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The influence of age and body mass index on relative accuracy of energy intake among Japanese adults

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Abstract

Objective: To examine relationships between the ratio of energy intake to basal metabolic rate (EI/BMR) and age and body mass index (BMI) among Japanese adults.
Design: Energy intake was assessed by 4-day semi-weighed diet records in each of four seasons (16 days in total). The EI/BMR ratio was calculated from reported energy intake and estimated basal metabolic rate as an indicator of reporting accuracy.
Setting: Residents in three areas in Japan, namely Osaka (urban), Nagano (rural inland) and Tottori (rural coastal).
Subjects: One hundred and eighty-three healthy Japanese men and women aged ≥30 years.
Results: The oldest age group (≥60 years) had higher EI/BMR values than the youngest age group (30–39 years) in both sexes (1.74 vs. 1.37 for men; 1.65 vs. 1.43 for women). In multiple regression analyses, age correlated positively (partial correlation coefficient, $\beta = 0.012$, $P < 0.001$ for men; $\beta = 0.011$, $P < 0.001$ for women) and BMI correlated negatively ($\beta = -0.031$, $P < 0.001$ for men; $\beta = -0.025$, $P < 0.01$ for women) with EI/BMR.
Conclusion: Age and BMI may influence the relative accuracy of energy intake among Japanese adults.

Keywords
Energy intake
Underreporting
Age
Body mass index
Japanese adults

Reliable dietary information plays a critical role in many aspects of human nutrition. Investigators have often relied on self-reported dietary data assessed by diet records, 24-hour dietary recalls and food-frequency questionnaires to interpret the associations between diet and disease. However, the results of various studies applying different assessment methods and investigating different populations have shown common problems such as reporting bias[1,2]. In particular, underreporting of energy intake is a serious threat to the validity of self-reported dietary assessment data. Studies using the doubly labelled water technique as an external biomarker of energy intake not only reveal underreporting of energy intake, but also identify the subject characteristics and factors associated with underreporting[3,4]. Moreover, other studies using the ratio of energy intake to basal metabolic rate (EI/BMR) as an alternative approach to identify the low energy reporters have shown similar results[5,6].

Most studies found a higher proportion of underreporting among women and older subjects[7,8]. Moreover, underreporting of energy intake was common among obese subjects[9–11], but was also observed in non-obese subjects[12,13]. Other factors such as body image, health consciousness, social desirability, educational level and smoking status also affected reporting accuracy[2,14,15]. However, all of these studies were conducted in Western countries. The only study conducted in Japan showed a significantly negative correlation between BMI and EI/BMR among women aged 18–20 years[16]. Thus the purpose of the present study was to examine the relative accuracy of self-reported energy intake among various age ranges in the Japanese population.

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Subjects and methods

Subjects

We selected three areas which have different geographical conditions in Japan: Osaka (urban), Nagano (rural inland) and Tottori (rural coastal). We invited 32 healthy married women aged 30–69 years from each of the three areas to distribute eight women equally in each age class of 30–39, 40–49, 50–59 and 60–69 years. The total number of women recruited was 96. Their husbands (aged 31–76 years) were also invited to participate in the study. None of the subjects was currently receiving or had recently received diet counselling from a doctor or dietitian, nor had a history of educational hospitalisation for diabetes. The subjects were not randomly sampled but asked by local study staff to participate in the study. Here, subject recruitment was continued until a sufficient number of subjects was obtained. Prior to the study, we held group orientations for the subjects where we explained the study purposes and protocol. All subjects giving written informed consent were finally considered eligible for the study.

Dietary assessment

The subjects completed 4-day semi-weighed diet records four times at 3-month intervals from November 2002 to August 2003. Dietary intake was assessed from four randomly assigned days, including one weekend day and three weekdays. A digital scale (Tanita KD-173; ± 2 g precision for 0–250 g and ± 4 g precision for 250–1000 g) was given to each couple to weigh all the foods eaten. When measurement was difficult, e.g. when eating out, we instructed them to record in as much detail as possible the size and quantity of foods they ate. For each recording day, the subjects were asked to fax the completed forms to the local staff (dietitians). The study staff checked the submitted forms and asked the subjects to add and/or modify the records as necessary by telephone or fax. In some cases, the responses were handed directly to the study staff rather than faxed.

All the collected diet records were checked by trained dietitians in each local centre and then in the study centre. The diet records were analysed for nutrient intake by trained dietitians using the food composition table of Japanese foods, 5th edition[17].

Physical activity level and anthropometric measurements

Physical activity level was obtained from a questionnaire which queried information about each subject's occupation and leisure-time activity. One answer was chosen from four categories, i.e. 'low', 'relatively low', 'moderate' and 'heavy' physical activity level. This classification was referenced to the recommended dietary allowance for Japanese, 6th edition[18]. The gross energy expenditure of each category was considered to require 1.3, 1.5, 1.7 and 1.9 times the BMR, respectively[18]. Therefore, we converted the categorical classification of physical activity level to the ratio of BMR based on above values, and expressed as it as a score for easy interpretation.

Body weight and height were measured to the nearest 0.1 kg and 0.1 cm, respectively, with subjects wearing light clothing and no shoes. BMI was calculated as body weight (kg) divided by the square of body height (m^2). We classified BMI into four categories: $<18.5\,\text{kg}\,\text{m}^{-2}$, 18.5–24.9 $\text{kg}\,\text{m}^{-2}$, 25.0–27.9 $\text{kg}\,\text{m}^{-2}$ and $\geq 28\,\text{kg}\,\text{m}^{-2}$. Because the proportion of obese subjects (BMI $\geq 30\,\text{kg}\,\text{m}^{-2}$) was very low ($n = 1$ for men aged 40–49 years; $n = 0$ for women), BMI $\geq 28\,\text{kg}\,\text{m}^{-2}$ was used as the highest category instead of $\geq 30\,\text{kg}\,\text{m}^{-2}$ in the present analysis.

BMR was estimated for each subject using formulas based on body weight given by the Food and Agriculture Organization/World Health Organization/United Nations University (FAO/WHO/UNU)[19] as follows.

- Men aged 30–60 years:
  BMR = 0.0485 × body weight (kg) + 3.67.
- Men aged >60 years:
  BMR = 0.0565 × body weight (kg) + 2.04.
- Women aged 30–60 years:
  BMR = 0.0364 × body weight (kg) + 3.47.
- Women aged >60 years:
  BMR = 0.0439 × body weight (kg) + 2.49.

Statistical analysis

We included 183 subjects (91 women and 92 men) with complete 16-day diet records living in the Osaka (29 women and 30 men), Nagano (31 women and 31 men) and Tottori (31 women and 31 men) areas in the present analysis.

We calculated the ratio EI/BMR to evaluate the relative accuracy of the reported energy intake. Subjects were allocated into quintiles of EI/BMR to compare 'low energy reporters' with 'high energy reporters'. Low ratios describe subjects reporting comparatively low energy intake relative to their energy requirement. To compare the relative degree of under- and overreporting, we temporarily used the values defined by FAO/WHO/UNU: the minimum survival level of 1.27, the sedentary level for men of 1.55 and women of 1.56, and the maximum sustainable lifestyle level of 2.0–2.4.

Results are given as mean ± standard deviation. Student's *t*-test and one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) were used to test for differences between the groups. When ANOVA indicated a difference among the groups, Dunnett's *t*-test was applied to compare to the first group as a control. The chi-square test was used to test for proportionate differences between categories. Multivariate evaluation of the simultaneous effects of age, BMI, physical activity level and living area on EI/BMR was performed by a stepwise multiple regression analysis.

We also computed the partial correlation coefficients between each independent variable and EI/BMR adjusting for other independent variables.

All statistical analyses were performed using version 8.2 of the SAS software package (SAS Institute, Inc., Cary, NC, USA). A *P*-value of <0.05 was considered significant.

Results

Table 1 presents a summary of the physical characteristics of the subjects. Mean age was 52.8 ± 12.1 (range 31–76) years in men and 49.5 ± 11.4 (range 31–69) years in women. Mean values of EI/BMR were not different between sexes (1.55 for men vs. 1.48 for women, $P = 0.12$). Men had a higher BMI (23.3 vs. 22.1 kg m^{-2}, $P < 0.01$) and a higher proportion of overweight (21% vs. 11% for BMI of 25.0–27.9 kg m^{-2} and 10% vs. 2% for BMI ≥28 kg m^{-2}, $P = 0.03$) than women. Men had a higher physical activity level than women (1.48 vs. 1.43, $P = 0.02$), and 38% and 59% of women were classified into low and relatively low physical activity levels, respectively.

Table 2 presents a summary of the physical characteristics of men and women in the four age groups (30–39, 40–49, 50–59 and ≥60 years). Body height decreased with increasing age in both sexes. Body weight and BMR increased as age increased to 40–49 years, and then decreased with increasing age group in both sexes. Although BMI was lowest among the youngest age group in both sexes, a statistically significant difference between age groups was observed only for women ($P < 0.01$). Energy intake was not different between age groups in either sex. On the other hand, mean EI/BMR became significantly higher with increase in age for men

Table 1 Characteristics of study subjects* ($n = 183$)

	Men ($n = 92$)	Women ($n = 91$)	*P*-value†
Age (years)	52.8 ± 12.1	49.5 ± 11.4	0.06
Body height (cm)	168.0 ± 6.7	155.6 ± 5.9	<0.001
Body weight (kg)	66.2 ± 11.2	53.4 ± 7.2	<0.001
Reported EI (MJ day^{-1})	9.9 ± 1.8	7.8 ± 1.2	<0.001
BMR (MJ day^{-1})‡	6.5 ± 0.9	5.3 ± 0.4	<0.001
EI/BMR	1.55 ± 0.31	1.48 ± 0.24	0.12
BMI (kg m^{-2})	23.3 ± 3.1	22.1 ± 2.6	<0.01
<18.5	4 (4)	6 (7)	0.03§
18.5–24.9	60 (65)	73 (80)	
25.0–27.9	19 (21)	10 (11)	
≥28.0	9 (10)	2 (2)	
Physical activity level	1.48 ± 0.19	1.43 ± 0.11	0.02
Low	37 (40)	35 (38)	<0.001§
Relatively low	36 (39)	54 (59)	
Moderate	11 (12)	2 (2)	
Heavy	8 (9)	0 (0)	

EI – energy intake; BMR – basal metabolic rate; BMI – body mass index.
* Values are expressed as mean ± standard deviation or *n* (%).
† Significant difference between sexes (*t*-test).
‡ BMR was calculated using formulas given by the Food and Agriculture Organization/World Health Organization/United Nations University (1985)[19].
§ Significant difference between sexes in all categories (chi-square test).

Table 2 Characteristics of study subjects according to age group in 92 men and 91 women†

	Men					Women				
	30–39 years‡ ($n = 16$)	40–49 years ($n = 24$)	50–59 years ($n = 20$)	≥ 60 years ($n = 32$)	*P*-value§	30–39 years‡ ($n = 23$)	40–49 years ($n = 22$)	50–59 years ($n = 23$)	≥ 60 years ($n = 23$)	*P*-value§
Age (years)	36.1 ± 2.2	44.0 ± 3.2	54.8 ± 2.3	66.4 ± 4.6	<0.001	35.7 ± 2.7	43.1 ± 3.2	54.1 ± 2.6	64.7 ± 3.0	<0.001
Body height (cm)	171.8 ± 5.7	171.0 ± 5.8	168.5 ± 7.0	163.7 ± 5.1***	<0.001	158.6 ± 5.7	156.1 ± 5.9	155.6 ± 6.0	152.0 ± 4.0***	<0.01
Body weight (kg)	64.7 ± 11.3	70.1 ± 12.7	69.3 ± 10.7	62.0 ± 9.0	0.02	51.2 ± 6.1	55.3 ± 7.0	55.0 ± 7.8	52.3 ± 7.2	0.14
Reported EI (MJ day^{-1})	9.3 ± 1.2	10.2 ± 2.5	10.5 ± 1.7	9.6 ± 1.3	0.15	7.7 ± 1.3	7.6 ± 1.3	7.9 ± 0.8	7.9 ± 1.2	0.76
BMR (MJ day^{-1})¶	6.8 ± 0.6	7.1 ± 0.6	7.0 ± 0.5	5.5 ± 0.5***	<0.001	5.3 ± 0.2	5.5 ± 0.3	5.5 ± 0.3	4.8 ± 0.3***	<0.001
EI/BMR	1.37 ± 0.21	1.44 ± 0.33	1.50 ± 0.28	1.74 ± 0.25***	<0.001	1.43 ± 0.23	1.39 ± 0.22	1.45 ± 0.14	1.65 ± 0.26***	<0.001
Physical activity level	1.50 ± 0.21	1.51 ± 0.23	1.48 ± 0.17	1.44 ± 0.15	0.59	1.44 ± 0.11	1.44 ± 0.10	1.42 ± 0.10	1.41 ± 0.12	0.82
BMI (kg m^{-2})	21.8 ± 3.0	23.9 ± 3.5	24.3 ± 2.8*	23.1 ± 2.7	0.07	20.3 ± 2.0	22.7 ± 2.9**	22.7 ± 2.2**	22.6 ± 2.7**	<0.01
< 18.5	1 (6)	1 (4)	1 (5)	1 (3)	0.27‖	5 (22)	1 (5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.03‖
18.5–24.9	13 (81)	14 (58)	9 (45)	24 (75)		18 (78)	16 (73)	20 (87)	19 (83)	
25.0–27.9	1 (6)	5 (21)	8 (40)	5 (16)		0 (0)	4 (18)	3 (13)	3 (13)	
≥ 28.0	1 (6)	4 (17)	2 (10)	2 (6)		0 (0)	1 (5)	0 (0)	1 (4)	

EI – energy intake; BMR – basal metabolic rate; BMI – body mass index.
† Values are expressed as mean ± standard deviation or *n* (%).
‡ Significant difference compared with 30–39 year category between age groups within sex (Dunnett's *t*-test): *, $P < 0.05$; **, $P < 0.01$; ***, $P < 0.001$.
§ Significant difference between age groups within sexes (analysis of variance).
¶ BMR was calculated using formulas given by the Food and Agriculture Organization/World Health Organization/United Nations University (1985)[19].
‖ Significant difference between age groups within sexes in all categories (chi-square test).

Table 3 Anthropometric characteristics and lifestyle variables by quartile of EI/BMR ratio†

	Men					Women				
	First quartile ($n=23$)‡	Second quartile ($n=18$)	Third quartile ($n=22$)	Fourth quartile ($n=29$)	P-value§	First quartile ($n=22$)‡	Second quartile ($n=28$)	Third quartile ($n=24$)	Fourth quartile ($n=17$)	P-value§
EI/BMR	1.17 ± 0.12	1.41 ± 0.05	1.57 ± 0.05	1.90 ± 0.17		1.19 ± 0.09	1.42 ± 0.05	1.58 ± 0.05	1.83 ± 0.14	
Age (years)	44.8 ± 8.8	51.8 ± 10.3	54.6 ± 15.0*	58.3 ± 9.8***	< 0.001	44.5 ± 9.8	47.2 ± 9.9	53.1 ± 118*	54.5 ± 12.5*	0.01
Body height (cm)	171.2 ± 4.8	168.8 ± 5.7	168.4 ± 6.7	164.7 ± 7.3**	< 0.01	154.0 ± 5.4	156.9 ± 5.7	155.1 ± 5.8	156.0 ± 6.7	0.36
Body weight (kg)	72.0 ± 10.4	68.1 ± 7.4	64.5 ± 12.5	61.6 ± 11.0**	< 0.01	53.7 ± 7.4	54.6 ± 6.5	54.1 ± 8.4	50.4 ± 5.5	0.27
EI (MJ day^{-1})	8.3 ± 1.0	9.5 ± 0.6*	9.9 ± 1.6***	11.4 ± 1.7***	< 0.001	6.4 ± 0.7	7.6 ± 0.6***	8.3 ± 0.7***	9.1 ± 0.8***	< 0.001
BMR (MJ day^{-1})¶	7.1 ± 0.6	6.7 ± 0.6	6.3 ± 0.9**	6.0 ± 0.9***	< 0.001	5.4 ± 0.3	5.4 ± 0.3	5.3 ± 0.4	5.0 ± 0.4**	< 0.01
Physical activity level	1.47 ± 0.19	1.41 ± 0.12	1.47 ± 0.18	1.53 ± 0.21	0.16	1.41 ± 0.10	1.43 ± 0.11	1.45 ± 0.09	1.42 ± 0.12	0.60
BMI (kg m^{-2})	24.5 ± 3.0	24.0 ± 2.8	22.6 ± 3.2	22.6 ± 3.0	0.06	22.6 ± 2.9	22.2 ± 2.4	22.5 ± 3.0	20.7 ± 1.7	0.11
< 18.5	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (5)	3 (10)	0.34§	1 (5)	2 (7)	2 (8)	1 (6)	0.82§
18.5–24.9	13 (57)	11 (61)	14 (63)	22 (76)		17 (77)	22 (79)	18 (75)	16 (94)	
25.0–27.9	7 (30)	5 (28)	5 (23)	2 (7)		3 (14)	4 (14)	3 (13)	0 (0)	
≥ 28.0	3 (13)	2 (11)	2 (9)	2 (7)		1 (5)	0 (0)	1 (4)	0 (0)	

EI – energy intake; BMR – basal metabolic rate; BMI – body mass index.
† Values are expressed as mean ± standard deviation or *n* (%).
‡ Significant difference compared with the first quartile of EI/BMR (Dunnett's *t*-test): *, $P < 0.05$, **, $P < 0.01$; ***, $P < 0.001$.
§ Significant difference between quartile within sexes (analysis of variance).
¶ BMR was calculated using formulas given by the Food and Agriculture Organization/World Health Organization/United Nations University (1985)[19].

($P < 0.001$). Although women aged 40–49 years had the lowest EI/BMR among the women, the trend of the relationship between mean EI/BMR and age was almost the same as that of men ($P < 0.001$).

Table 3 presents the mean values of anthropometric characteristics by quartile of EI/BMR. Age and reported energy intake increased significantly with the increase in EI/BMR in both sexes (all $P < 0.001$ except for age in women, where $P < 0.01$). However, with increasing EI/BMR quartile, body height and body weight decreased significantly in men (both $P < 0.01$), as did BMR in both sexes ($P < 0.001$ for men, $P < 0.01$ for women). BMI was slightly lower in the lowest category of EI/BMR than in the other categories in men, although it was not significant.

Table 4 shows the results of multiple regression analyses with EI/BMR as the dependent variable to examine the prediction for relative accuracy of reporting. For men, age and physical activity level correlated positively (partial regression coefficient, $\beta = 0.012$, $P < 0.001$ and $\beta = 0.377$, $P = 0.01$, respectively), and BMI and living area (urban) correlated negatively ($\beta = -0.031$, $P < 0.001$ and $\beta = -0.114$, $P = 0.045$, respectively), with EI/BMR. On the other hand, age and body height correlated positively ($\beta = 0.011$, $P < 0.001$ and $\beta = 0.011$. $P = 0.01$, respectively) and BMI correlated negatively ($\beta = -0.025$, $P < 0.01$) with EI/BMR for women. All the independent variables explained 35.7% and 25.7% of the variation in EI/BMR for men and women, respectively.

Figures 1a and 1b show the joint effect of age and BMI on EI/BMR values by cross-classifying subjects by both variables. Compared with subjects classified into the lowest BMI and oldest age group, subjects in the highest

Table 4 Results of stepwise multiple regression analyses with EI/BMR ratio as dependent variable*

Independent variable	β†	SE‡	P-value	Partial R^2 (%)§
Men ($n = 92$)				
Age (years)	0.012	0.002	< 0.001	17.9
BMI (kg m^{-2})	−0.031	0.009	< 0.001	9.9
Physical activity level	0.377	0.145	0.01	4.8
Living area (rural coastal area as reference)				
Urban	−0.114	0.056	0.05	3.1
Women ($n = 91$)				
Age (years)	0.011	0.002	< 0.001	12.1
BMI (kg m^{-2})	−0.025	0.009	0.005	7.0
Body height (cm)	0.011	0.004	0.01	6.6

EI – energy intake; BMR – basal metabolic rate; BMI – body mass index.
*Age (as a continuous variable), BMI (as a continuous variable), height (as a continuous variable), physical activity level (as a continuous variable) and area of living (rural coastal, rural inland, urban) were entered into the model as independent variables.
† Partial regression coefficient; change in the dependent variable related to a one-unit change in the independent variable.
‡ Standard error of the regression coefficient.
§ Explained variance; adjusted R^2 and *P*-values are for independent variables in multiple regression analysis. R^2 value for EI/BMR was 35.7% and 25.7% for men and women, respectively, when all variables were included in the model.

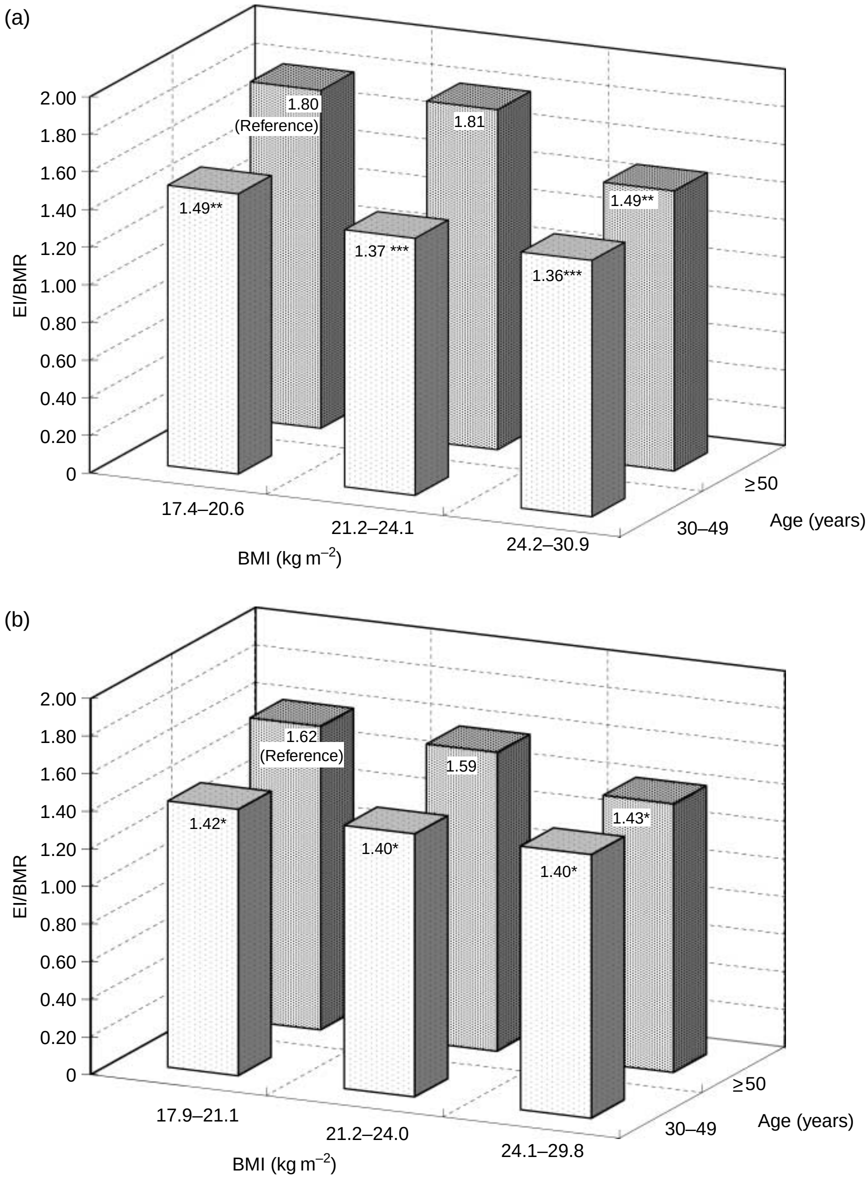

Fig. 1 The interaction of age and body mass index (BMI) in relationships with the ratio of reported energy intake to estimated basal metabolic rate (EI/BMR). Mean value of EI/BMR by tertile of BMI and age group (30–49, ≥50 years) in (a) Japanese men aged 32–76 years ($n = 92$) and (b) Japanese women aged 31–69 years ($n = 91$). EI/BMR values were adjusted for physical activity level and living area. Significance of difference compared with the oldest age and lowest BMI group (Dunnett's *t*-test of one-way analysis of variance): *, $P < 0.05$; **, $P < 0.01$; ***, $P < 0.001$

BMI and youngest age group had EI/BMR that was 24% and 14% lower in men and women, respectively.

Discussion

To our knowledge, this is the first report to evaluate EI/BMR values over a wide age range of Japanese men and women. We conducted semi-weighed diet records for 4 days in four seasons, which is often considered to be the most accurate and precise method for determining energy intake. Furthermore, fax delivery was used so that we could check the diet records immediately on each survey day. Therefore, we believe that the data have higher precision than in any other such survey conducted in Japan. The EI/BMR in our study was 1.55 among men and 1.48 among women. Although we refrained from using a specific cut-off value to identify underreporters, 20% and 23% of men and women, respectively, showed EI/BMR below 1.27, the minimum survival level reported by FAO/WHO/UNU[19]. Moreover, the proportion of subjects with EI/BMR < 1.27 decreased with increasing age in both sexes, except in the 40–49 year age group in women. However, 10% and 4% of men and women, respectively, showed EI/BMR exceeding 2.0 as the maximum level. Even when physical activity level was considered, the proportion of subjects with EI/BMR > 2.0 increased with increasing age, and was especially more pronounced in the age group ≥60 years for both sexes. This indicates that older Japanese men and women tend to relatively overestimate energy intake rather than underreport.

The main finding of this study was that age and BMI independently affect EI/BMR as a positive and a negative factor, respectively. The statistical power of these findings became stronger after adjustment for potentially confounding factors such as physical activity level and living area (urban or rural) for both sexes (Figs 1a and 1b). According to previous studies, physiological and psychological factors are also related to reporting accuracy; for example, smoking habits, education level, socio-economic status and obesity-related behaviours[14,15,20–22]. However, we did not examine the effect of these factors on reporting accuracy because of a lack of information.

Most studies conducted in Western countries revealed that underreporting of energy intake was more prevalent among older subjects than among younger counterparts[7,23,24]. The tendency was completely opposite in this Japanese population. To our knowledge, no previous study has found underreporting to be more prevalent among younger compared with older subjects, either in Western or Asian countries. Possible factors affecting reporting accuracy may include dietary consciousness and knowledge of foods and diet. According to the National Nutrition Survey in Japan[25], the percentage of subjects who paid high attention to diet and nutrition was 12.1%, 17.5%, 24.4% and 27.2% among 30–39-, 40–49-, 50–59- and ≥60-year-old men, respectively, and 27.5%, 35.7% 42.9%, and 48.6%, respectively, among women. The capability to recognise foods and diet may be related to recording as correctly as possible. Some previous studies reported that cultural, behavioural and psychological factors affect reporting accuracy[14,15,20–22]. The results were, however, inconsistent and differed among the populations examined. Further research focusing on dietary consciousness and behaviours connected with food and the process of dietary assessment is needed.

Our study has several limitations. First, the subjects may not be representative because they were not randomly sampled from the general Japanese population. Moreover, the participants might be highly health-conscious because almost all of them completed the study despite the strict study design. Second, the sample size was relatively small. Therefore, the results may arise by chance. Third, we cannot exclude the possibility that the subjects changed their dietary behaviour or food choices during the recording periods. However, the relationships between EI/BMR and age and body weight did not change materially when the dietary record data of the first four days were used in the analysis (data not shown). Fourth, we used body height to take into consideration body size although body height is not an ideal marker of body size. Fifth, the reliability of the BMR prediction from the FAO/WHO/UNU formulas may be inappropriate when applied to the Japanese population[26]. The validity of the self-reported physical activity levels from the 6th Japanese recommended dietary allowance is questionable because of the lack of a validation study[18].

In summary, the results of the present study suggest that age and BMI may influence the relative accuracy of reported energy intake among Japanese adults. The positive correlation found between age and EI/BMR was especially interesting because almost all previous studies conducted in Western populations showed a negative correlation. This indicates that the factors related to reporting accuracy of energy intake may depend on population characteristics. Further studies are needed to examine whether or not this is a consistent tendency in Asian or Japanese populations.

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