

# The Low FODMAP Diet for Irritable Bowel Syndrome

**Dr Sue Shepherd**

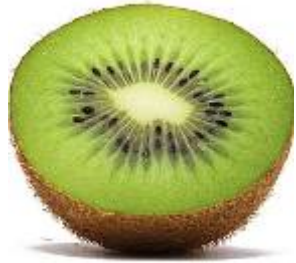
PhD, B.App.Sci (Health Prom.), M. Nut & Diet.

**Advanced Accredited  
Practising Dietitian**

**Accredited Nutritionist**



**MONASH** University



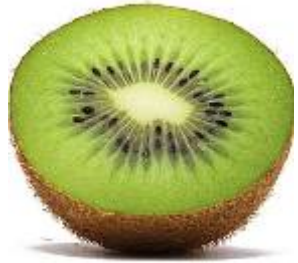
# Disclosure

- Co-owner of FODMAP trademark
- Owner / Managing Director of Shepherd Works Pty Ltd dietetic practice
- Author of 7 low FODMAP diet cookbooks
- Author of low FODMAP diet shopping guide
- Consultant to food industry
- Consultant to Gluten Free Food Shows



# Symptoms of Irritable Bowel Syndrome

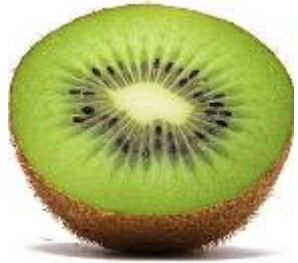
- Bloating
- Wind
- Abdominal Distension
- Altered Bowel Habits  
(diarrhoea and/or constipation)
- Abdominal Pain



# Symptoms of Irritable Bowel Syndrome

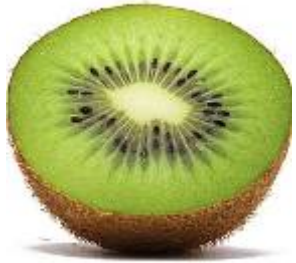
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Rome III



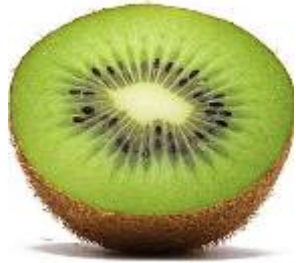
# Irritable Bowel Syndrome

- Most common GI disorder, occurring in 15% of the general population
- Abdominal symptoms in absence of identifiable disease
- Pathogenesis unknown
- Chronic disorder; where symptoms can occur in episodes that vary in frequency and severity



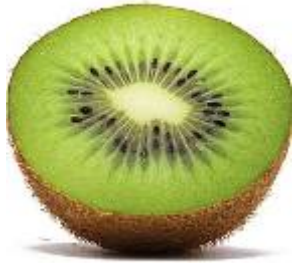
# Irritable Bowel Syndrome

- Patients with visceral hypersensitivity and motility disturbances of the colon
- It is an exaggerated response of gastrointestinal symptoms
- As IBS cannot be cured, strategies for management of symptoms are encouraged

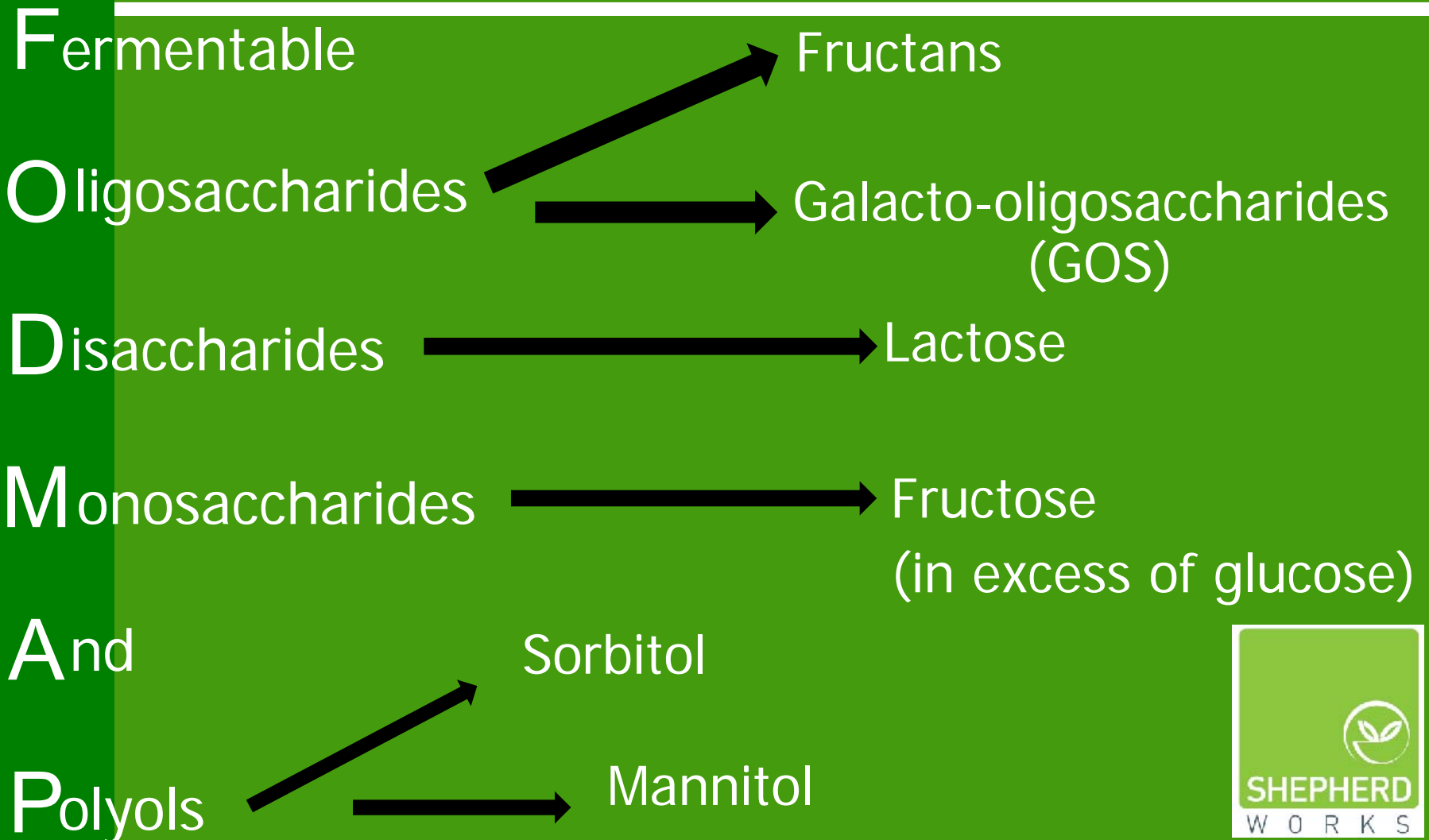


Introducing....

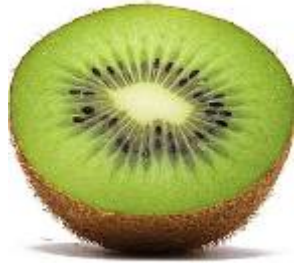
The Low FODMAP Diet  
for  
Irritable Bowel Syndrome



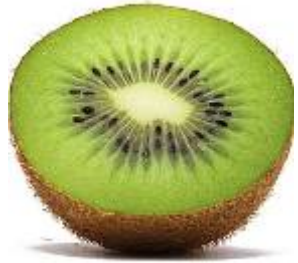
# What are FODMAPs?





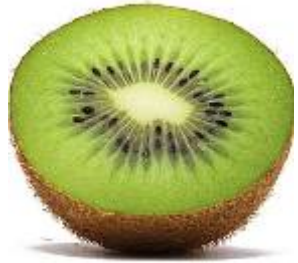


# So why the Low FODMAP Diet for IBS?



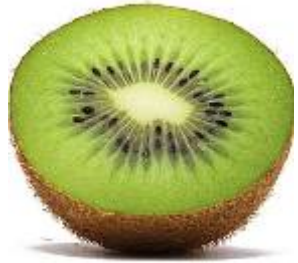
# So why the Low FODMAP Diet for IBS?

- FODMAPs induce symptoms of IBS



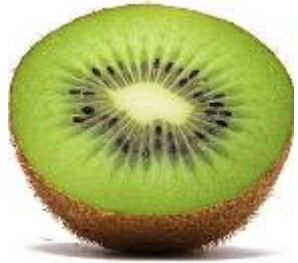
# So why the Low FODMAP Diet for IBS?

- FODMAPs induce symptoms of IBS
- The mechanism of how FODMAPs cause symptoms is clear and well understood



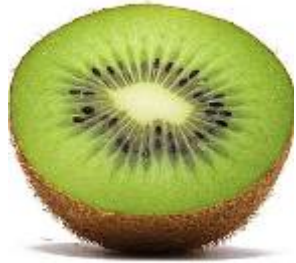
## So why the Low FODMAP Diet for IBS?

- FODMAPs induce symptoms of IBS
- The mechanism of how FODMAPs cause symptoms is clear and well understood
- The Low FODMAP Diet provides symptom relief in ~75% of IBS patients

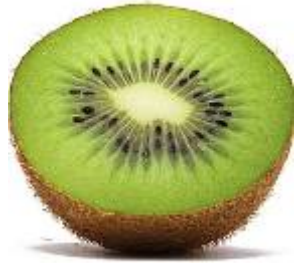


## So why the Low FODMAP Diet for IBS?

- FODMAPs induce symptoms of IBS
- The mechanism of how FODMAPs cause symptoms is clear and well understood
- The Low FODMAP Diet provides symptom relief in ~75% of IBS patients
- The Low FODMAP Diet is sustainable – patients have continued to follow the diet since it was developed

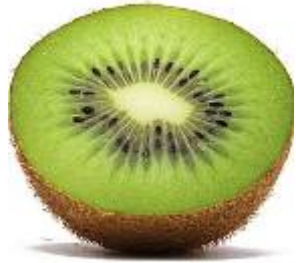


# FODMAPs – Induce IBS symptoms



# FODMAPs induce symptoms of IBS

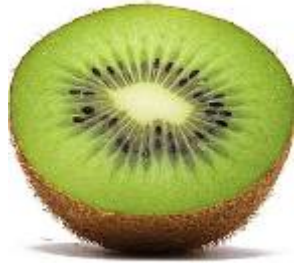
- In a double blinded, randomised, quadruple arm, placebo controlled cross over re-challenge trial, all IBS symptoms worsened after challenge with FODMAPs (*fructose and fructans*)
- Diet was controlled and consistent throughout trial (eg. food chemicals, fat, fibre), so symptoms confirmed to be from FODMAPs



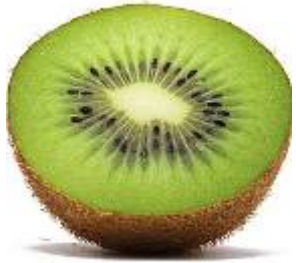
# Study protocol

- 25 patients enrolled 23-60yrs, 16%male
- Patients were fed the low FODMAP diet during the entire study duration (22 weeks)
- Pts consumed test substances:
  - Fructose
  - Fructans
  - Fructose & Fructans
  - Placebo (Glucose)

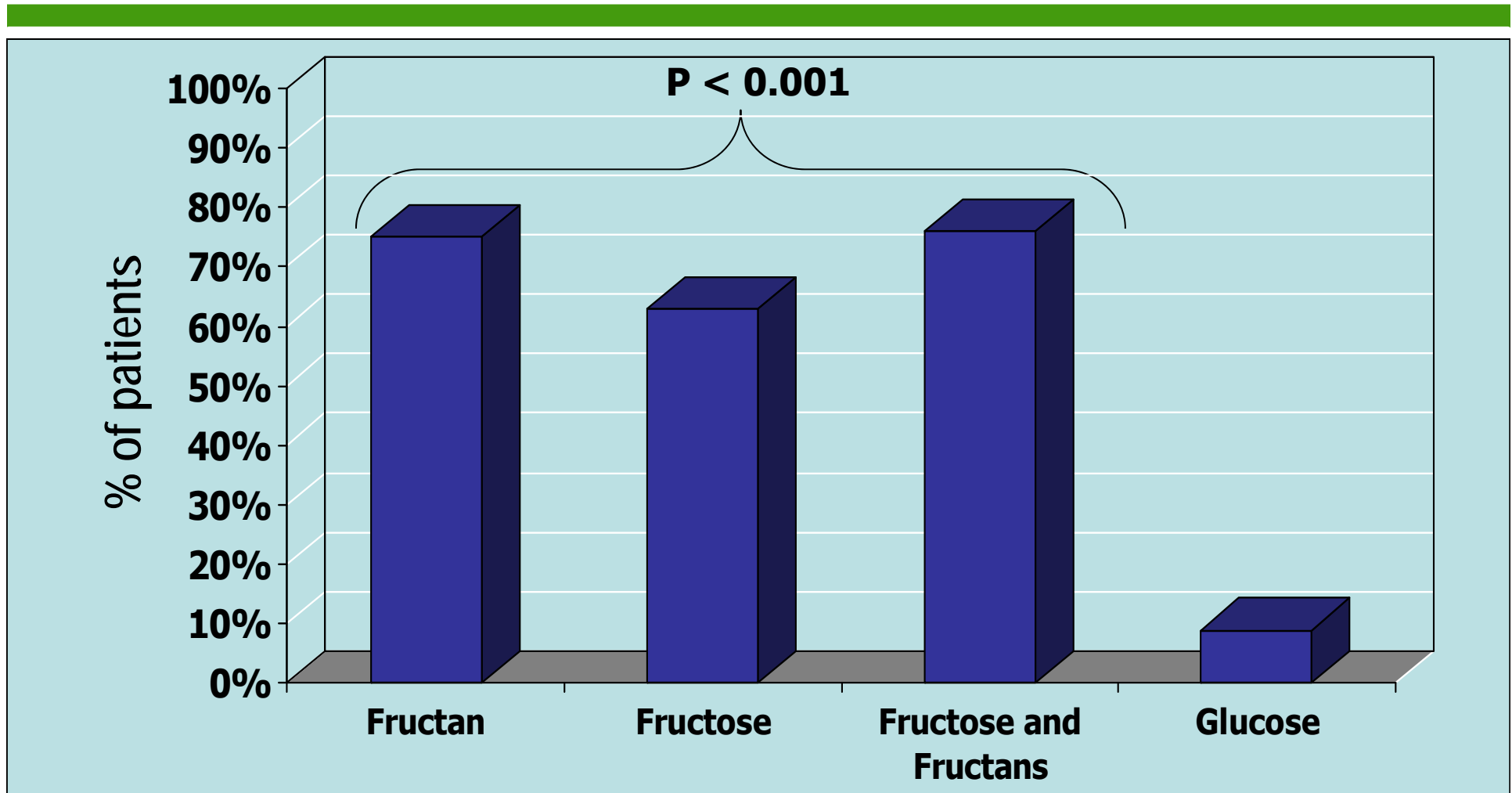


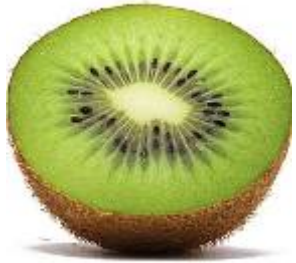


**Patients who answered “No” to the question “Were your symptoms adequately controlled” for the test drink**



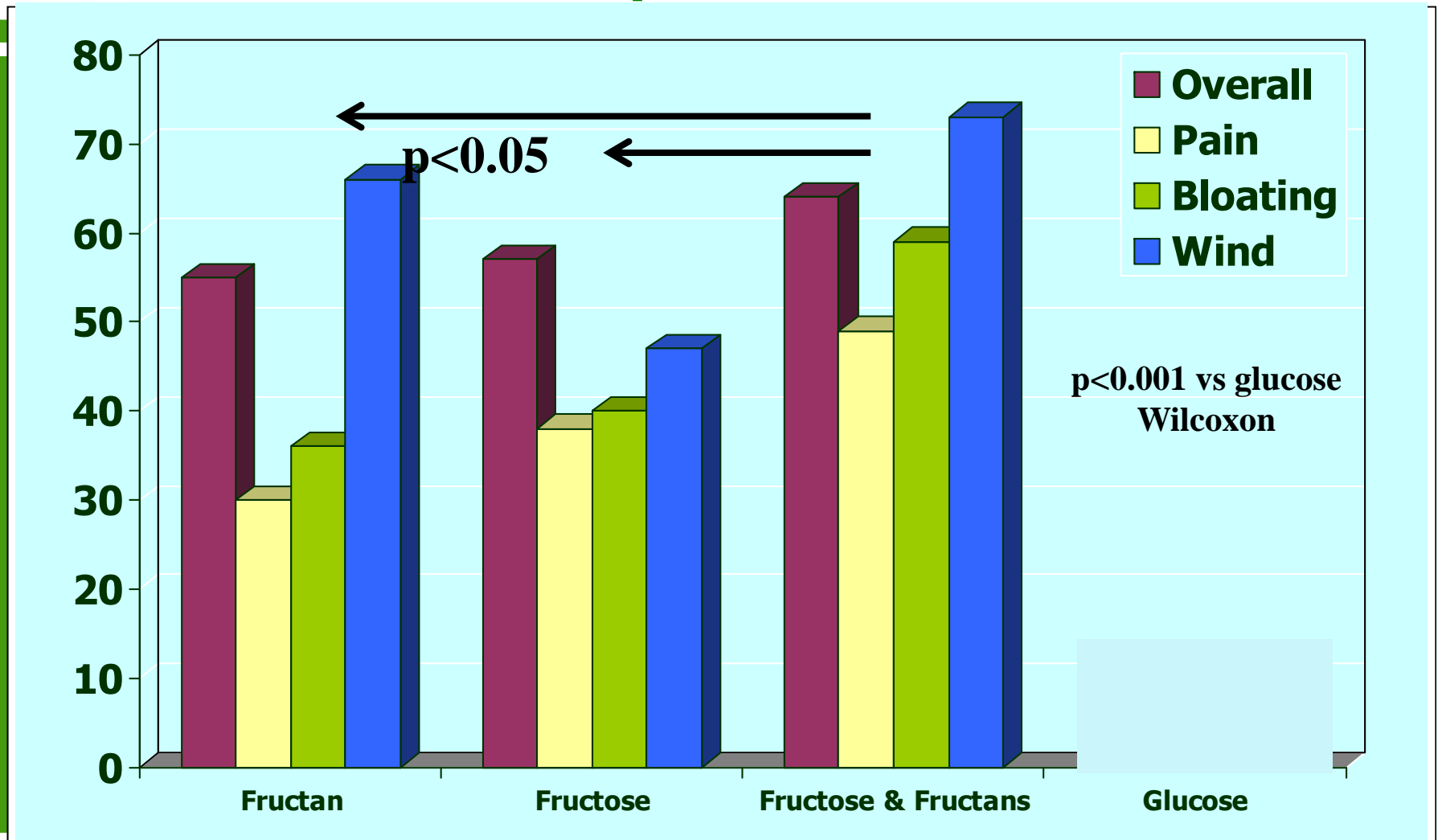
# Patients who answered “No” to the question “Were your symptoms adequately controlled” for the test drink

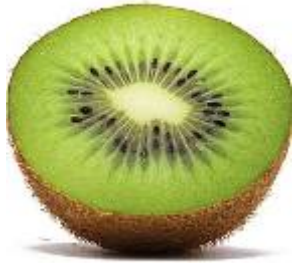




# Median Symptom Scores after consuming test substances in amounts equal to Australian Diet

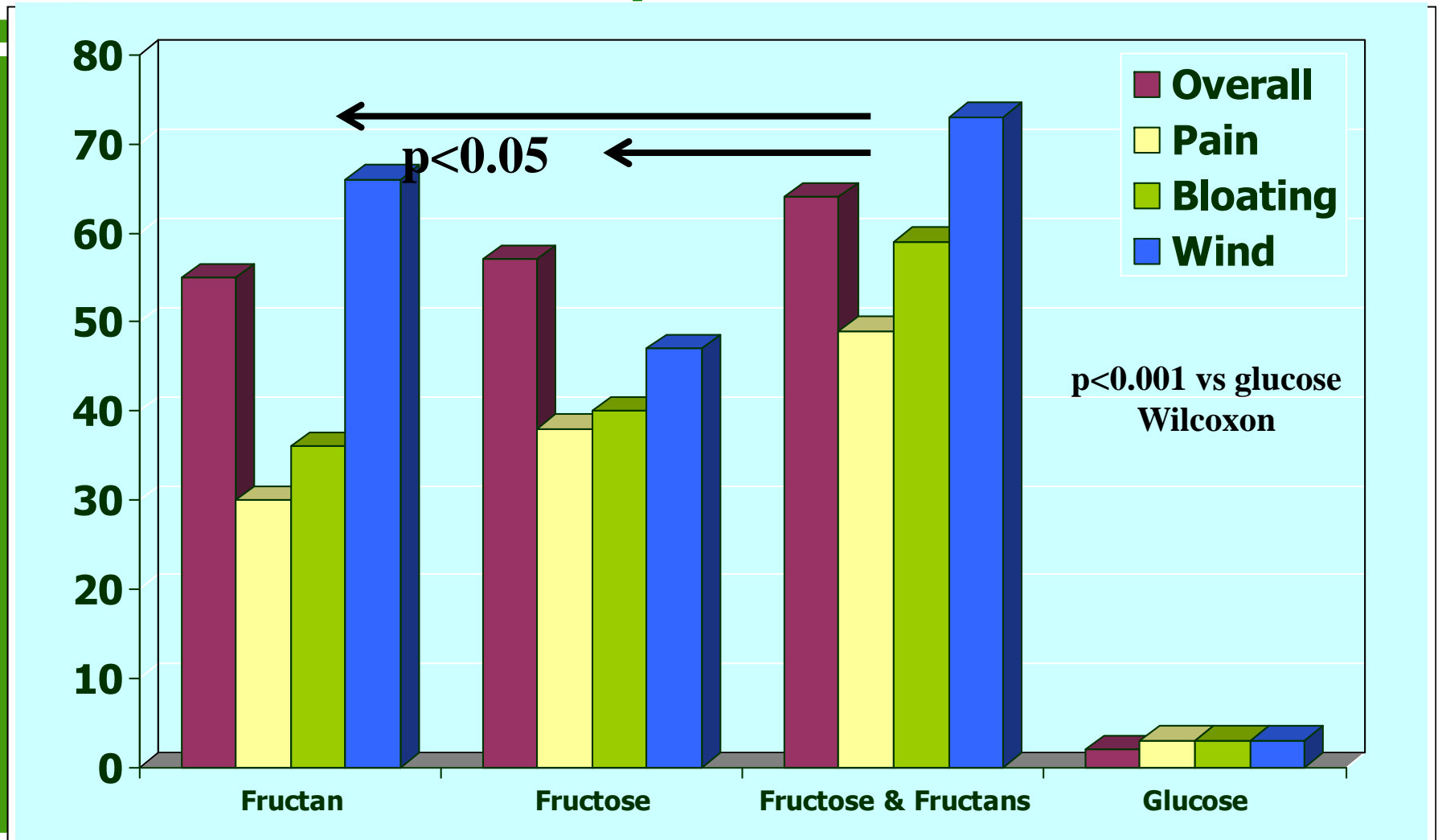
\*Median scores on VAS





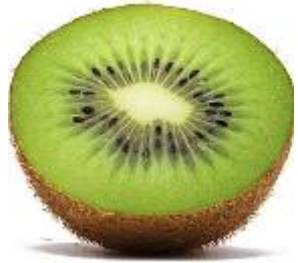
# Median Symptom Scores after consuming test substances in amounts equal to Australian Diet

\*Median scores on VAS





# Foods containing FODMAPs



# What are the problem fruits?

## EXCESS FRUCTOSE

- Apple
- Cherries
- **Mango**
- Nashi fruit
- Pear
- Watermelon

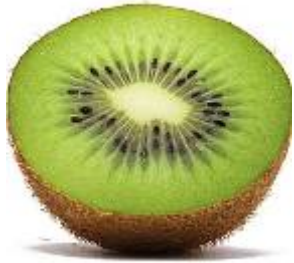
## FRUCTANS

- White peach
- Persimmon
- Rambutan\*
- Watermelon

## POLYOLS

- Apple
- Apricot
- Avocado\*
- Blackberries
- Cherries
- Longon\*
- Lychee\*
- Nashi Fruit
- Nectarine
- Pear
- Peach
- Plum
- Prune

\*problem if eaten in large quantities



# What are the problem veg?

## FRUCTANS & GOS

- Artichokes (Globe)
- Artichokes (Jerusalem)
- Beetroot\*
- Brussels Sprouts
- Cabbage
- Chicory
- Dandelion leaves
- Fennel\*
- Garlic
- Leek
- Legumes & lentils
- Okra
- Onion (brown, white, Spanish, onion powder)
- Peas\*
- Shallot
- Spring onion (white part)

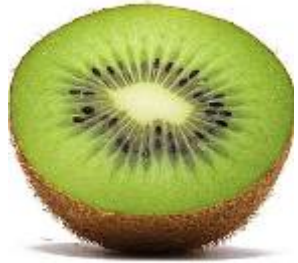
## POLYOLS

- Cauliflower
- Mushroom
- Snow peas\*

## EXCESS FRUCTOSE

- Sugar snap peas
- Asparagus

\*problem if eaten in large quantities

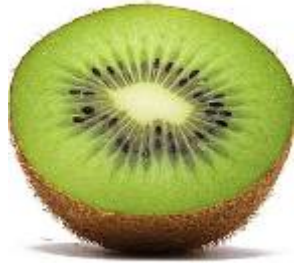


# Examples of other foods containing FODMAPs

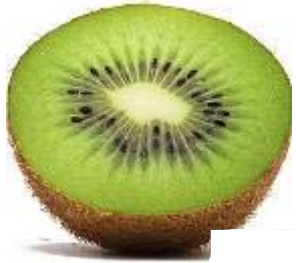
- Honey
- High fructose corn syrup
- Coffee substitutes (made from chicory)
- Dandelion tea
- Inulin and FOS
- Pistachio
- Artificial sweeteners (sorbitol, mannitol, xylitol, maltitol), isomalt
- Wheat based products
  - Bread
  - Pasta
  - Breakfast cereals
  - Noodles
  - Dry biscuits
- Rye and Barley based products
- Milk (Cow, Goat, Sheep) products
  - Milk
  - Yoghurt
  - Icecream
  - Soft cheeses

*Note: list not complete*





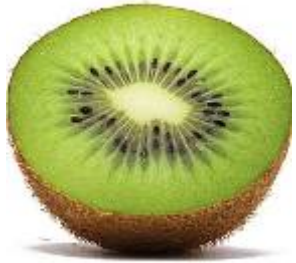
# FODMAPs – Confirming Mechanism of Action



**Food high or low  
in FODMAPs**

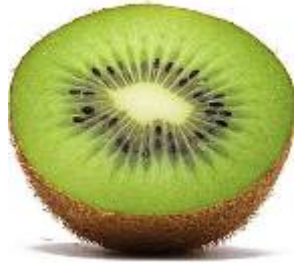
**Study 1: A study in volunteers with an  
ileostomy**

**Determine what is being delivered to  
the large bowel (and its effect)**



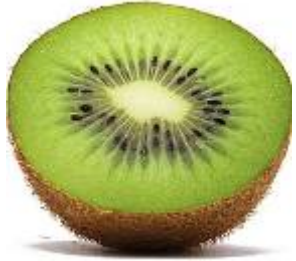
# Aim

- To examine the hypothesis in an ileostomy model
  - that FODMAPS are poorly absorbed in the small intestine and are delivered to the large intestine
  - that they increase water load to the colon

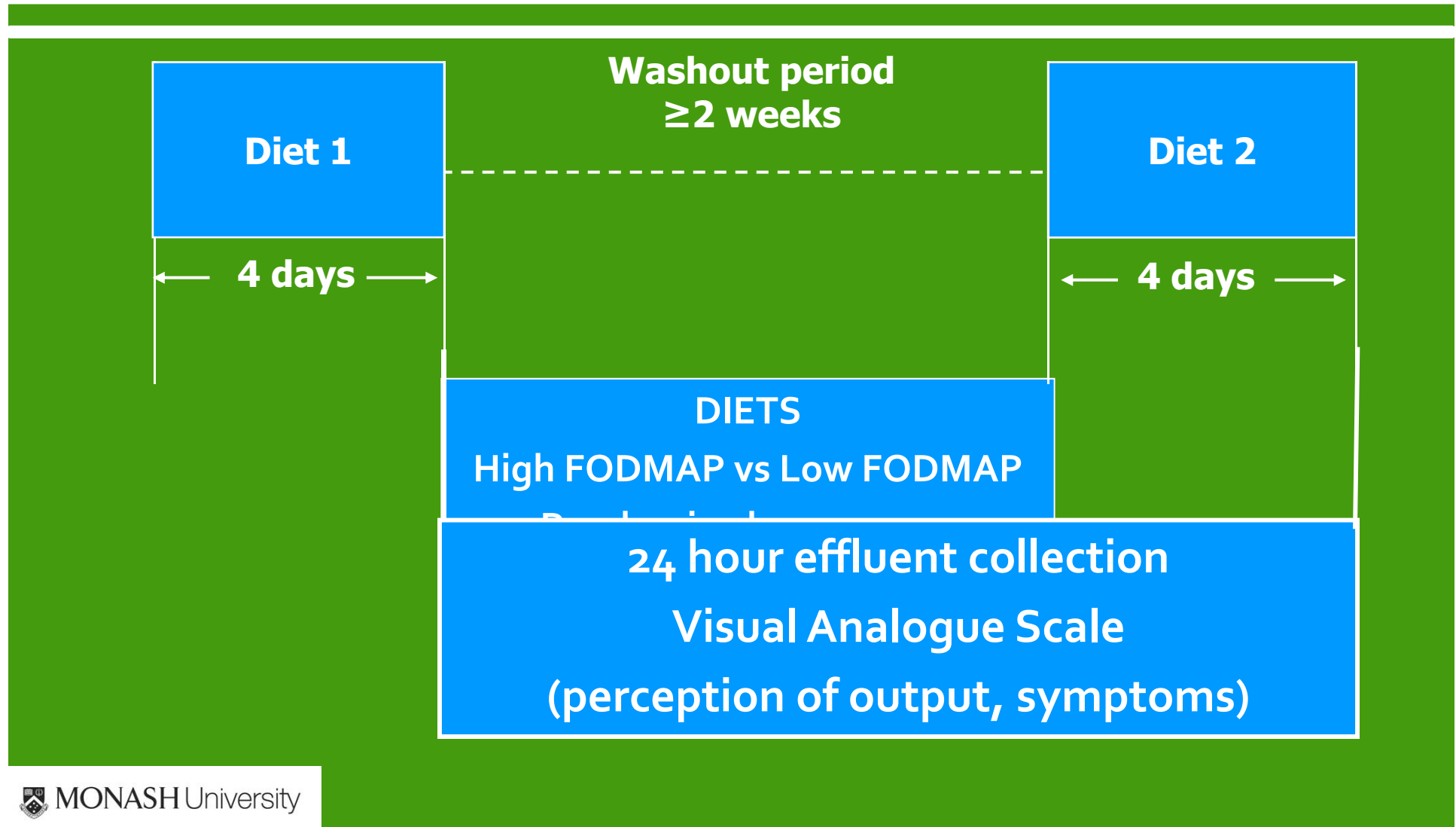


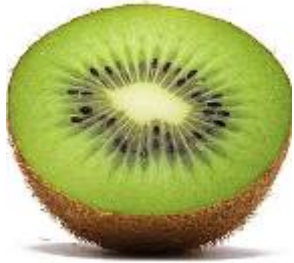
# Patients

n	10 (40% men)
Age	Mean 55 (31-78)
Years since ileostomy established	Mean 14 (1-33)
Reason for ileostomy	UC=8 (80%) CD=2 (20%)
Energy requirement	9,100 kJ/day (7,100-10,500 kJ/day)



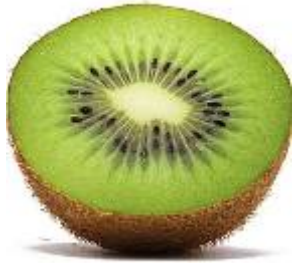
# Protocol



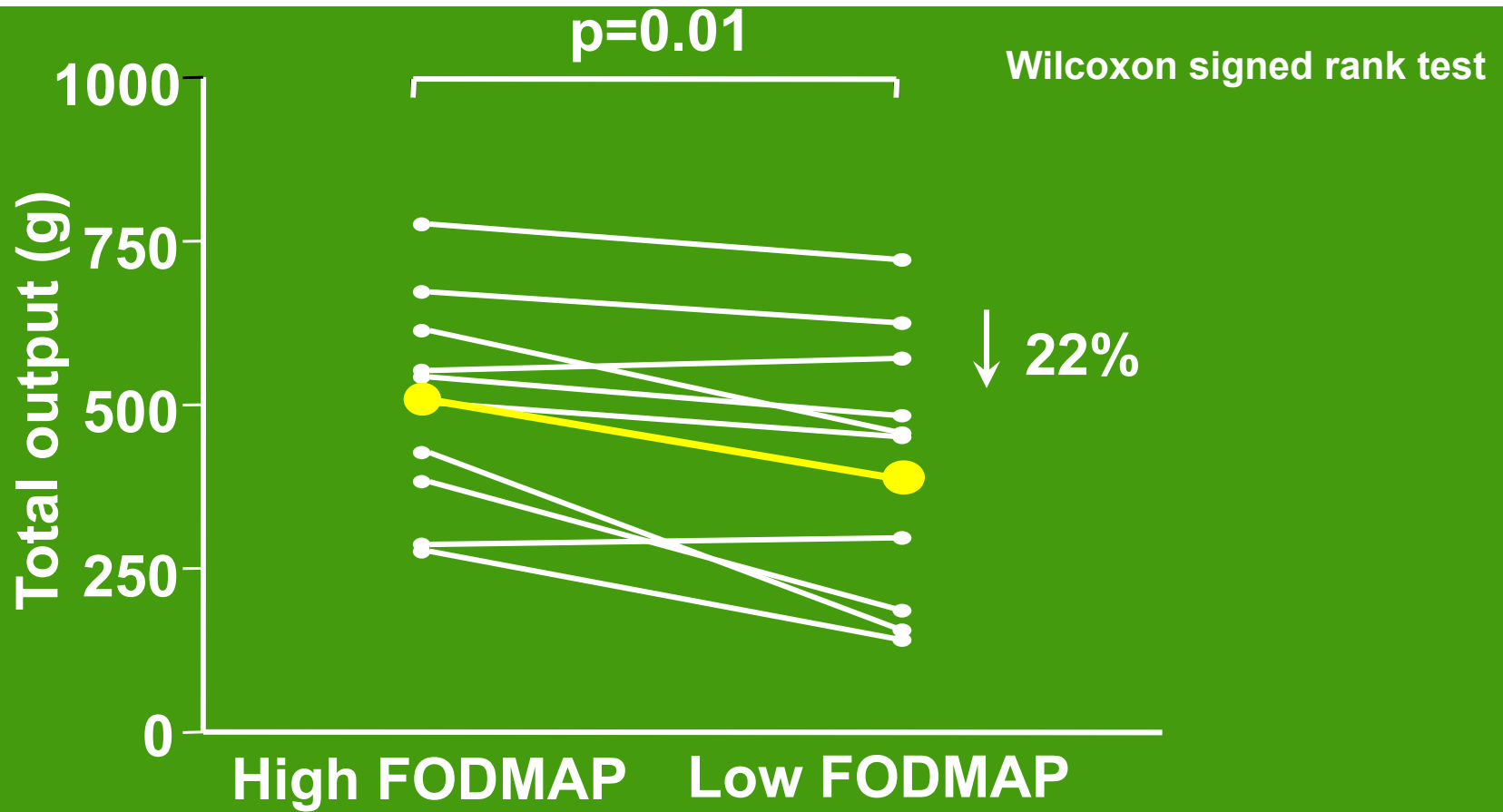


# Diet design

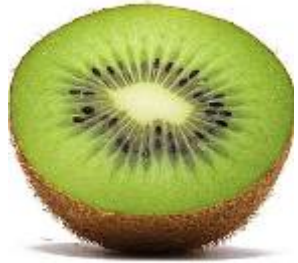
	Diet A = High FODMAP diet	Diet B = Low FODMAP diet
Breakfast	Rye bread with honey Weet-bix with REV milk Apple juice	GF bread with vegemite Rice flakes, rice bran, LF milk Orange and lemon cordial
MT	Pear and mango fruit snack Extra chewing gum	Mandarin PK chewing gum
Lunch	Tuna and salad on rye bread US coke	Ham, cheese, tomato on GF bread Lemonade
AT	1 tub Vaalia apricot yoghurt Extra chewing gum	1 tub lactose free berry yoghurt PK chewing gum
Dinner	Lasagne and salad	Gluten free lasagne and salad
Supper	Ecco drink	Hot chocolate with lactose free milk



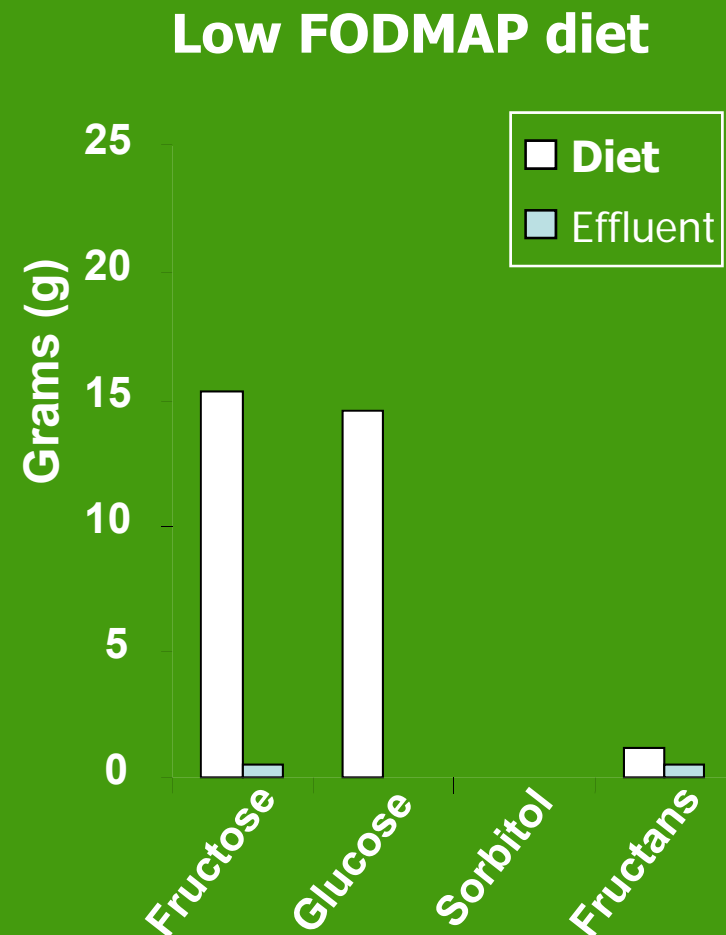
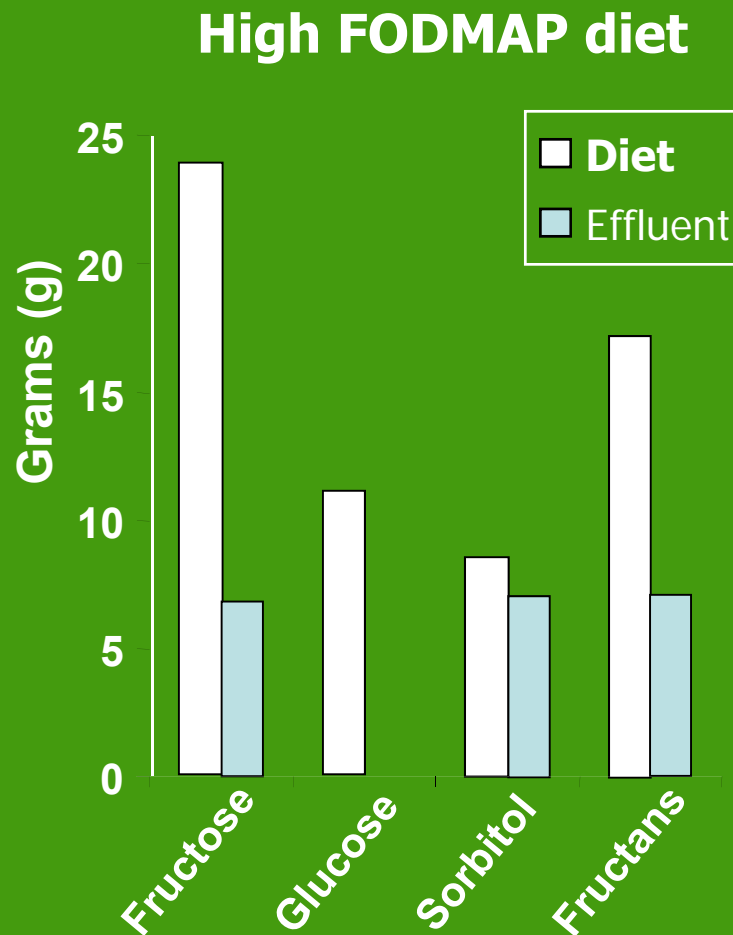
# Total daytime output



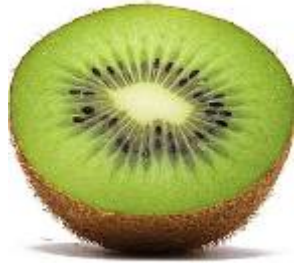
Barrett JS et al. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2010; 31: 874-82



# FODMAP content of diet and ileostomy output

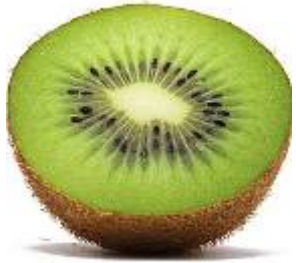




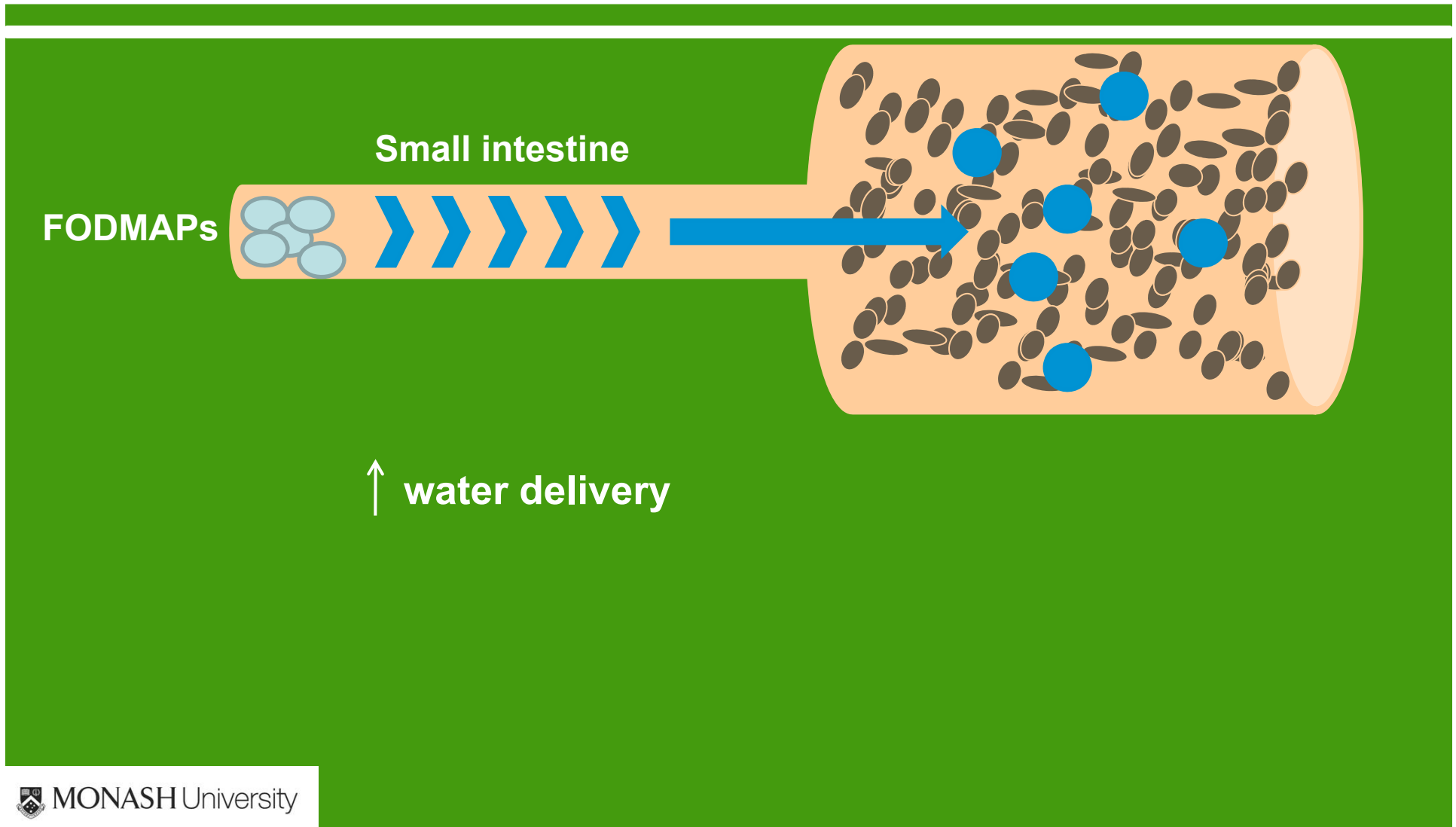


# How FODMAPs cause luminal distension

- Poorly absorbed in the small intestine and are delivered to the large intestine
- Small, osmotically-active molecules increasing water load to the colon resulting in motility disturbances (diarrhoea and faecal urgency)



# Mechanism of action of FODMAPs

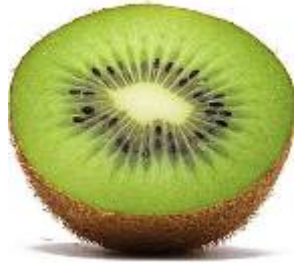




**Food high or low  
in FODMAPs**

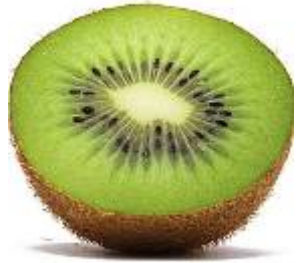
**Study 2: Breath hydrogen and abdominal  
symptom production in volunteers consuming  
foods either low or high in FODMAPs**

**Breath H<sub>2</sub> and induction of symptoms  
in IBS**



# Aim

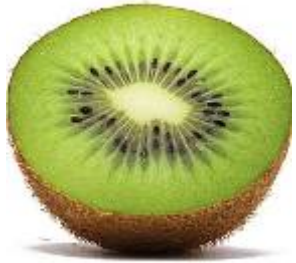
**To compare breath H<sub>2</sub> production, & induction of gastrointestinal symptoms in individuals with IBS and healthy controls after the consumption of diets high or low in FODMAPs**



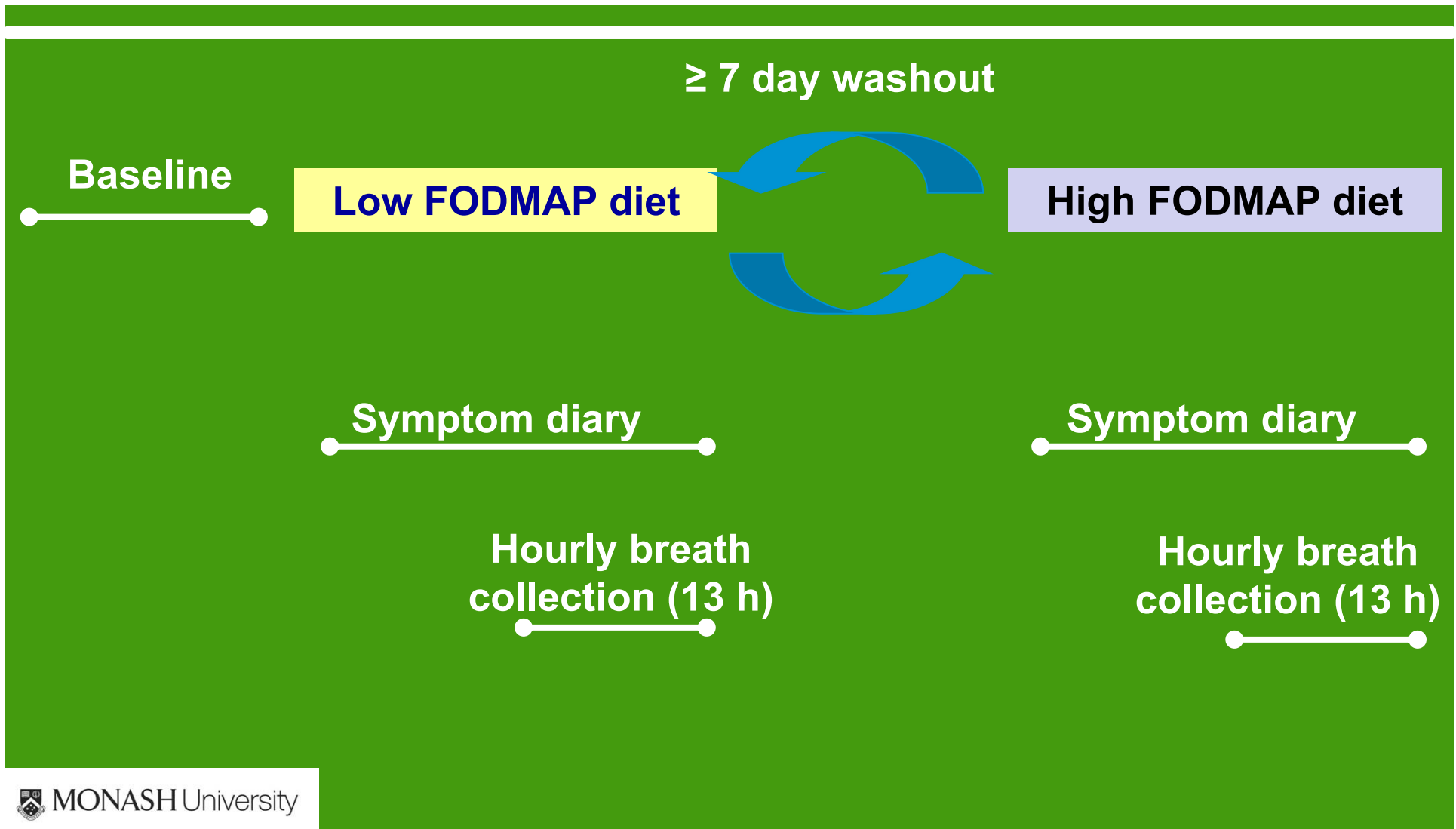
# Study Design

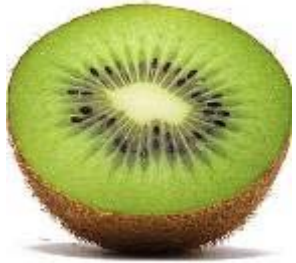
- **Randomized, single blinded, crossover intervention study**
- **Subjects:**

	<b>IBS (Rome III)</b>	<b>Healthy Controls</b>
<b>Age (mean <math>\pm</math> SE)</b>	<b>39 <math>\pm</math> 3 yrs</b>	<b>36 <math>\pm</math> 5 yrs</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>13 female (87%)</b>	<b>9 female (60%)</b>

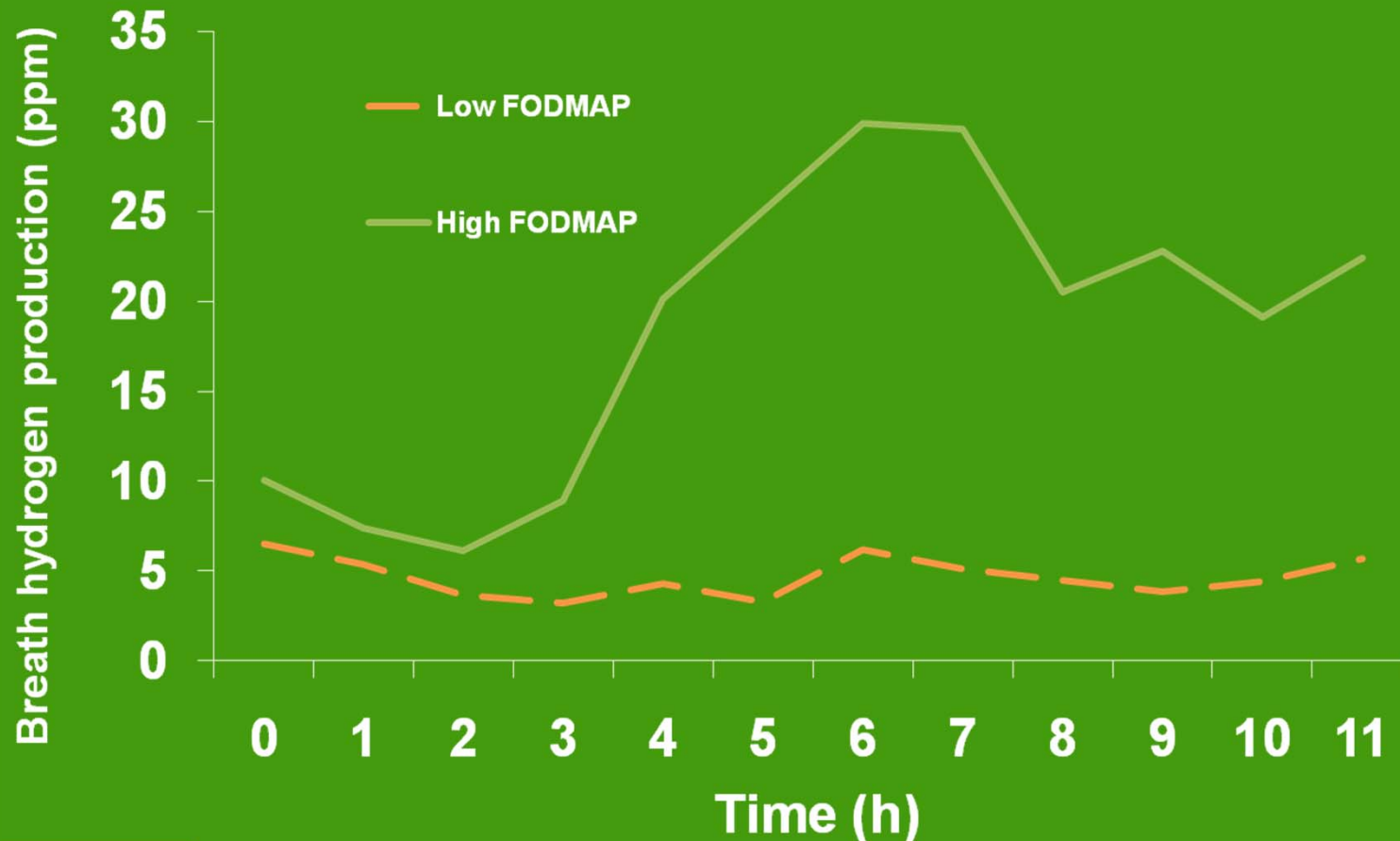


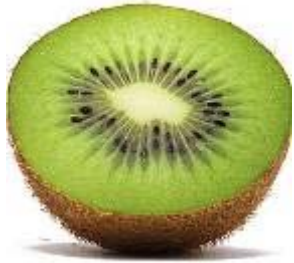
# Study Protocol





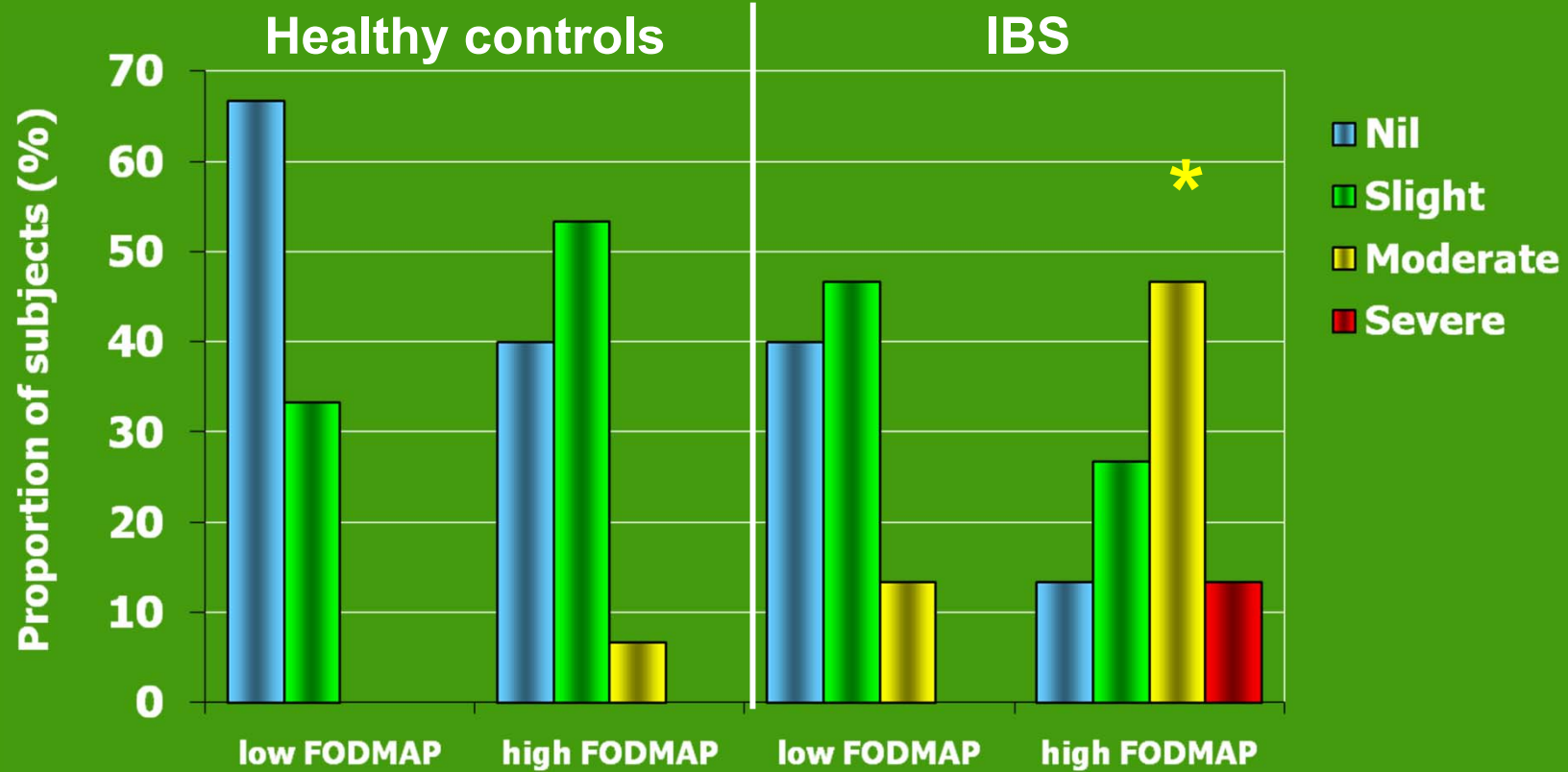
# Influence of FODMAP intake on breath hydrogen production



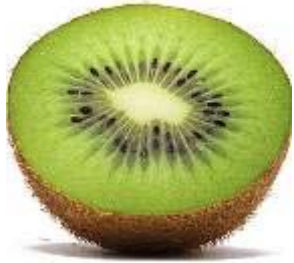


# Abdominal pain

\*  $p < 0.05$  Mann-Whitney U & Wilcoxon signed ranks tests

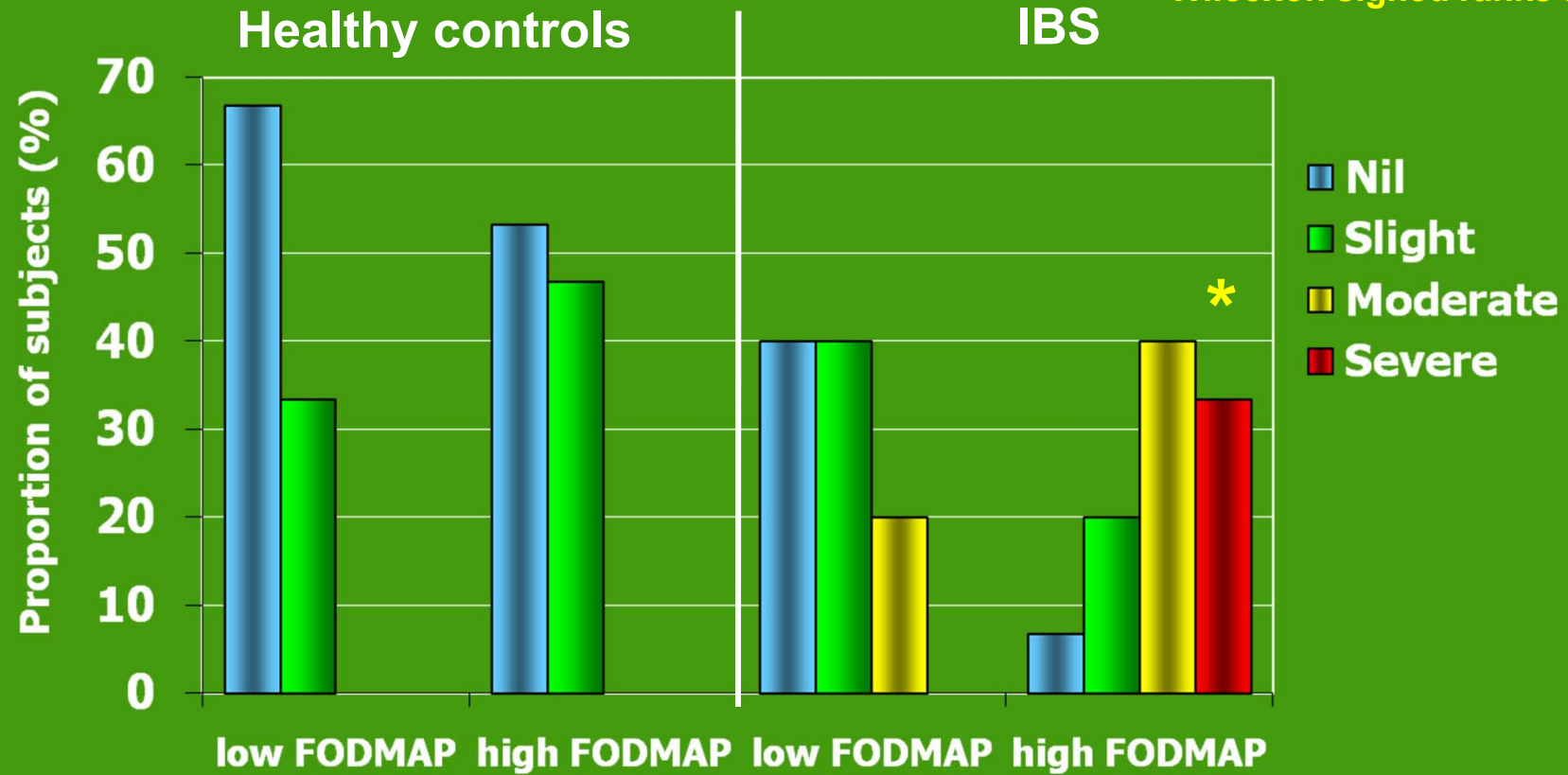


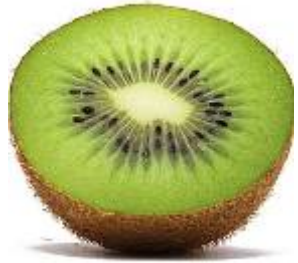




# Bloating

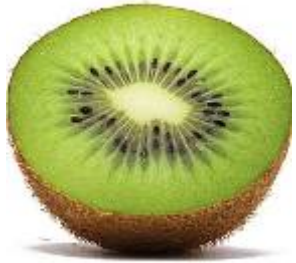
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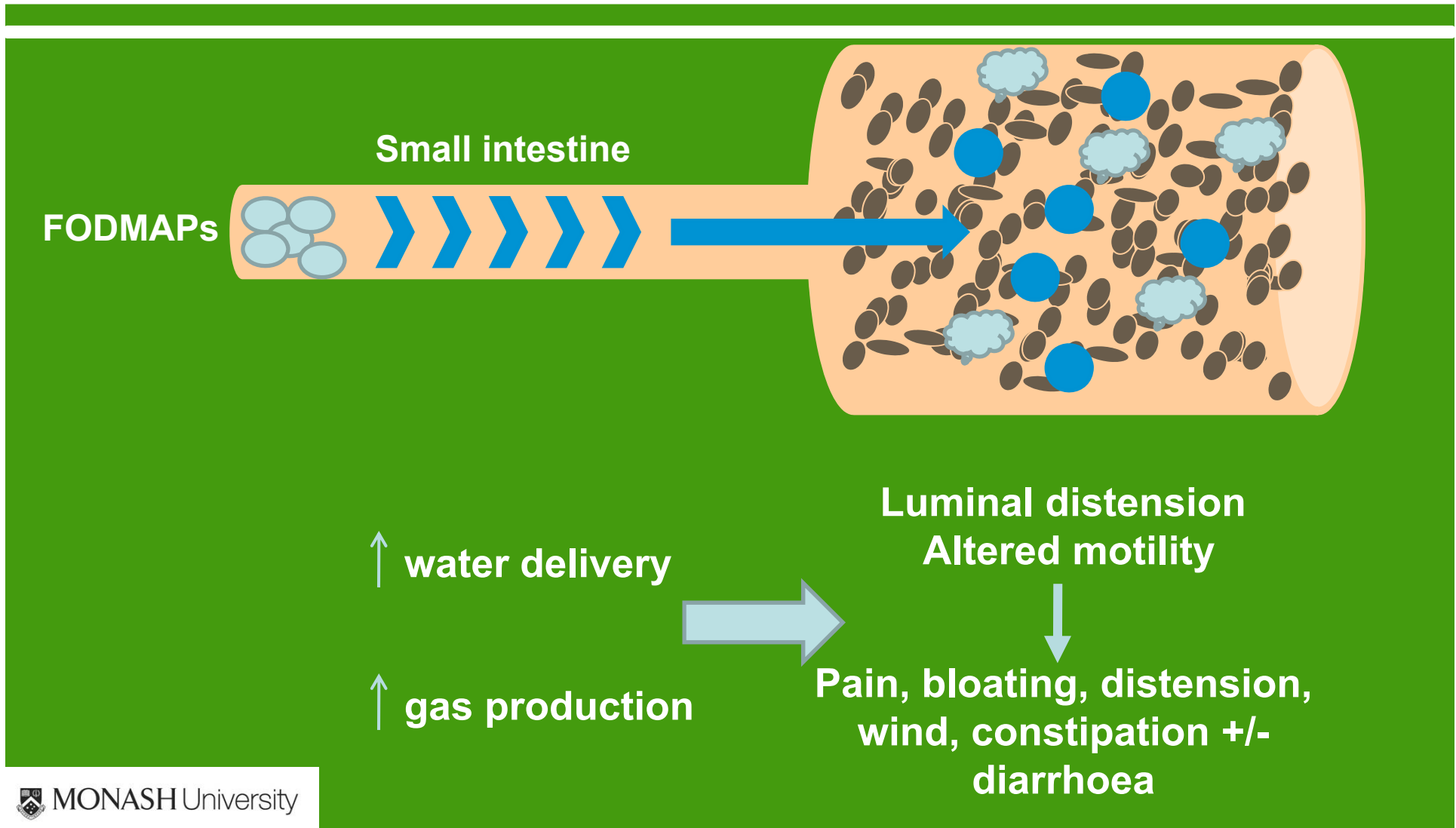


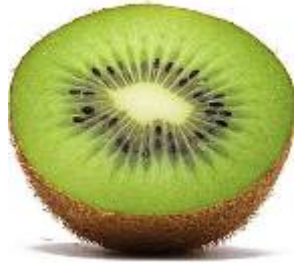
# How FODMAPs cause luminal distension

- Poorly absorbed in the small intestine and are delivered to the large intestine
- Small, osmotically-active molecules increasing water load to the colon resulting in motility disturbances (diarrhoea and faecal urgency)
- Rapidly fermented by colonic bacteria resulting in gas production
- Induce symptoms in patients with IBS not healthy controls



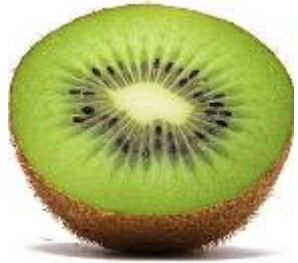
# Mechanism of Action



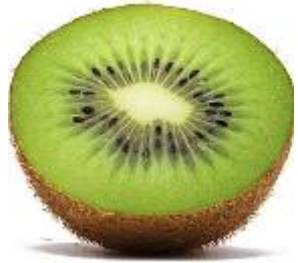


# Implications

- Data provide strong evidence to support low FODMAP diet for people with IBS

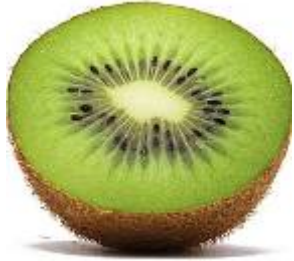


# FODMAPs IN DETAIL



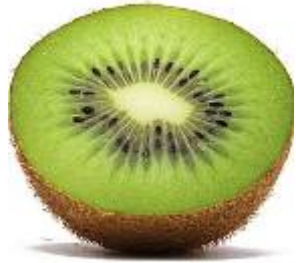
# FODMAPs as dietary triggers for IBS

- Some FODMAPs are poorly absorbed in some of us
  - Fructose
  - Lactose
  - Polyols
- Some FODMAPs are not absorbed in everyone
  - Fructans
  - GOS



# Fructose

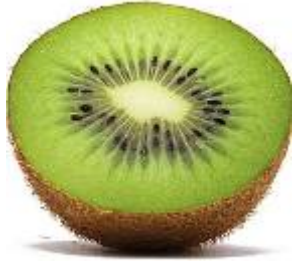
- Monosaccharide (F)
- Common sources:
  - Fruits (eg apples, pears, watermelon)
  - Honey
  - High fructose corn syrup (sweetener)



# Fructose Malabsorption

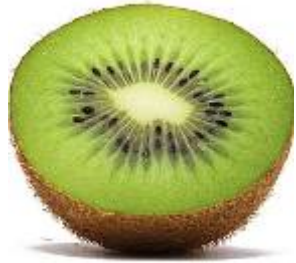
- Fructose absorption
  - low-capacity glucose-independent facilitated transport, and
  - high-capacity glucose-dependant fructose co-transport





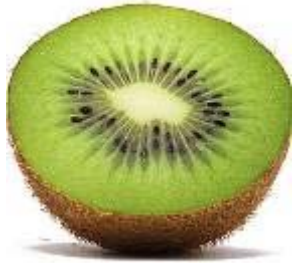
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- Fructose Malabsorption is characterised by an impaired *low capacity glucose-independent facilitated transport* in the duodenum



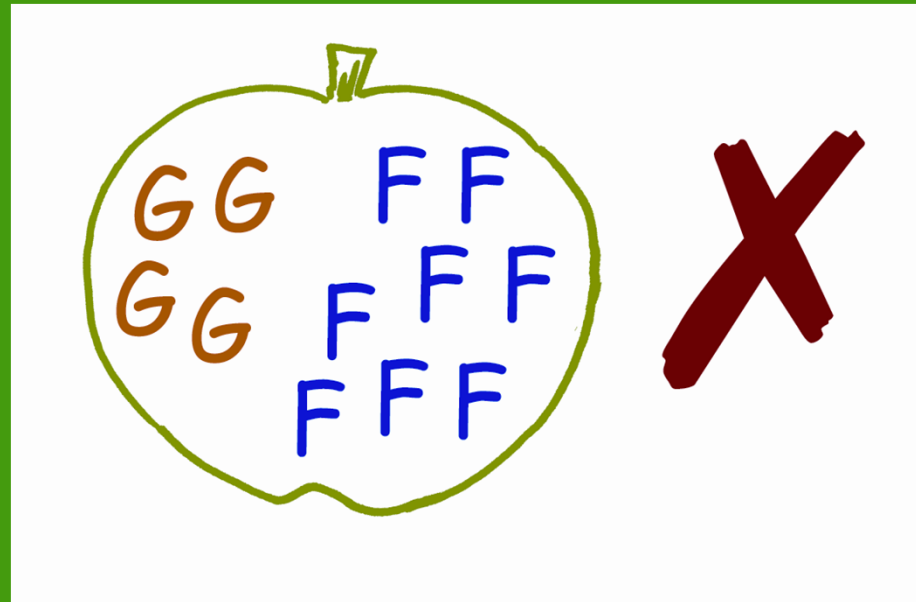
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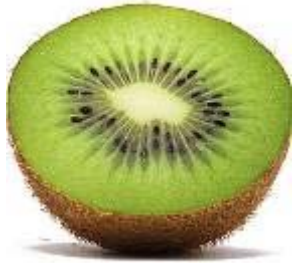
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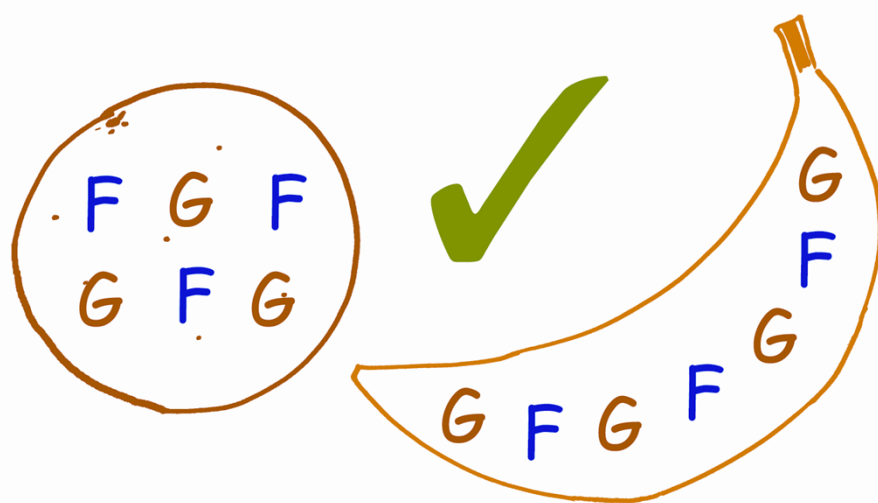
- Problem fruits include those that contain more fructose than glucose





# Fructose Malabsorption

- Foods that are in balance between fructose and glucose are suitable.
- Foods that have more glucose than fructose are suitable.

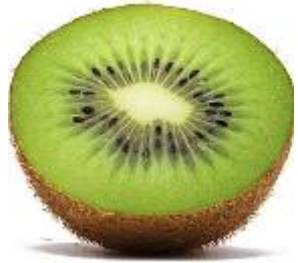




# Fructose Malabsorption

- Fructose given as sucrose, or in equimolar combination with glucose, is well absorbed.
- Fructose potentially malabsorbed
  - When fructose is consumed in excess of glucose; ie “excess fructose”

***Only a FODMAP if fructose malabsorbed***



# Foods with problem amounts of excess fructose

## FRUITS

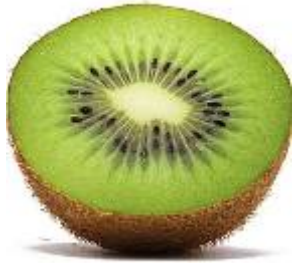
- Apple
- Cherries
- ***Mango***
- Nashi fruit
- Pear
- Watermelon

## VEGETABLES

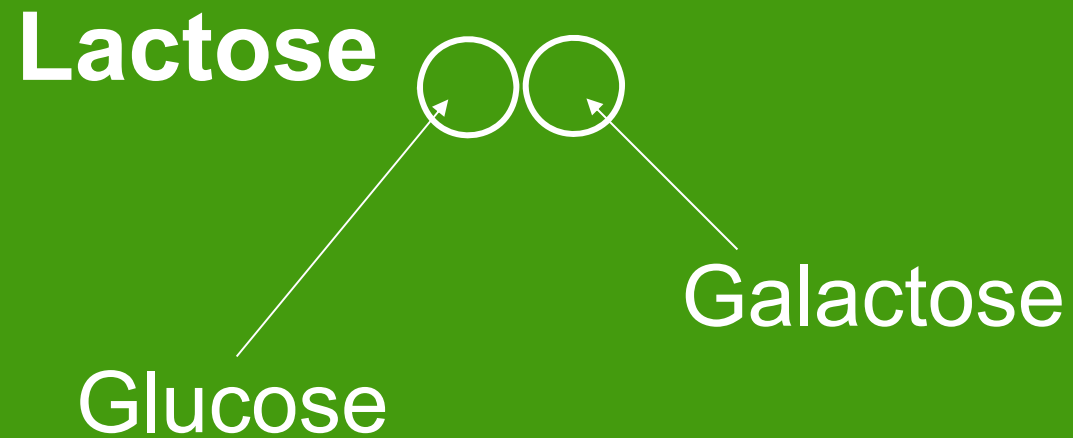
- Asparagus
- Artichokes
- Sugar snap peas

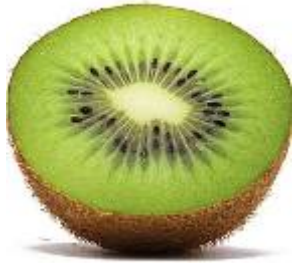
## OTHER

- Honey
- High Fructose Corn Syrup
- Frusana™

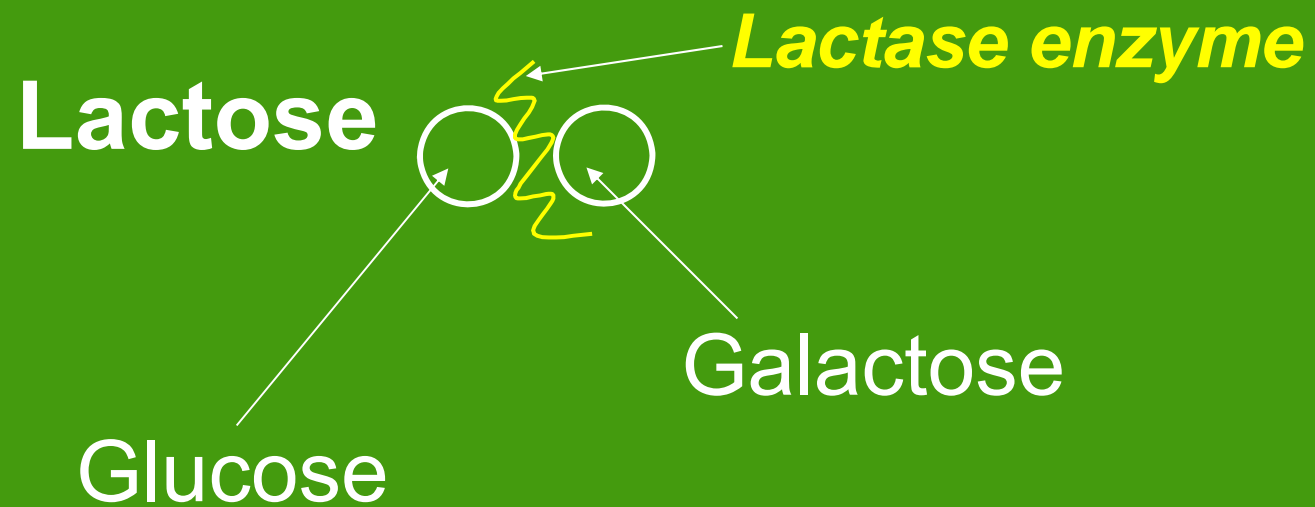


# Lactose

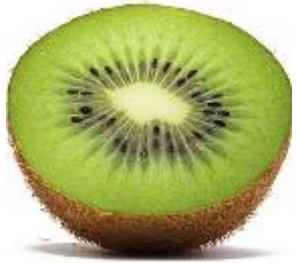




# Lactose







# Lactose Malabsorption

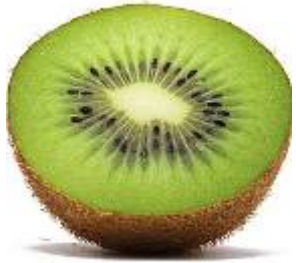
- A condition of lactase deficiency
- Therefore lactose cannot be broken down



- so it remains as a double sugar



.... which is malabsorbed



# Lactose Malabsorption

- A condition of lactase deficiency
- Therefore lactose cannot be broken down

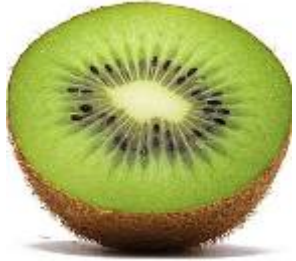


- so it remains as a double sugar



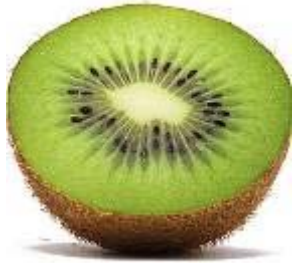
.... which is malabsorbed

***Only a FODMAP if lactase deficient***



# Foods with problem amounts of lactose

- Milk (Cow, Goat, Sheep) products
  - Milk
  - Yoghurt
  - Icecream
  - Custard
  - Soft cheeses



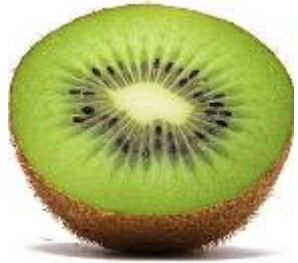
# Suitable lactose-free alternatives

Milk



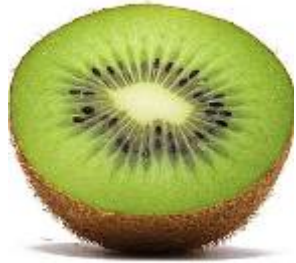
Yoghurt





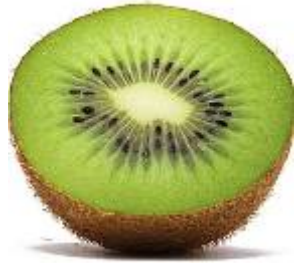
# Lactose Malabsorption: Misconceptions

1. A lactose free diet is the same as a dairy free diet
  - WRONG! – Some foods are made from dairy and are lactose free
2. You must avoid every trace of lactose if you have lactose malabsorption
  - WRONG! - Small amounts of lactose-containing foods are often tolerated
    - Up to 4g per sitting (1 glass milk = 12-16g)



# Suitable on a Lactose Free Diet

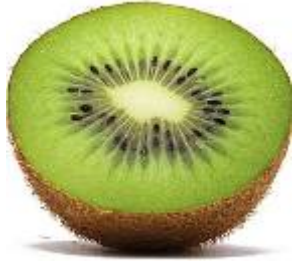
- Hard/Formed/Ripened Cheeses
  - eg. Parmesan, Cheddar, Edam, Gouda, Mozzarella, Brie, Camembert
- Butter
- Milk used in small amounts as an ingredient in cakes, biscuits, or in small amounts used in tea and coffee



# Lactase enzyme treatment is available

## Lactase enzyme



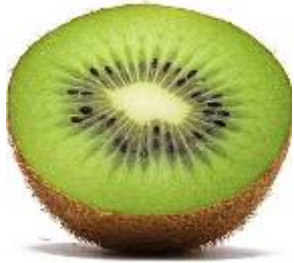


# Polyols

- Sugar alcohols:
  - sorbitol, xylitol, mannitol, maltitol isomalt
- Poorly absorbed in the small intestine
  - passive absorption
    - Sorbitol 60% are malabsorbers
    - Mannitol 20% are malabsorbers





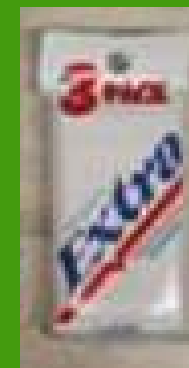


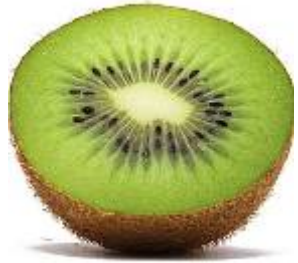
# Polyols

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  - sorbitol, xylitol, mannitol, maltitol isomalt
- Poorly absorbed in the small intestine
  - passive absorption
    - Sorbitol 60% are malabsorbers
    - Mannitol 20% are malabsorbers



*“Excess consumption may have a laxative effect”*





# Foods with problem amounts of polyols

## FRUIT

- Apple
- Apricot
- Avocado\*
- Blackberries
- Cherries
- Longon\*
- Lychee\*
- Nashi Fruit
- Nectarine
- Pear
- Plum
- Prune

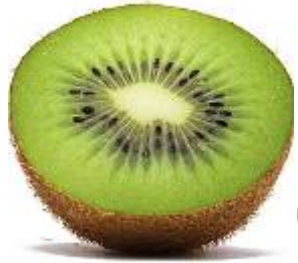
## VEGETABLES

- Cauliflower
- Mushroom
- Snow peas

## OTHERS

- Sorbitol
- Mannitol
- Maltitol
- Xylitol
- Isomalt

\*problem if eaten in large quantities

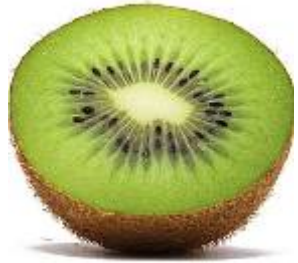


# Fructans (fructo-oligosaccharides)

- Oligosaccharides of fructose units ( $\beta$ 1-2 bond) with a glucose terminal end



- <10 units “fructo-oligosaccharide”
  - >10 units “inulin”
- The human SI does not produce a hydrolase capable of breaking the  $\beta$ 1-2 bond
  - >90% of dietary fructans arrive at the large bowel



# Foods with problem amounts of fructans

## FRUIT

- Peach
- Persimmon
- Rambutan\*
- Watermelon

## OTHER

- Inulin
- FOS
- Chicory drinks
- Legumes, lentils
- Chickpeas
- Pistachios

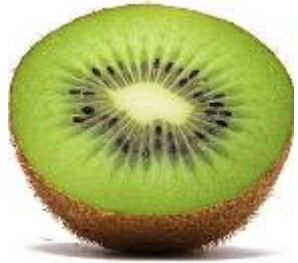
## VEGETABLES

- Artichokes (Globe)
- Artichokes(Jerusalem)
- Beetroot\*
- Brussels Sprouts
- Cabbage
- Chicory
- Dandelion leaves
- Fennel\*
- Garlic
- Leek
- Okra
- Onion (brown, white, Spanish, onion powder)
- Peas\*
- Shallot
- Spring onion (white part)

## GRAINS

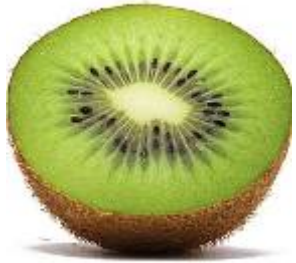
- Wheat\*
- Rye\*
- Barley\*

\*problem if eaten in large quantities



## The wheat restriction explained on a low FODMAP diet

- The wheat restriction is not as strict as the gluten restriction required for coeliac disease. Many gluten free foods are suitable as they are wheat free.
- Also, the low FODMAP diet can be trialled to observe efficacy (unlike coeliac disease where a trial of a gluten free diet is not advocated).



# Galacto-oligosaccharides (GOS)

- Oligosaccharides with a  $\beta$ -fructosidic linkage and an  $\alpha$ -galactosidic linkage

- Main dietary sources

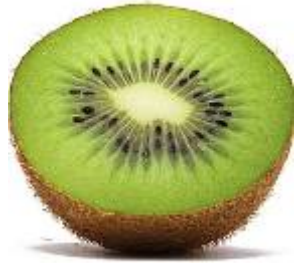
–Raffinose (1 F + 1G + 1 Gal)

–Stachyose (1R + 1 Gal)



- Humans lack  $\alpha$ -galactosidase

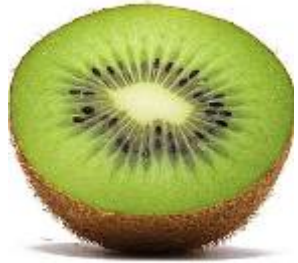
–no hydrolysis of the galactosidic linkages to their monosaccharides



# Foods with problem amounts of GOS

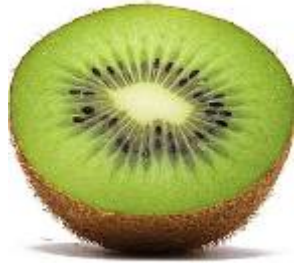
Found in:

- Legumes
  - eg. red kidney, baked, borlotti
- Chickpeas
- Lentils



# So why don't we all have IBS?

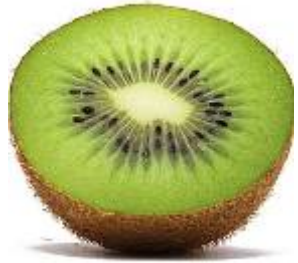




# So why don't we all have IBS?

## Remember

- None of us absorb Fructans (onion, wheat), or GOS (baked beans, lentils)
- Fructose Malabsorption is common
  - 30-40% of people with IBS
  - 30-40% of healthy controls

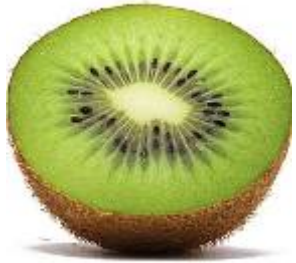


# So why don't we all have IBS?

## Remember

- None of us absorb Fructan (found in wheat), or GOS (baked beans)
- Fructose Malabsorption
  - 30-40%
  - 30-40%

So if malabsorption of FODMAPs is common, why don't we all have IBS?



# Why don't we all have IBS?



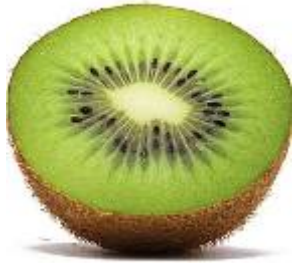
Symptoms

Brain-gut axis

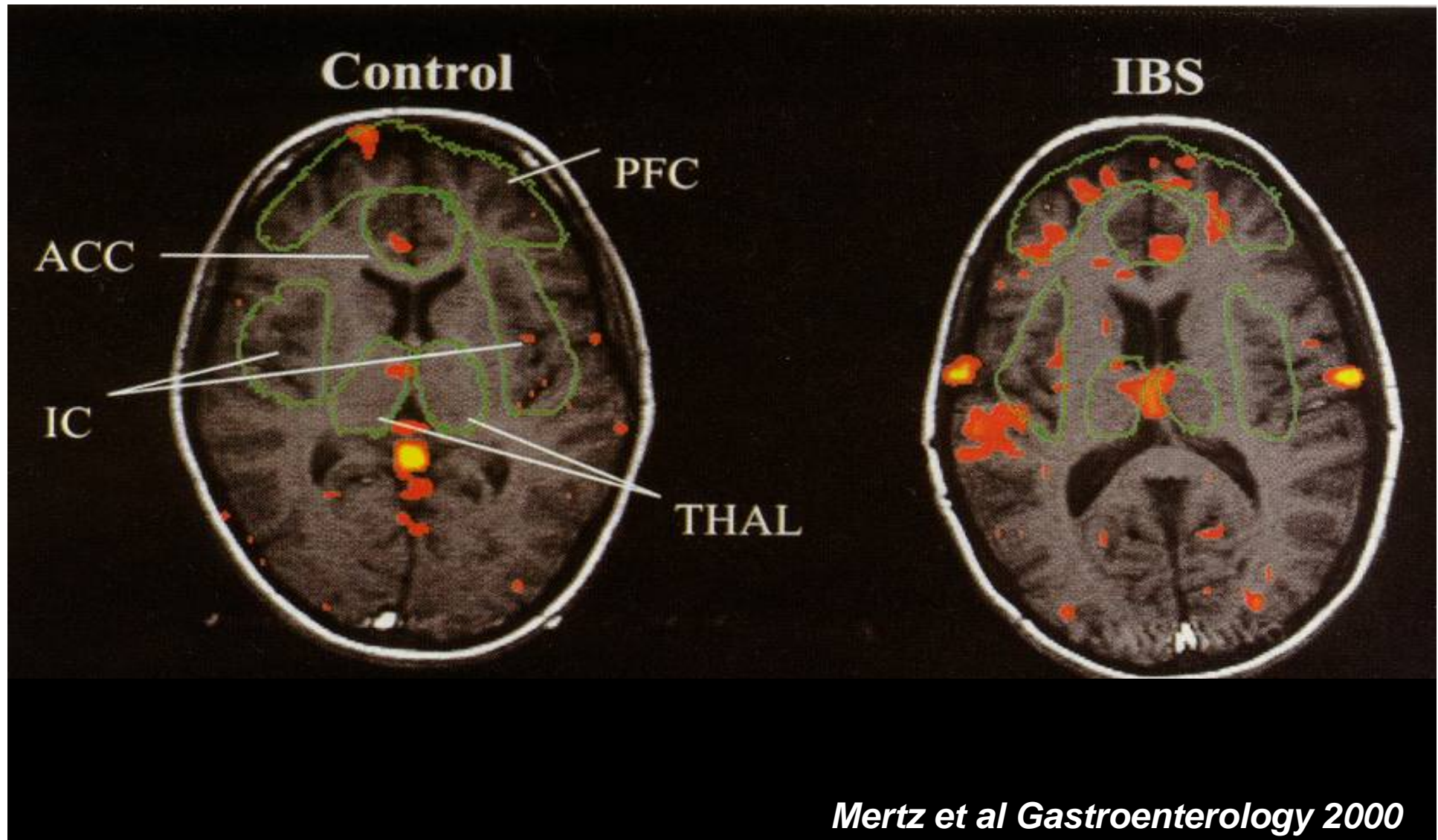
Enteric nervous system



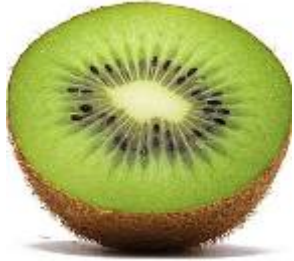
Symptoms



# Functional MRI in response to rectal distension

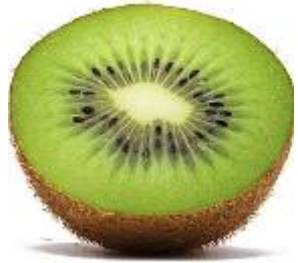


*Mertz et al Gastroenterology 2000*

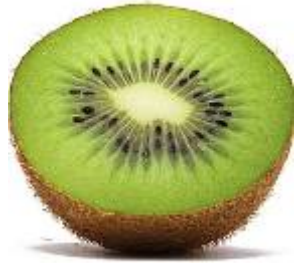


## When to treat?

- Treat the GI symptomatic patients only
  - eg. patients who have a rash but *no GI symptoms*, who have a positive breath test for fructose ***will not*** benefit from restricting fructose from their diet

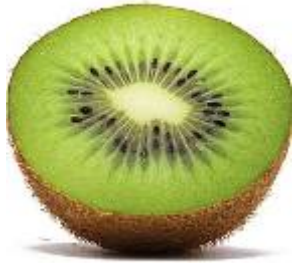


# IMPLEMENTING THE LOW FODMAP DIET



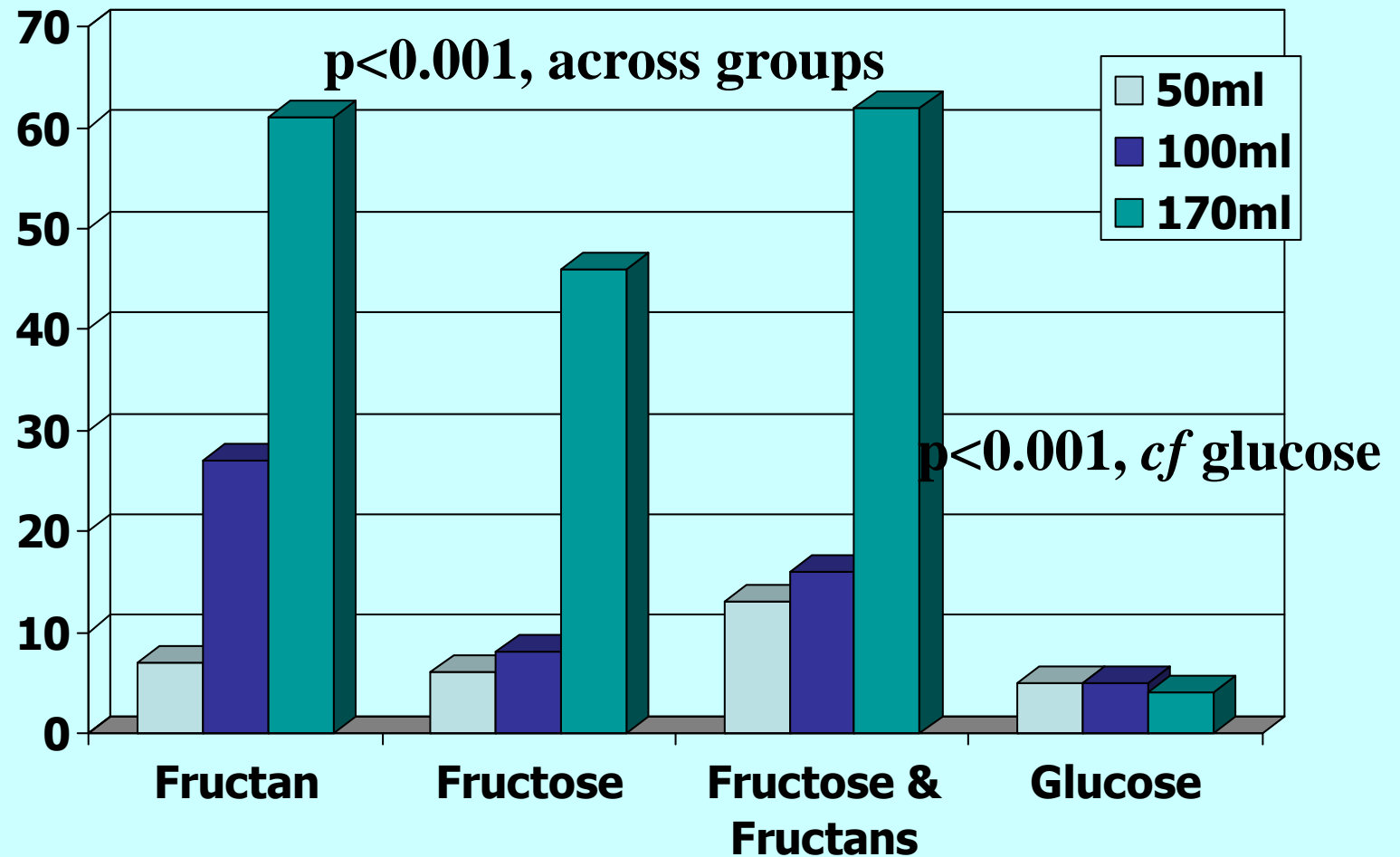
# Keys aspects of FODMAP restriction

- Symptoms are due to **dose response**

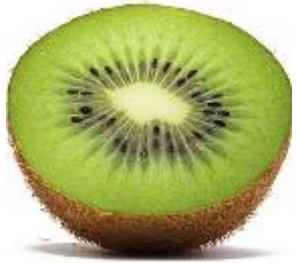


# Median OVERALL Symptom score in relation to volume – effect of dose

\*Median scores on VAS

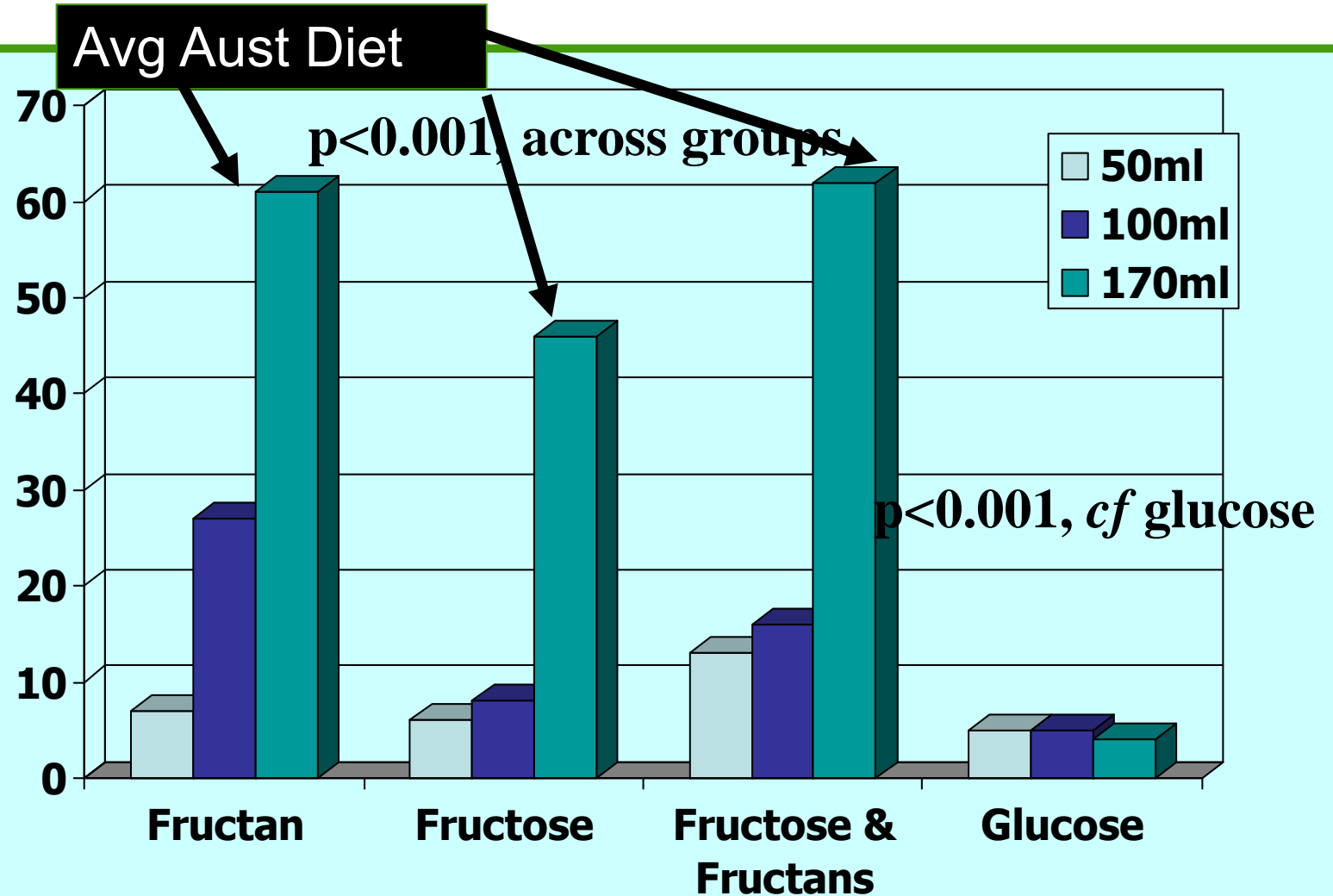


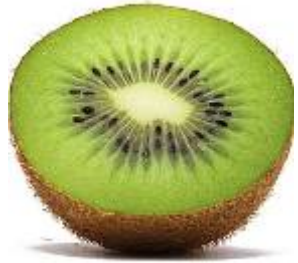




# Median OVERALL Symptom score in relation to volume – effect of dose

\*Median scores on VAS





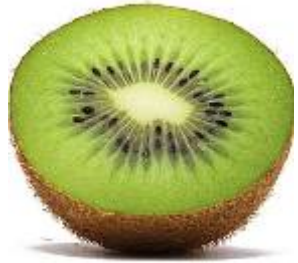
# Keys aspects of FODMAP restriction

- Symptoms are due to **dose response**
- All patients with IBS have different FODMAP tolerance levels

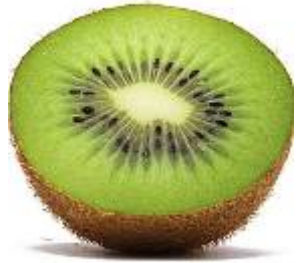


## Best way to determine FODMAP tolerance

- Restrict known/suspected malabsorbed FODMAPs until adequate symptom control is achieved and maintained (approximately 6-8 weeks)
- Reintroduce foods in controlled amounts to best balance food restriction with symptoms

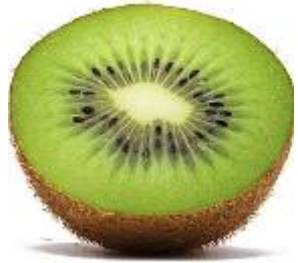


# FINAL POINTS



## A low FODMAP Diet doesn't cure IBS

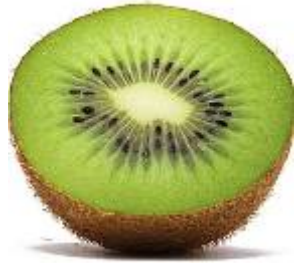
- Restricting FODMAPs is a proven effective way to control symptoms only
- Some patients will never get 100% symptom control
- There may be foods that always contribute to symptoms and require strict restriction
- Reminder that FODMAPs are good for bowel health, so absolute restriction is not encouraged.



# Non-Responsive Patient - Management

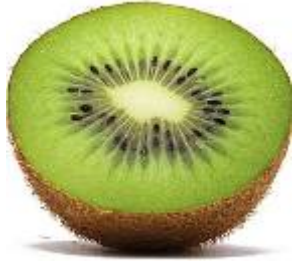
- Reassurance that food trials hasn't been a waste of time – they have assisted by ruling out what ISN'T the trigger
- Ensure all medical causes have been explored (should have been done already!)
- Consider alternative food triggers, trial reduction and monitoring symptoms
  - gluten (NCGI)\*, food chemicals, food allergy, other

*\*Biesiekierski, et al 2011*



# Non-Responsive Patient - Management

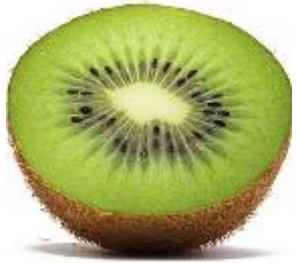
- Consider alternative (non-dietary) triggers, eg. stress and anxiety
- Patient should accept that they have IBS and diet is only one style of therapy. It is unlikely patient will always be symptom free



# Conclusion

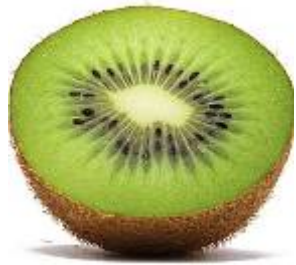
Goal of implementing low FODMAP diet for IBS relief is to *improve quality of life* (ie. reduce symptoms to patient's level of satisfaction) whilst still *including maximal variety* in the diet, in order to *maximise enjoyment* of food, and *minimise causing any other ill health* (eg. psychological distress due to food restriction)





# Practical Implications

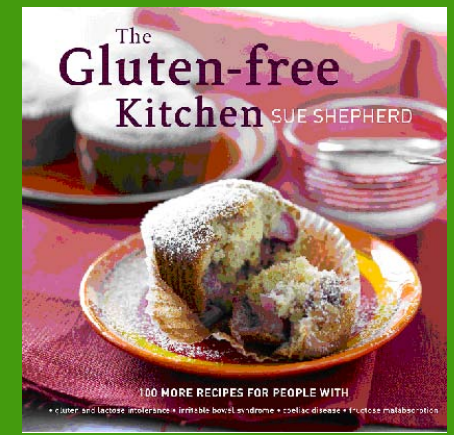
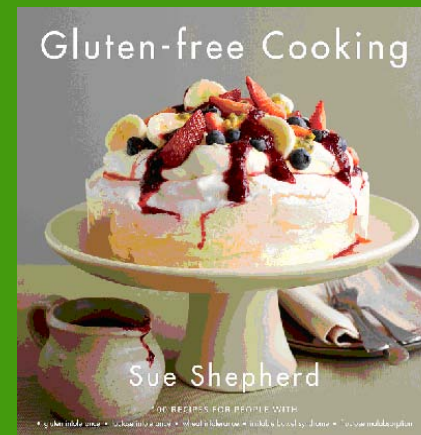
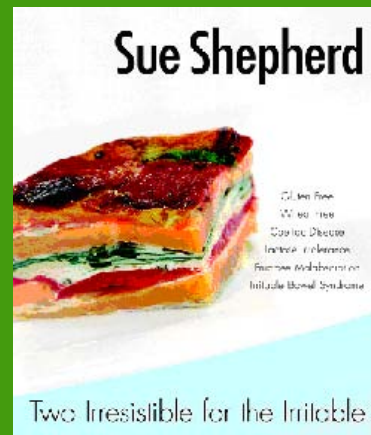
- The low FODMAP diet is now accepted as the most efficacious dietary therapy for IBS
- Specialist dietitian education required
- Consider it in:
  - IBS
  - IBD: symptomatic in quiescent disease
  - Coeliac Disease: symptomatic despite compliance

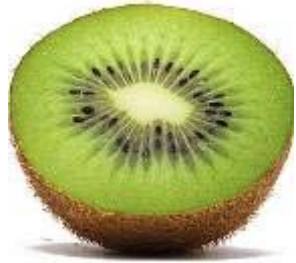


# Further Information

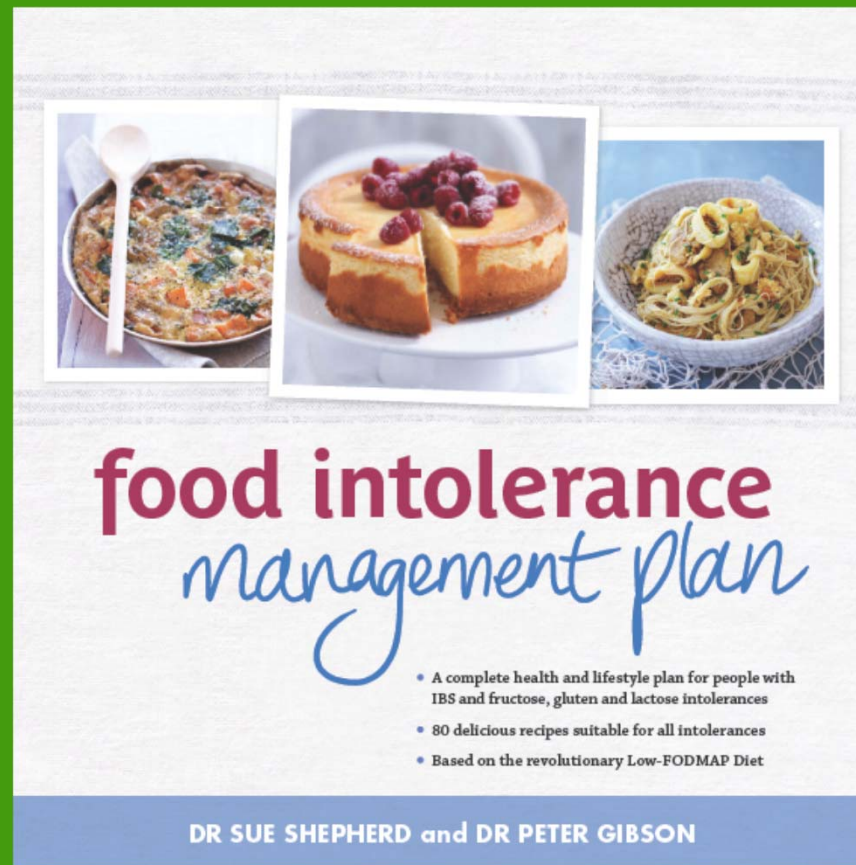
Cookbooks

[www.shepherdworks.com.au](http://www.shepherdworks.com.au)



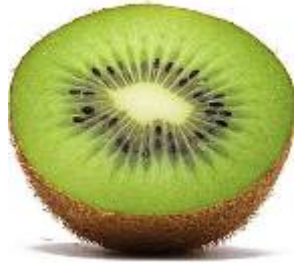


# The Low FODMAP Diet: Resource book



[www.shepherdworks.com.au](http://www.shepherdworks.com.au)

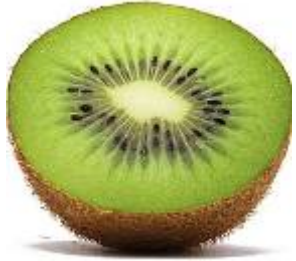




# Acknowledgements

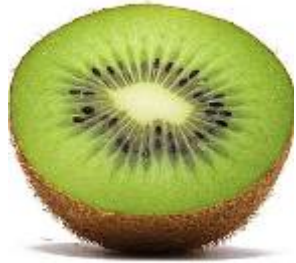
- Professor Peter Gibson
- Ms Emma Halmos
- Ms Kim Menzies
- Ms Rosemary Rose
- Ms Nia Rosella
- Ms Jess Biersierkierski

and Department of Gastroenterology  
Department of Medicine, Monash University  
Box Hill Hospital, VIC



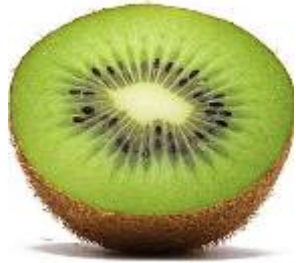
# THANK YOU!

- For your warm welcome, hospitality and inviting me to meet with you!
- I have a gift for you.....



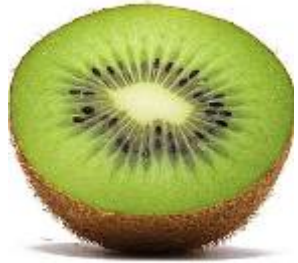
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- Shepherd SJ, Gibson PR. *Fructose malabsorption and symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome: guidelines for effective dietary management.* J Am Diet Assoc 2006;106:1631-9
- Gibson PR, Shepherd SJ. *Personal view: Food for Thought – Western lifestyle and susceptibility to Crohn’s disease. The FODMAP hypothesis.* Aliment Pharmacol Ther 2005; 21:139



# References

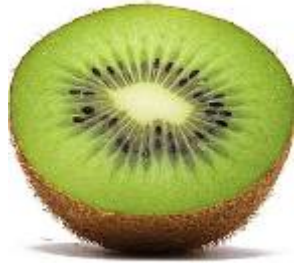
Halmos EP, Muir JG, Barrett JS, et al. Diarrhoea during enteral nutrition is predicted by the poorly absorbed short-chain carbohydrate (FODMAP) content of the formula. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2010; 32: 925-33



# Suitable low FODMAP fruits

- Banana
- Blueberries
- Canteloupe
- Carambola (star fruit)
- Durian
- Grapes
- Grapefruit
- Honeydew melon
- Kiwi
- Lemon
- Lime
- Mandarin
- Orange
- Passionfruit
- Paw paw
- Pineapple
- Raspberry
- Rhubarb
- Strawberry
- Tangelo
- Avocado
- Longon
- Lychee
- Rambutan





# Suitable low FODMAP veg

- Alfalfa
- Bamboo Shoots
- Bean shoot
- Bean sprout
- Beans (green)
- Bok Choy
- Broccoli
- Capsicum
- Carrot
- Celery
- Chives
- Choy sum
- Corn
- Cucumber
- Endive
- Eggplant
- Ginger
- Lettuce
- Olives
- Parsnip
- Potato
- Pumpkin
- Silverbeet
- Spring onion (green part only)
- Spinach
- Squash
- Swede
- Sweet potato
- Tomato
- Turnip
- Zucchini
- Beetroot
- Fennel
- Peas