAR	Never ó <1 month	1-3 per mo	1 per week	2-4 per week	5-6 per week	1 per day	2-3 per day	4-5 per day	6+ per day
White bread (small piece or 3 slides, 60 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Brown or whole bread (small piece or 3 slides, 60 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Breakfast cereals (30 g dried, 1 cup)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chips (fried potatoes in oil) (1 serving, 100 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Potatoes: boiled, grilled (1 medium)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chips (1 small bag, 25-30 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Rice cooked (1 medium dish)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Pasta: spaghetti, noodles, macaroni and similar (1 dish)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Pizza (1 portion, 200 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
VI. OILS, FAT AND SWEETS	Never ó <1 month	1-3 per mo	1 per week	2-4 per week	5-6 per week	1 per day	2-3 per day	4-5 per day	6+ per day
Olive oil added to salads, bread or food (1 table spoon)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Other vegetables oils (idem): girasol, corn, soy (1 1 table spoon)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Margarine added to bread or food (1 1 table spoon or spread on bread)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Butter added to bread or meals (spread butter on bread)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Biscuits (one)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chocolate cookies (1 double cookie)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Baked goods: croissant, donut, small sponge cake, brownies, cake or similar (one)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chocolate and similar (1 piece or candy bar or 2 chocolates)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Drinking chocolate, cocoa and similar (1 tbs of powder)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
VII. DRINKS AND OTHERS	Never ó <1 month	1-3 per mo	1 per week	2-4 per week	5-6 per week	1 per day	2-3 per day	4-5 per day	6+ per day
Red wine (1 glass, 125 cc)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
White, rose or sparkling wine and champagne (1 glass, 125 cc)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sherry, dry wine, vermouth (small glass, 50 cc)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Cider (1 glass, 125 cc)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Beer (1 glass or small bottle, 200 cc)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
No-alcohol beer (1 glass or small bottle, 200 cc)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Fruit and cream spirits (20-25°) (small glass, 50 cc)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Brandy, gin, rum, whiskey, vodka 40° (small glass, 50 cc)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sugar-sweetened soft drinks (one, 250 cc)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Diet soft drinks (one, 250 cc)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tap water (one glass, 250cc)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Still bottled water (one glass, 250cc)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sparkly bottled water (one glass, 250cc)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bottled fruit juice (one glass, 200cc)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Coffee (1 cup)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Decaffeinated coffee (1 cup)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Red, green, blank of green tea (1 cup)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Other teas like chamomile or mint (1 cup)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Vegetable soup and puree (1 serving, 250 g)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Serrano ham or chicken croquettes (one)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Fish fingers (one)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Mayonnaise (1 1 table spoon)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Ketchup (1 1 table spoon)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Added salt (1 pinch)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Garlic (1 clove)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Jam, honey (1 1 table spoon)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Added sugar (1 tea spoon)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Added spices (1 tea spoon)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9