

1 **Dietary polyphenols maintain homeostasis via regulating bile acid metabolism: A**
2 **review of possible mechanisms**

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12

13 **Abstract**

14 The synthesis and metabolism of bile acids (BAs) have been implicated in various
15 metabolic diseases, including obesity and diabetes. Dietary polyphenols, as natural
16 antioxidants, play a vital role in synthesizing and metabolizing bile acids. This paper
17 reviews the mechanism of dietary polyphenols involved in bile acid (BA) synthesis
18 and metabolism. The impact of different gut microorganisms on BA profiles is
19 discussed in detail. The regulation of BA metabolism by dietary polyphenols can be
20 divided into two modes: (1) Dietary polyphenols directly activate/inhibit farnesol X
21 receptor (FXR) and Takeda G protein-coupled receptor (TGR5); (2) Dietary
22 polyphenols regulate BA synthesis and metabolism through changes in intestinal
23 microorganisms. Research on direct activation/inhibition of FXR and TGR5 by
24 polyphenols should be ramped up. In addition, the effect of dietary polyphenols on
25 intestinal microorganisms has been paid more and more attention and has become a
26 target that cannot be ignored.

27 **Keywords:** dietary polyphenols, bile acid synthesis and metabolism, intestinal
28 microorganisms, FXR and TGR5

29 **1. Introduction**

30 Bile acids (BAs) are a family of steroids that solubilize cholesterol,
31 phospholipids, and other lipids. Many studies have shown that BAs are
32 essential to connecting nutrients with intestinal microbiota and host
33 metabolism.¹ BA disorders and impaired BA receptor transduction are
34 associated with liver and intestinal diseases, such as steatohepatitis,
35 hepatocellular carcinoma, enteritis, and colorectal cancer.² Two central
36 BA-activated receptors, FXR and TGR5 (GP-BAR1 or M-BAR), are
37 crucial in regulating physiological and pathological processes. These
38 receptors are located at the intersection of multiple regulatory pathways.¹
39 FXR primarily functions to inhibit BA synthesis in the liver, regulate BA
40 circulation in the intestine and liver tissue, and maintain a constant BA
41 concentration in the body.¹ TGR5, on the other hand, exhibits potency
42 dependence on BA hydrophobicity.³ Activation of TGR5 by BA can
43 increase energy consumption and reduce diet-induced obesity. In cases of
44 excessive or insufficient BA production, FXR and TGR5 act as negative
45 feedback regulators of BA metabolism.¹

46 Polyphenols are a large class of organic compounds commonly found in
47 natural products, with at least one aromatic ring with one or more
48 hydroxyl functional groups.⁴ They usually exist in the form of glycosides
49 in food. Polyphenols have the ability to bind with various sugars such as
50 glucose, galactose, rhamnose, and rutin and can exist as oligomers or high
51 molecular weight polymers.⁵ Based on their chemical structure, natural
52 polyphenols can be classified into five categories: flavonoids, phenolic
53 acids, lignans, stilbenes, and tannins.⁶ Polyphenols have been shown to

54 have beneficial effects on various metabolic diseases.⁵ Regular intake of
55 polyphenols has been reported to reduce the risk of obesity, diabetes,
56 insulin resistance, inflammation, liver failure, and brain diseases.⁷
57 Previous studies have demonstrated that polyphenols can impact BA
58 synthesis and metabolism, leading to increased BA excretion.⁴ When
59 polyphenols are ingested, they are not fully digested and can influence
60 microbial populations in the large intestine. Consequently, most research
61 focuses on how polyphenols regulate BA synthesis and metabolism by
62 controlling intestinal microorganisms.⁸ Additionally, polyphenols can
63 directly act as exogenous activators or inhibitors of BA receptors, further
64 participating in the regulation of BA metabolism.⁹⁻¹¹ However, the
65 molecular mechanism underlying the effects of polyphenols on the
66 regulation of BA metabolism remains unclear.

67 This review focuses on the key roles of BA-activated receptors FXR and
68 TGR5. It provides the latest research results on the interaction between polyphenols
69 and BA and clarifies the mechanism of polyphenols in BA synthesis and
70 metabolism. Additionally, we summarize the gut microbes regulated by
71 dietary polyphenols based on enzymes and genes capable of altering the
72 BA profile. This has important implications for the precise intervention of
73 dietary polyphenols in BA metabolism.

74 **2. Synthesis and Metabolism of BAs**

75 BAs are composed of a core structure consisting of 17 carbon atoms
76 arranged in four "fused" rings: three six-membered cyclohexane rings (A-
77 C ring) and one five-membered cyclopentane ring (D ring).¹² Additionally,
78 BAs have a 5-8 carbon side chain terminating in a carboxylic acid, along

79 with several hydroxyl and methyl groups.¹ The structure of BAs exhibits
80 both hydrophilic and hydrophobic characteristics, allowing them to act as
81 surfactants.¹ BAs serve the purpose of emulsifying lipids and aiding in the
82 absorption and utilization of cholesterol.³ They can be categorized into
83 primary and secondary BAs. The synthesis and transformation of BAs in
84 the liver and intestines is illustrated in Fig.1. Primary BAs are synthesized
85 in the liver through two pathways: the "classical" and the "alternative"
86 pathway. In the "classical" pathway, cholesterol is converted to 7 α -
87 hydroxycholesterol by the enzyme CYP7A1, which is then further
88 modified by sterol 12- α hydroxylase (CYP8B1) and sterol 27-hydroxylase
89 (CYP27A1) to produce primary BAs like cholic acid (CA) and
90 chenodeoxycholic acid (CDCA).¹³ CYP7A1, the rate-limiting enzyme from
91 BA formation, which is regulated by the negative feedback of the end
92 product BAs.¹ The "alternative" pathway involves the hydroxylation of
93 cholesterol by CYP27A1 followed by catalysis by CYP7B1, which mainly
94 produces CDCA. In the liver, most primary BAs are conjugated with
95 glycine(G) or taurine(T) to form conjugated BAs (CBAs).¹⁴ The
96 unconjugated BAs are then secreted into the bile in the intestine through a
97 bile salt output pump (ABCB11 or BSEP).⁴

98 In the intestinal tract, bile saline hydrolase (BSH) produced by
99 *Lactobacillus*, *Bifidobacterium*, *Enterococcus*, and *Clostridium* can
100 uncouple CA and CDCA conjugated with glycine and taurine.¹⁵ Then,
101 *Clostridium* and *Eubacterium* produce α -dehydroxylase for 7 α -
102 dehydroxylation.¹² CDCA is converted to lithocholic acid (LCA), while
103 CA is converted to deoxycholic acid (DCA).¹⁶ Primary BAs (T-/G-

104 CA/CDCA) and secondary BAs (DCA and LCA) can be converted into
105 oxycholic acid analogs by hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase (HSDH)
106 produced by *Clostridium clusters XIVa IV* (i.e., *C.scindens*, *C. hiranonis*,
107 and *C. hylemonae*) and *XI*.¹⁷⁻¹⁹ Secondary BAs also include secondary
108 conjugated BAs and secondary unconjugated BAs.²⁰ Various secondary
109 BAs can act as strong or weak agonists for FXR and TGR5, while some
110 can inhibit their activity, such as taurocholic acid (in mice), an FXR
111 antagonist.²¹ The majority (95%) of secondary BAs in the intestine are
112 reabsorbed by apical sodium-dependent BA transporter (ABST).⁴ The
113 conjugated BAs are actively reabsorbed in the ileum, and the unconjugated
114 BAs are passively reabsorbed in the small intestine and large intestine.¹
115 The sodium/taurocholate co-transport peptide (NTCP) and organic anion
116 transport peptide 1 (OATP1) were then ingested into the hepatocytes, and
117 a small portion (5% LCA) was excreted through the feces.¹² The
118 unconjugated BAs are reabsorbed into the liver and then synthesized into
119 conjugated BAs with glycine and taurine, entering the intestinal-liver
120 circulation once again.¹² Additionally, the liver MRP3, MRP4, and OST α -
121 OST β complexes provide an alternative pathway for BA excretion into the
122 systemic circulation.²² In the human body, the enterohepatic circulation of
123 BAs occurs 6-12 times a day to metabolize dietary cholesterol. BA
124 synthesis and metabolism are essential in maintaining body weight,
125 glucose, and lipid tolerance.²³

126 However, if the liver's ability to synthesize BA or lecithin decreases,
127 excessive BA may be lost in the digestive tract, or the enterohepatic
128 circulation of BAs may decrease, resulting in excessive excretion of

129 cholesterol into the bile (hypercholesterolemia). This imbalance in the
130 ratio of BAs and lecithin to cholesterol can lead to the precipitation of
131 cholesterol and the formation of gallstones.¹³ Gallstones can cause
132 cholestasis, and in cases of liver injury caused by cholestasis, it has been
133 observed that BAs mediate the expression of inflammatory factors, leading
134 to the recruitment of neutrophils in the liver and subsequent liver injury.²⁴
135 The study also discovered a correlation between changes in the BA pool
136 and cardiac dysfunction, liver disease, and diabetes.²⁵ Microbial changes
137 that impact the structure of BA can lead to inflammation, apoptosis, and
138 cell death.¹⁵ These findings highlight the crucial physiological role of
139 regulating BA in preserving human health.

140 **3. Key targets for controlling BA synthesis and metabolism: FXR and TGR5**

141 BAs act as ligands for host cell receptors, namely FXR and TGR5, which are
142 responsible for controlling the synthesis and metabolism of BAs.³ In recent years,
143 there has been significant interest in natural products that target FXR and TGR5, as
144 they offer a new source of ligands with diverse chemical structures and biological
145 activities.¹ Furthermore, the intestinal microbiota plays a role in modulating FXR and
146 TGR5 through changes in microbial enzymes. Consequently, the impact of natural
147 nutrients on the body's physiological functions through the intestinal microbiota has
148 garnered public attention.¹²

149 **3.1 FXR**

150 FXR is a nuclear transcription factor that is primarily activated by endogenous BA.²⁶
151 It is mainly expressed in the liver and intestine, where it regulates gene expression
152 involved in BA synthesis and transport. As a result, FXR serves as the primary
153 regulator of BA homeostasis.²⁷ Moreover, FXR plays an important role in the

154 regulation of various metabolic pathways, including glucose, lipid, and sterol
155 metabolism. FXR has been identified as a key target for the treatment of obesity, liver
156 injury, cholestasis, and chronic inflammatory diseases.³ Research has demonstrated
157 that activation of intestinal FXR can effectively inhibit intestinal inflammation in
158 LPS-induced mouse colitis models and human macrophages.²⁸ In the liver, FXR
159 primarily functions to suppress BA synthesis, regulate the circulation of BAs in the
160 liver-intestine axis, and maintain a constant BA content in the body.²⁹ Normal
161 intestinal FXR plays a crucial role in maintaining the reflux of BAs to the portal vein,
162 controlling the uptake of BA into intestinal cells, and limiting intracellular BA
163 levels.³⁰ The most effective ligands that activate FXR are CDCA and CA, followed by
164 LCA and DCA. FXR exerts its effects through direct binding of FXR/RXR
165 heterodimers to the FXR response element (FXR-RE) in the promoter region of target
166 genes.¹ Additionally, FXR can regulate other transcription factors, such as nuclear
167 receptor small heterodimer partners (SHP) or hormones.³¹ FXR binds to intestinal
168 cells locally through BA, which leads to the expression of the regulatory hormone
169 fibroblast growth factor 19 (FGF19, FGF15 is the mouse ortholog) in the intestinal
170 tract, which then enters systemic circulation.²⁹ FGF15/19 interacts with the specific
171 cell receptor liver fibroblast growth factor (FGFR4) in hepatocytes, inhibiting
172 CYP7A1 activity and thereby regulating BA synthesis in the liver.¹ In summary, in
173 the case of elevated intestinal BA levels, FXR is activated in the epithelial cells of the
174 ileum and stimulates the transport of BA into the portal vein and back to the liver.³²
175 As a result, increased BA levels activate liver FXR, leading to a reduction in BA
176 uptake from the blood and a decrease in BA synthesis. Furthermore, the study
177 discovered that FXR can regulate the levels of lipid and glucose levels in the liver and
178 serum, potentially impacting cardiovascular disease.³³ Obeticholic acid (OCA), an

179 FXR agonist, is currently the only designated drug being developed for the
180 breakthrough treatment of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD).³⁴ The
181 mechanism of action of OCA is attributed to its properties as a semi-synthetic
182 hydrophobic BA analogue, which has activation potency similar to endogenous BA
183 chenodeoxycholic acid but is 100 times more potent. Additionally, OCA induces the
184 expression of gut-derived hormones, particularly FGF19.³⁵ In recent human trials, the
185 administration of OCA to NAFLD and T2DM patients has been shown to increase
186 insulin sensitivity.³⁶ However, some patients treated with OCA have reported itching,
187 and the underlying mechanism for this side effect remains unclear.³⁷

188 **3.2 TGR5**

189 TGR5 is a seven-transmembrane G-protein coupled secondary BAs receptor
190 discovered in 2002.³⁸ The primary ligands for TGR5 are LCA and DCA, followed by
191 CDCA and CA. The highest expression of this receptor was found in the ileum and
192 colon (epithelial cells, endocrine cells, and intestinal neurons), bile duct tree (bile duct
193 cells), gallbladder wall, placenta, and spleen.¹² Activation of the TGR5 signal
194 regulates metabolic homeostasis, particularly in BAs and glucose metabolism. Studies
195 have shown that fexaramine, an FXR agonist, has beneficial effects such as increasing
196 energy consumption in brown adipose tissue (BAT), promoting browning of white
197 adipose tissue (WAT), and altering BA composition. These effects have been
198 attributed to the activation of TGR5 and can be reversed by TGR5 knockout models.¹
199 Furthermore, evidence suggests that FXR and TGR5 may be co-expressed in
200 intestinal endocrine L cells. Activation of FXR in these cells promotes the
201 transcription of the TGR5 gene through the FXR binding site in the TGR5 gene
202 promoter.³⁹ FXR and TGR5 are also expressed in pancreatic β cells, and in humans,
203 BA signals can promote insulin synthesis and secretion through these receptors.²⁹ This

204 mechanism may have potential implications for the treatment of diabetes mellitus type
205 2 (T2DM).^{40,41} Additionally, the activation of TGR5 can trigger the release of various
206 intestinal peptides, including intestinal motility peptide (PYY), which is involved in
207 regulating immune signals.⁴² The activation of TGR5 also promotes the production of
208 the intestinal hormone glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP-1), which promotes insulin
209 secretion and appetite regulation. Moreover, it enhances energy consumption by
210 converting thyroid hormone T4 into the active form T3.⁴² While FXR agonists have
211 been associated with side effects such as itching, recent studies suggest that TGR5
212 may not be involved in mediating pruritus in humans.¹² Consequently, the
213 development of TGR5 agonists has emerged as a research focus, as they may
214 potentially overcome the side effects associated with FXR agonists.

215 **4. Mechanism of action mediated by polyphenols**

216 As shown in Figure 2, dietary polyphenols generally are typically found in a bound
217 form in food. Upon oral intake, these polyphenols are initially released into the
218 stomach, a process facilitated by gastric digestive enzymes. Due to variations in
219 structure and polymerization degree, different polyphenols exhibit varying levels of
220 resistance to digestion.⁴³ The stomach absorbs polyphenols to a limited extent, after
221 which they enter the duodenum through the pylorus. It is widely acknowledged that
222 the small intestine serves as the primary site for absorption of most oral
223 pharmaceutical preparations in the human body, allowing them to enter the blood
224 circulation. Approximately 5-10% of the polyphenols in their free state are absorbed
225 at this location.⁴⁴ Upon entering the blood stream, polyphenols accumulate in the liver
226 and undergo methylation, glucuronidation, and sulfonation. However, due to the
227 significant efflux of transporters, dietary polyphenols have low bioavailability in the
228 intestinal mucosa.⁴ Upon reaching the colon, the majority of unabsorbed polyphenols

229 are metabolized by the intestinal flora, resulting in the production and utilization of
230 phenolic acid degradation products.⁴ It is worth noting that different polyphenols can
231 also influence the activities of the intestinal flora.

232 Many animal studies have evaluated the effects of polyphenols on the synthesis and
233 metabolism of BAs and their mechanisms.^{12,45,46} Ingestion of polyphenols has been
234 found to increase cholesterol metabolism in the liver, decrease blood cholesterol
235 levels, increase BA excretion in the intestine, and reduce BA accumulation.^{12,45,46}
236 Clinical studies have reported that polyphenol intervention can lead to a reduction in
237 serum BAs in mice or humans.^{47,48} However, there is currently no literature that
238 summarizes and analyzes the specific mechanism by which polyphenols regulate BA
239 synthesis and metabolism. Based on this, we propose that polyphenols can directly
240 activate/inhibit BA receptors FXR and TGR5. Furthermore, the synthesis and
241 metabolism of BAs can be regulated by indirectly activating/inhibiting FXR and
242 TGR5 through their effects on intestinal microorganisms.

243 **4.1 Polyphenols directly act on BA-activated receptors**

244 Natural FXR and TGR5 ligands derived from plants serve as valuable templates for
245 the development of novel FXR and TGR5 regulators. As shown in Table 1,
246 polyphenols have been widely reported as activators and antagonists of FXR and
247 TGR5. The effectiveness of these polyphenols has been confirmed through biological
248 models, with some studies employing molecular model docking to illustrate their
249 interaction with FXR pockets.¹²

250 Berberine is a kind of quinoline alkaloid that can be combined with statins to enhance
251 the hypolipidemic effect and reduce the dose and side effects of statins. The double
252 luciferase reporter gene assay showed that 2.5-50 mM berberine could enhance the
253 luciferase activity of hFXR and hLXR α -activated OATP1B1 promoters in a

254 concentration-dependent manner in HepG2 cells, and the half effective concentration
255 (EC50) was 12.19 ± 0.86 and 32.15 ± 2.32 mM, respectively.¹⁰ In addition, after
256 silencing FXR or LXR α with small interference RNA (siRNA), the expression of
257 OATP1B1 induced by berberine was significantly decreased. Western blotting
258 analysis of FXR and LXR α protein levels in cytoplasm and nucleus of berberine-
259 treated HepG2 cells showed that berberine induced nuclear translocation and
260 activation of FXR and LXR α . In HepG2 cells, 10 μ M phytosterone (plant sterol
261 guggulsterone, GS) promoted the expression of endogenous BSEP in the presence of
262 FXR agonists such as chenodeoxycholate or GW4064. The maximum induction rate
263 is 400-500% induced by FXR agonist alone, which reduces blood lipids in human
264 primary hepatocytes and hepatoblastoma cells.⁵⁰ In addition, in the absence of FXR
265 agonists, GS alone slightly increased the activation of the BSEP promoter.⁵⁰ The
266 researchers found that polyphenols extracted from date palm fruit (containing
267 hydroxycinnamic acid, proanthocyanidins, and lipophilic polyphenols) could also be
268 used as co-agonist ligands for mouse FXR, and the ability to activate FXR with
269 binding BA was stronger than that of BAs alone.⁹ The extract activated PPAR α
270 chimera in a dose-dependent manner alone. It was also found that the combination of
271 date palm fruit polyphenols and BA enhanced the expression of FGF19 in Caco-2
272 cells in a dose-dependent manner.⁹

273 Tetrahydroflavanone (Cryptochinones A-D) is a polyphenol isolated from the leaves
274 of *cryptocarya chinensis*.¹¹ It was found that tetrahydroflavanone could transactivate
275 FXR and regulate the promoter effect in a dose-dependent manner, including GAL4,
276 SHP, CYP7A1, and PLTP promoters. As shown in Fig. 3BC, the molecular docking
277 of cryptochinones A-D and FXR showed that flavanone showed similar activation to
278 FXR as CDCA, thus reducing the mRNA expression of CYP7A1.^{11,56} Kaempferol is

279 widely distributed in fruit and vegetables. It is an important ingredient in the
280 traditional medicinal formula. Kaempferol reversed the decreasing trend in CDCA
281 and 12 α -hydroxylated BAs by increasing the CYP27A1 and sterol CYP8B1
282 expressions and upregulated FXR expression.⁵² Importantly, molecular docking
283 analysis revealed a direct interaction between kaempferol and FXR, the master
284 regulator of BA signaling. Fig. 3D. shows the predicted binding position of
285 kaempferol with mouse FXR. These results can prove that polyphenols can directly
286 activate/inhibit FXR at the molecular level and verify our conclusions *in vitro*.
287 *Passiflora leschenaultii* DC belongs to the family *Passifloraceae*, which possesses
288 rich polyphenolic compounds with antioxidant, analgesic, anti-inflammatory, and
289 antipyretic properties.⁵⁷ Leaf acetone extract (200/400 mg/kg) was given to
290 paracetamol-induced Swiss albino male mice and Wistar albino rats for 14 days. It
291 was found that acetone extract could significantly reduce the elevated levels of SGPT,
292 SGOT, and ALP in serum.⁵³ The results of the docking study showed that there was a
293 spatial interaction between the identified compounds and FXR to activate FXR. This
294 indicates that the extract of *P. leschenaultii* leaves extract has a protective effect on
295 liver injury induced by paracetamol. In addition, the molecular docking study of β -
296 sitosterol in *Prosopis cineraria* L. (Druce) fruit extract with FXR receptor showed
297 that they had an excellent binding conformation.⁵⁵ As a FXR agonist, β -sitosterol can
298 reduce the levels of serum cholesterol, triglyceride, VLDL and LDL. At the 400
299 mg/kg dose, the result is almost the same as that of the standard drug simvastatin. It
300 significantly reduces the hyperlipidemia of Sprague-Dawley rats induced by Triton.
301 EGCG is also considered to be an activator of FXR. It has been confirmed that EGCG
302 can activate FXR in a specific and dose-dependent manner.⁵⁸ In addition, EGCG can
303 induce the expression of FXR target genes *in vitro*. In the coactivator (SRC2)

304 recruitment experiment, the researchers found that EGCG did not recruit SRC2 to
305 FXR, but it could inhibit GW6064's recruitment of SRC2 to FXR in a dose-dependent
306 manner (IC50, 1 μ M).⁵⁸ GW6064 is an effective ligand for FXR synthesis.⁵⁹ EGCG
307 can also inhibit FXR target gene expression induced by GW4064 or CDCA *in vitro*.
308 mRNA expression of the FXR target factor set was induced in the intestinal tract of
309 wild-type and FXR knockout mice treated with an acute dose of EGCG.⁵⁸ In another
310 study, reporter gene analysis was used to study the regulatory effects of different
311 extracts from Pu-er tea on transcription factors involved in lipid metabolism, such as
312 FXR, liver X-activated receptor (LXR), and peroxisome proliferator-activated
313 receptor (PPAR γ and PPAR δ).⁵⁴ It was found that the ethyl acetate extract of Pu-er tea
314 had the strongest activating effect on FXR and PPAR δ . Through column
315 chromatography and UPLC-MS/MS technology, it was found that the main bioactive
316 components in Pu-er tea were flavonoids.

317 Although there are many studies on the regulation of natural polyphenols on BA
318 synthesis and metabolism, the studies on the direct effects of natural polyphenols on
319 FXR and TGR5 still need to be completed. First, due to the limitations of *in vivo*
320 studies, the current studies can only clarify the interaction between polyphenols and
321 BAs from their physiological results. There are few or no details of the intermediate
322 mechanism. Therefore, the *in vitro* study of molecular docking simulation is of great
323 significance for elucidating the basic mechanism and determining the hypothesis of
324 targeting *in vivo*. Second, the applicability of many animal models to the study of BAs
325 is limited because the deviation in the distribution of BAs reduces the transferability
326 to human mechanisms. For example, the BA pool in mice mainly comprises the
327 hydrophilic BAs, muricholic, and cholic acids and thus differs markedly from the
328 more hydrophobic BA pool in humans. Follow-up studies need to screen out more

329 natural polyphenols that directly act on the key targets of metabolic pathways and
330 apply them to clinical medicine. Then, molecular docking and computer simulation
331 explored the binding modes of different polyphenols and BA-activated receptors from
332 various sources. Finally, developing an efficient targeted delivery system for
333 functional substances is significant for developing drugs regulating natural
334 metabolism.

335 **4.2 Polyphenols regulate the synthesis and metabolism of BAs by changing** 336 **intestinal microorganisms**

337 BAs are synthesized in the liver, stored in the gallbladder, and then released into the
338 intestines. The modification of primary and secondary BAs is controlled by intestinal
339 microorganisms, which contribute uniquely to the diversity of BAs. These
340 microorganisms produce bile salt hydrolase (BSH) and BAs inducible enzymes (BAI)
341 that can modify BAs, resulting in the production of unconjugated BAs and secondary
342 BAs, thereby promoting BA metabolism.¹² Cai et al. reviewed microorganisms with
343 enzymes/genes that mediate biotransformation reactions.¹² BSH (E.C.3.5.1.24) is a
344 microbial enzyme abundant in the intestinal microbiota, belonging to the protein
345 NTN-hydrolase superfamily. Although all proteins in this large family hydrolyze
346 amide bonds, they have different substrate specificities. The activity of BSH has been
347 reported in various bacteria, including *Lactobacillus*, *Bifidobacterium*, *Enterococcus*,
348 and *Clostridium*. Research has indicated that bacteria possessing BSH activity may
349 also influence metabolic pathways, such as glucose and lipid metabolism, intestinal
350 integrity, inflammation, and circadian rhythm.⁶⁰ Disruptions in the composition of gut
351 microbiota can hinder BSH activity, leading to the accumulation of conjugated BAs in
352 the colon.^{1,12} Furthermore, certain secondary BAs, which are transformed by intestinal
353 flora, may not be effectively reabsorbed and are excreted in feces.^{3,4} This can

354 potentially stimulate increased BA biosynthesis in the liver, thereby resulting in
355 enhanced cholesterol utilization and excretion. Consequently, any dietary component
356 that influences the proliferation of bacteria that affect BSH activity in the intestinal
357 tract can have an impact on BA's homeostasis and ultimately influence the
358 cardiovascular health of the host. Additionally, unconjugated primary BAs that are not
359 absorbed by intestinal cells enter the colon, where they are metabolized into
360 secondary BAs by a small number of intestinal bacteria possessing enzymes encoded
361 by BAI through the process of 7α -dehydroxylation. Due to the accessibility of
362 hydroxyl groups, 7α -dehydroxylation can occur in primary BAs such as CDCA and
363 CA, resulting in the production of DCA and LCA. The bacteria with 7α -
364 dehydroxylation activity are known to belong to the *Clostridium* and *Eubacum*. These
365 bacteria possess BA-induced genes (BAI). The intestinal microbiota has the ability to
366 regulate BA metabolism by reducing taurocholic acid (T β MCA), which acts as a
367 natural antagonist of the FXR receptor. Simultaneously, the antagonism of FXR can
368 increase the expression of CYP7A1. Since the intestinal flora plays a central role in
369 BA metabolism, any ruption in its balance can disturb BA homeostasis and impact the
370 host's physiological processes. Several clinical studies conducted on patients and
371 animal models with NAFLD or cholestasis have suggested that the protective effect
372 on the liver may be attributed to changes in BA profile and the expression of BA-
373 regulating genes.²⁸

374 Recent studies have revealed that the intake of dietary polyphenols can lead to
375 alterations in intestinal microorganisms, consequently impacting the synthesis of
376 BAs.⁶⁰ Polyphenols, which are present in various foods like vegetables, fruits, and
377 grains, have been recognized for their beneficial effects on human health. Fig. 4
378 illustrates the potential mechanism through which polyphenols regulate BA

379 metabolism by influencing intestinal microbes. Our findings suggest that polyphenols
380 derived from different sources indirectly modulate the activation/inhibition of liver
381 and intestinal FXR and TGR5 via intestinal microorganisms, as shown in Table 2.

382 **4.2.1 Polyphenols regulate BA metabolism by affecting BSH enzyme-producing** 383 **bacteria**

384 *Lactobacillaceae* is a bacterium producing secondary BAs (LCA, DCA) in the
385 colon.⁸⁵ Studies have found that an increase in *Lactobacillaceae* accompanies hepatic
386 steatosis. Our study found that only xyloglucan compounded inulin could activate
387 FXR and TGR5 in the liver and reduce the blood glucose level of ICR/KM mice
388 induced by a high-fat diet.⁸⁵ *Lactobacillus* belongs to *Lactobacillaceae*. It is a kind of
389 functional microorganism composed of Gram-positive and catalase-negative bacteria.
390 Lactic acid produced by *Lactobacillus* is the main metabolic final product of
391 carbohydrate fermentation. The most common types of *Lactobacillus* isolated from
392 the gastrointestinal tract are *Levilactobacillus brevis*, *Lacticaseibacillus casei*,
393 *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactiplantibacillus plantarum subsp. plantarum*, and
394 *Ligilactobacillus salivarius*.⁸⁶ The genus *Lactobacillus* has been reported to be a
395 microorganism expressing BSH in the gut.⁸⁷ BSH enzymes catalyze the deconjugation
396 of bile salts by hydrolyzing the amide bond, thereby releasing the glycine/taurine
397 moiety from the steroid core. Existing studies have found that *Lactobacillus*
398 *acidophilus* can deconjugate taurocholic acid. Amino acids released by deconjugate
399 can be further used as carbon and nitrogen sources for bacterial maintenance and
400 survival. In addition, the bile salt hydrolase activity in the ileum content of mice was
401 reduced by 86% without *Lactobacillus* and more than 98% without *Lactobacillus* and
402 *Enterococci*.⁸⁷ Due to the deterrent properties of BAs, certain BAs have antibacterial
403 and inflammatory properties at high levels, including disruption of bacterial and host

404 cell membranes, protein denaturation, and iron and calcium chelation, which can
405 cause oxidative damage to DNA.⁸⁸ Therefore, the tolerance of microorganisms to bile
406 and BAs is important for their survival and persistence in the gastrointestinal tract.
407 However, studies have found that *Lactobacillus* has an inherent resistance mechanism
408 to deal with BAs.⁸⁸ Dihydromyricetin can increase the proportion of beneficial
409 *Lactobacillus*, thereby increasing the unconjugated BAs in the gastrointestinal tract,
410 including CDCA and LCA, enabling BAs to activate specific receptors, such as FXR
411 and TGR5, and maintain intestinal integrity. This significantly improved colitis
412 symptoms, intestinal barrier destruction, and colitis in DSS-treated mice.⁶⁷ Blueberry
413 extract has been found to significantly increase BAT's energy consumption and
414 improve liver fat metabolism in mice fed with a high-fat diet.⁸⁹ This is closely related
415 to the expansion of *Lactobacillus* and the decrease of FXR inhibitors (T α MCA and
416 T β MCA). The antibiotic treatment completely weakens this therapeutic effect. Studies
417 have shown that intake of hesperetin-7-O-glucoside can accelerate the biosynthesis
418 and excretion of BAs, thereby promoting digestion and reducing liver cholesterol and
419 triglycerides.⁸⁸ Hesperetin-7-O-glucoside significantly increased the diversity of
420 intestinal microbiota in mice, especially *Lactobacillus*, which is related to the
421 secondary metabolism of BAs. Dietary supplements of polyphenol extract (quinoa
422 and resveratrol) can effectively improve the level of *Lactobacillus* and promote the
423 activity of the BSH enzyme. They indirectly activate FXR and TGR5, increase the
424 transcriptional level of CYP7A1, and reduce the weight of mice. L-Theanine is a
425 bioactive component in tea, which has great potential to regulate lipid metabolism. It
426 was found that L-Theanine supplementation of 100mg/kg to Balb/c mice for 28 days
427 decreased the activities of *Lactobacillus*, *Streptococcus*, *Bacteroides*, *Clostridium*,
428 and *Enterobacter* associated with bile salt hydrolase, decreased the activity of bile salt

429 hydrolase, and increased the level of ileal binding BAs (such as glycocholic acid and
430 LCA), thus inhibiting intestinal FGF15 signal pathway.⁴⁶ Inhibition of FXR-FGF15
431 signal transduction was accompanied by up-regulation of CYP7A1 gene and protein
432 expression and increased liver production of CA, DCA, glycine cholic acid, and
433 glycine ursodeoxycholic acid. Nuciferine has been found to alleviate alcoholic fatty
434 liver in Sprague-Dawley rats fed with a high-fat diet, reduce the level of *Lactobacillus*,
435 reduce BSH production, reduce 7 α -dehydroxylation genus, and increase taurine
436 metabolism-related genus.⁷⁶ In addition, *penthorum chinense* Pursh. extract (PCPE)
437 was also found to improve the NAFLD of C57BL/6J mice by reducing the relative
438 abundance of BSH-producing bacteria, especially *Lactobacillus*.⁷⁷ Theabrownin is
439 one of the most active and abundant pigments in Pu-er tea. It has been found that
440 supplementation of 450mg/kg/d theabrownin from Pu-erh tea to mice on a high-fat
441 diet for 26 weeks can reduce the level of *Lactobacillus* in the intestine, increase the
442 level of ileal conjugated BAs and then inhibit the intestinal FXR-FGF15 signal
443 pathway, increasing liver production, BAs excretion, liver cholesterol, and fat
444 production. The inhibition of intestinal FXR-FGF15 signal is accompanied by the
445 increase of enzyme gene expression in the secondary BAs synthesis pathway, the
446 production of chenodeoxycholic acid in the liver, and the activation of FXR in the
447 liver. Reduced levels of *Lactobacillus* were also observed in the guts of mice
448 supplemented with apple polyphenol extract, which reduces the activity of BSH.⁴⁵
449 Another interesting study found that supplementing mice fed a high-fat diet with 500
450 mg/kg/d of apple polyphenol extract for five weeks, restricting the mice's circadian
451 rhythm, was able to reduce the F/B ratio in the gut and reduce ZT0. The levels of
452 fecal total BA (TBA), secondary BAs, and unconjugated BAs significantly increased
453 the expression of liver FXR at ZT0 and BSEP at ZT12. They inhibited the expression

454 of ileal FXR at ZT12. This work demonstrates that apple polyphenol extracts can
455 regulate BA metabolism and prevent circadian rhythm disturbances in a clock-
456 dependent manner.⁶¹

457 The action mechanism of *Bifidobacterium* and *Lactobacillus* is similar, which can
458 change glucose metabolism or prevent protein misfolding.⁸⁸ It can counteract the
459 harmful effects of bile salt in the intestine. *Bifidobacterium* can secrete BSH and
460 modify primary BAs. In humans (n=20), drinking polyphenol-rich red wine (272 ml/d)
461 was found to promote the growth of *Bifidobacterium*.⁹⁰ It has been found that
462 resveratrol (RSV) can attenuate trimethylamine-N-oxide (TMAO)-induced
463 atherosclerosis in ApoE^{-/-} mice. RSV increased the activity of bile saline hydrolase by
464 increasing the levels of *Lactobacillus* and *Bifidobacterium*, thus promoting the
465 unwinding and excretion of BA in C57BL/6J and ApoE^{-/-} mice.⁹¹ This decreased the
466 content of BAs in the ileum, inhibited FXR-FGF15, increased the expression of
467 CYP7A1, and promoted the synthesis of BAs in the liver. The effect of FXR
468 antagonists on the expression of FGF15 and CYP7A1 was the same as that of RSV,
469 while FXR agonists could block the change of FGF15 and CYP7A1 expression
470 induced by RSV.⁹¹ In mice treated with antibiotics, RSV neither decreased TMAO
471 levels nor increased liver BA synthesis. Antibiotics could significantly eliminate the
472 inhibitory effect of RSV on AS induced by TMAO. The other four kinds of
473 polyphenol extracts (blueberry extract, EGCG, grape extract, and quinoa) can increase
474 the level of *Bifidobacterium*, regulate the activation/inhibition of FXR and TGR5, and
475 reduce the body mass index of C57BL/6 mice.

476 *Bacteroides* are among the most common and abundant bacterial genera in the human
477 distal gut. *Bacteroides* species are generally "friendly" commensal organisms in the
478 gut, are major vitamin K synthesizers, and play an essential role in the

479 immunoregulation of the human immune system. The study found that *Bacteroides*
480 dominated the gut microbiota of Italian children, while *Prevotella* dominated that of
481 African children, and that different diets may be a driving factor in the formation of
482 gut microbiota.⁹² *Bacteroides* can degrade a variety of complex carbohydrates and
483 interact with host immune cells.⁹² Danielle E. reports that *Bacteroides BV01*, a
484 prominent human gut symbiont *Bacteroides vulgaris*, alters the transcriptome of its
485 host.⁹³ This alteration occurs through phage-induced repression of a tryptophan-rich
486 sensory protein (TspO) and inhibition of BA decoagulation. Microbially modified
487 BAs are important signals for mammalian hosts, a mechanism by which *Bacteroides*
488 affect mammalian phenotypes. Apple polyphenol extract can decrease the level of
489 hyodeoxycholic acid and increase β -muricholic acid by increasing *Bacteroides*,
490 prevent colon shortening and mucosal damage, and significantly improve DSS-
491 induced ulcerative colitis in C57BL/6.⁹⁴ Our investigation found that multiple
492 polyphenol extracts (Chokeberry, dihydromyricetin, EGCG, lignin-Rich insoluble
493 residue of Brewer's spent grain, xyloglucan compounded inulin) can increase the
494 level of *Bacteroides* in the intestine, act as indirect activators of FXR and TGR5,
495 alleviate DSS-induced colonic inflammation, and reduce obesity levels in mice fed a
496 high-fat diet. In another study, mice were fed a diet supplemented with L-Theanine for
497 100/300mg/kg for 28 days and found that BSH activity decreased. It increases the
498 level of ileal binding BAs, such as glycine cholic acid (GCA) and taurine cholic acid
499 (TCA), thus inhibiting the intestinal FXR-FGF15 signal pathway.⁴⁶ In humans, TCA
500 in jejunum has been reported to lower blood sugar and activate the release of satiety
501 hormones such as GLP-1 and PYY.⁹⁵ In addition, after ingestion of 300 g raspberry,
502 the ileum metabolites detected by LC-MC showed that triterpenoids increased, and
503 TCA and GCA increased by 100 times that before ingestion.⁹⁶ The upregulation of

504 CYP7A1 mRNA and protein expression and the increased secretion of CA, DCA,
505 GCA, glycine cholic acid, and glycine ursodeoxycholic acid in the liver accompanies
506 the inhibition of the FXR-FGF15 signal pathway. At the same time, increasing hepatic
507 uncoupled BAs upregulated the expression of (HMG)-CoA reductase mRNA and
508 protein and down-regulated the expression of stearyl-CoA desaturase-1, hepatic low-
509 density lipoprotein receptor and type B scavenger receptor mRNA and protein. This
510 indicates that L-Theanine can be used as an indirect inhibitor of FXR to reduce the
511 levels of serum cholesterol and triglycerides. In short, polyphenols significantly
512 regulate *Bacteroides*, indirectly regulating the activation/inhibition of FXR and TGR5.
513 Future studies will reveal the physiological and metabolic details of little-known
514 *Bacteroides* strains and their interactions.

515 *Enterococcus* can produce BSH enzyme with high activity and has unique allosteric
516 catalysis for BA.⁹⁷ Curcumin can increase the concentration of primary and secondary
517 BAs metabolites (CDCA and LCA) by increasing *Enterococcus*, reverse the synthesis
518 of FXR and TGR5 induced by lipopolysaccharide, increase interleukin 22 (IL-22)
519 produced by ILC3, and improve the imbalance of intestinal environment
520 Dihydromyricetin⁶⁷ and resveratrol⁹¹ supplementation can increase *Enterococcus* in
521 mice and regulate BA synthesis and metabolism as an indirect agonist/inhibitor of
522 FXR and TGR5.

523 In summary, the intake of dietary polyphenols (Dihydromyricetin, esperetin-7-O-
524 glucoside, RSV, Curcumin, etc.) can significantly increase the gut microbes that
525 produce BSH enzyme (*Lactobacillus*, *Bifidobacterium*, *Bacteroides*, *Enterococcus*,
526 etc.), which may affect the accumulation of conjugated BAs in the colon and lead to
527 the increase of secondary BA affection, thereby affecting the BA profile and
528 regulating the activation and inhibition of FXR and TGR5 in the intestine and liver,

529 thus affecting metabolic diseases.

530 **4.2.2 Polyphenols regulate BA metabolism by affecting bacteria with BAI genes**

531 *Clostridium* is a kind of anaerobic, Gram-positive, spore-forming bacteria that is the
532 main cause of gastroenteritis in hospitals. It has been found that *Clostridium* is a BA
533 7α -dehydroxy intestinal bacteria that can bioconvert primary BAs into secondary BAs.
534 The study found that adding 1% grape extract to a high-fat diet could induce BAT
535 thermogenesis in obese mice.⁷² The intake of grape extract increased the abundance of
536 *Clostridium*, which was negatively correlated with the concentration of T α MCA and
537 T β MCA, and positively correlated with DCA. The change of BA promotes the
538 expression of TGR5 in BAT, thus promoting heat production. The survey found that
539 hesperetin-7-O-glucoside⁸⁵ and lignin-rich insoluble residue of Brewer's spent grain⁷⁴
540 can improve the level of *Clostridium* and play an exciting role in FXR or TGR5. It
541 can promote the transcription of CYP7A1 and reduce the body weight of mice fed a
542 high-fat diet. *Clostridium* increases the level of secondary BAs through 7α -
543 dehydroxylation, which further promotes its resistance. On the other hand, a 1%
544 proanthocyanidin-rich extract of grape polyphenols was supplemented in the diet of
545 diabetic rats for four weeks. It was found that the relative abundance of intestinal
546 bacteria related to secondary BAs decreased, especially *Clostridia*, and the levels of
547 serum secondary BAs THDCA, ω -muricholic acid (ω MCA), and tauro- ω -muricholic
548 acid (T ω MCA) decreased. The serum primary BAs (PBA) level increased, consistent
549 with PBA synthase CYP7A1 gene expression.⁹⁸ The expression of FXR-responsive
550 genes SHP, FGF15, and *Fabp6* decreased in the ileum and liver, negatively regulating
551 the synthesis of PBA and promoting glucose regulation. In addition, a variety of
552 polyphenol extracts (γ -L-theanine⁴⁶, nuciferine⁷⁶, *Penthorum chinense* Pursh. extract⁷⁷)
553 decreased the level of *Clostridium* in the intestines of C57BL/6 mice and Sprague-

554 Dawley rats induced by a high-fat diet. It promoted the transcription of CYP7A1 or
555 CYP27A1 as an inhibitor of intestinal FXR, thus reducing obesity.

556 *Blautia* is a genus of anaerobic bacteria with probiotic properties widely found in the
557 feces and gut of mammals. Recently, much research has focused on the probiotic
558 effects of this genus, such as biotransformation and its ability to regulate host health
559 and alleviate metabolic syndrome. It has been found that certain *Blautia* can perform
560 7 α -dehydroxylation of primary BAs and convert them into secondary BAs, such as
561 lithocholic acid and deoxycholic acid.⁷⁶ It shows that this genus may have a
562 significant impact on BA metabolism. Polyphenols can regulate the ratio and
563 spectrum of primary and secondary BAs by controlling the number of *Blautia*,
564 thereby playing the role of BA receptor activators. Oat (*Avena sativa* L.), as a well-
565 known functional food, has been widely reported to have cholesterol-lowering effects
566 because it is rich in β -glucan, phytic acid, phenolic substances, and *Avena sativa* L.,
567 as well as some unique components soluble biologically active compounds. It was
568 found that flavonoids from whole-grain oats (FO) supplemented with 50mg/kg could
569 significantly improve the serum lipid distribution and reduce body weight and lipid
570 deposition in C57BL/6N mice fed a high-fat diet.⁷¹ 16s rRNA sequencing showed that
571 FO significantly increased *Akkermansia* and decreased *Lachnoclostridium*, *Blautia*,
572 *Colidextribacter*, and *Desulfovibrio*. This leads to a decrease in the production of
573 secondary BAs, which up-regulates the expression of PPAR α , CPT-1, CYP7A1, FXR,
574 TGR5, NTCP, and BSTP, and down-regulates the expression of SREBP-1c, FAS, and
575 ASBT. FO inhibits adipogenesis, promotes fat decomposition and BA synthesis, and
576 is excreted through the FXR pathway into feces. A decrease in *Blautia* was also found
577 in HFD-fed mice fed with 2g/d quinoa.⁷⁹ However, the difference is that quinoa
578 upregulates the expression of TGR5 in the colon and brain and GLP-1 in the colon,

579 liver, and brain. At the same time, down-regulate the expression of TLR4 in the colon
580 and liver and the markers of ER stress and oxidative stress in the liver and serum. In
581 addition, tight junctions in the colon and brain are also increased by quinoa. This is
582 due to the stimulating effect of TGR5. In another study, adding a 1%
583 proanthocyanidin-rich extract of grape polyphenols to a high-fat diet caused an
584 increase in the proportion of *Blautia*.⁹⁸ This may be related to the decrease in the
585 relative abundance of other intestinal bacteria associated with secondary BAs, such as
586 *Clostridium* and *Lachnospiraceae*. Thus, as an inhibitor of intestinal FXR, it changes
587 the BAs-FXR signal pathway and promotes glucose regulation. In addition,
588 dihydromyricetin supplementation to IBD mice can increase intestinal *Blautia* and
589 restore the metabolism of intestinal microorganisms and BAs in the gastrointestinal
590 tract.⁶⁷ This is related to increased levels of unconjugated BAs in the gastrointestinal
591 tract containing CDCA and LCA, enabling BAs to activate specific receptors, such as
592 FXR and TGR5, and maintain intestinal integrity, alleviating colitis induced by DSS
593 in mice.

594 In brief, the intake of grape extract, hespertin-7-o-Glucoside, lignin-rich insoluble,
595 proanthocyanidin-rich extract, L -theanine, nuciferine, *Penthorum chinense* Pursh.
596 extract, FO, and dihydromyricetin affect the synthesis of secondary BAs (DCA and
597 LCA) by changing the amount of *Clostridium* and *Blautia*, which have BAI genes,
598 then regulate the activation of FXR and TGR5, and affect the expression of genes
599 related to BA metabolism.

600 **4.2.3 Polyphenols regulate BA metabolism by influencing other gut microbes**

601 *Firmicutes* and *Bacteroidetes* are the two most important bacterial phyla in the
602 gastrointestinal tract, which have received extensive attention recently. *Firmicutes*
603 include gram-positive bacteria with rigid or semi-rigid cell walls, mainly from the

604 genera *Bacillus*, *Clostridium*, *Enterococcus*, *Lactobacillus*, and *Retrogastrococcus*.
605 *Bacteroidetes* include approximately 7,000 different species of Gram-negative
606 bacteria, mainly from the genera *Bacteroides*, *Aliistipes*, *Parabacterium*, and
607 *Prevotella*. It can be seen that *Firmicutes* and *Bacteroidetes* contain many BSH
608 enzyme-producing bacteria and 7 α -dehydroxyl active bacteria, so the ratio of F/B can
609 have a significant impact on BA synthesis and metabolism. In addition, the
610 *Firmicutes/Bacteroidetes* ratio is widely recognized to be important in maintaining
611 normal intestinal homeostasis. Dysbiosis is considered to be an elevated or decreased
612 F/B ratio, the former typically presenting with obesity and the latter presenting with
613 inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Although some studies have pointed out that F/B
614 cannot be used as a marker of obesity.⁶² In another study, researchers put obese
615 subjects on a fat-restricted, low-calorie diet for one year. They found that it decreased
616 the F/B ratio, suggesting that the reduction in bile excretion reversed the F/B ratio to
617 the normal range. In addition, the study found that in the non-alcoholic fatty liver rats
618 model, the decrease in CA level correlated with the *Firmicutes* level. This causes gut
619 dysbiosis and lipid accumulation in the liver, resulting in altered BA levels in rat
620 serum, liver, and cecum.⁹⁹ Decreased F/B ratios in the gut and serum, liver, and most
621 secondary BAs were also found in mice taking antibiotics (vancomycin+imipenem
622 and cephalosporin+neomycin).¹⁰⁰ Combining the two antibiotics significantly
623 increased the mRNA of hepatic BAs uptake transporters (*Ntcp* and *Oatp1b2*) and
624 tubular BAs efflux transporters (BSEP and *Mrp2*), decreased the mRNA of hepatic
625 BAs synthase CYP8B1, and increased enterohepatic circulation of BAs. This suggests
626 a link between gut bacteria and host BAs metabolism. Hesperetin-7-O-glucoside is a
627 typical flavonoid monoglycoside produced by hydrolysis by hesperidin removing
628 rhamnose. Intake of hesperetin-7-O-glucoside can accelerate the biosynthesis and

629 excretion of BAs in C57BL/6J mice, thus promoting digestion and reducing liver
630 cholesterol and triglycerides.⁸⁸ 16S rRNA gene sequencing showed that hesperetin-7-
631 O-glucoside significantly increased the diversity of intestinal microbiota and
632 decreased the ratio of F/B, especially the bacteria related to the secondary metabolism
633 of BAs. Continuous administration of *Penthorum chinense* Pursh. extract with
634 2/4/8g/kg body weight for eight weeks can effectively improve NAFLD caused by
635 HFD in mice and reduce dyslipidemia and insulin resistance.⁷⁷ *Penthorum chinense*
636 Pursh. extract treatment reduced intestinal biological imbalance, especially decreased
637 the relative abundance of BSH-producing bacteria, significantly increased the level of
638 taurine-conjugated BAs in feces, such as taurine- β -rhamnnic acid (T β MCA), taurine
639 ursodeoxycholic acid (TUDCA) and taurine chenodeoxycholic acid (TCDCA), and
640 increased the content of CDCA in the liver. TUDCA supplementation has been shown
641 to increase insulin sensitivity in the liver and muscles in humans.¹⁰¹ The protein and
642 mRNA expression of FXR and FGF15 decreased. At the same time, the increase of
643 taurine-conjugated BAs inhibited the intestinal signaling pathway, which was related
644 to the increased expression of enzyme genes in the alternative BAs synthesis pathway,
645 thus reducing cholesterol levels. The increase of CDCA produced by the secondary
646 BAs synthesis pathway promotes the activation of FXR and the excretion of BAs in
647 the liver. Resveratrol decreased the percentage of F/B in the intestine and the level of
648 BA, including CDCA in the feces of mice fed with a high-fat diet, while CDCA
649 stimulated FXR, NF- κ B, and SR-B1 in Caco-2 cells. Studies have shown that the
650 intestinal microbiome is the main target of resveratrol. It improves lipid balance, at
651 least in part, by inhibiting the increase of intestinal SR-B1 stimulated by CDCA.⁶⁶ In
652 our investigation, it was found that cranberry extract⁶⁶ and quinoa⁷⁹ can reduce the
653 F/B ratio in the intestine. They act as agonists of FXR/TGR5 and limit body weight

654 gain in high-fat diet-induced C57BL/6 mice. Blackberry (*Aronia melanocarpa* L.) is
655 rich in polyphenols, and chokeberry is extracted from the blackberry. Chokeberry
656 treatment was found to prevent high-fat-induced obesity, hepatic steatosis, and
657 dyslipidemia in rats fed a high-fat diet at a dose of 1000 mg/kg for 40 days.⁶⁴
658 Chokeberry regulates the composition of intestinal flora and reduces the F/B ratio
659 with the prolongation of treatment time. The total BA pool was gradually reduced,
660 especially when the relative content of CA and DCA was decreased and the relative
661 content of CDCA was increased. This conclusion was confirmed by the experimental
662 results of fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT). However, supplementation of 1%
663 grape extract in a high-fat diet can increase the F/B ratio, regulate changes in BAs,
664 and promote TGR5 in BAT. Promotes thermogenesis and reduces body weight in
665 mice.⁷² Another study found that curcumin at 300 mg/kg for 21 days could inhibit the
666 LPS-induced decrease in the F/B ratio in the chicken intestine, remodel the cecal
667 microbial community, and activate FXR to maintain BA's metabolism.⁶⁵ Curcumin
668 helps regulate intestinal mucosal immunity by promoting anti-inflammatory
669 (interleukin-10, IL-10) cytokines and increasing concentrations of BA primary and
670 secondary metabolites. This suggests that curcumin can target the gut microbiome to
671 regulate BAs metabolism and ILC3s, improving the function of LPS-induced
672 intestinal homeostasis in chickens. In addition, changes in *Firmicutes* or *Bacteroidetes*
673 were also found in apple polyphenol extract,^{61,94} EGCG,⁶⁸ grape seed
674 proanthocyanidin,⁷³ and xyloglucan compounded inulin⁸⁵-fed mice. This change
675 affects BA synthesis and metabolism, thereby restoring homeostasis. This change can
676 affect BA synthesis and metabolism and restore body homeostasis. Overall,
677 polyphenols can significantly affect F/B, thereby modulating the ratio of BAs, but the
678 interrelationship between changes in F/B and BA synthesis and metabolism needs to

679 be further explored.

680 *Akkermansia muciniphila* is an intestinal bacterium isolated from human fecal
681 samples ten years ago. Its expertise in mucin degradation makes it a key organism at
682 the mucosal interface between the lumen and host cells. It is considered the next
683 generation of beneficial microorganisms that show many metabolic benefits. It is
684 reported that there is a strong correlation between the abundance of *Akkermansia* and
685 the level of BA uncoupling.¹⁰² Although there is no direct evidence that *Akkermansia*
686 produces BSH, studies have found that its abundance is related to the plasma BA
687 pool.⁸⁹ Significantly, decreased *Akkermansia* levels were observed in obese people
688 with inflammatory bowel disease and metabolic disorders. EGCG supplemented with
689 100mg/kg significantly increased the number of *Akkermansia* in mice fed a high-fat
690 diet, decreased the intestinal FXR agonist CDCA, and increased the concentration and
691 regulatory signals of FXR and TGR5 agonists in the liver.⁶⁹ This effectively reduces
692 increased dietary obesity, visceral fat, and insulin resistance. In another study, EGCG
693 significantly reversed the decreased population of serum primary cholic acid and β -
694 muricholic acid as well as the increased population of taurine-conjugated cholic acid,
695 β -muricholic acid, and deoxy-cholic acid in high-fat diet-fed mice.¹⁰³ The study found
696 that adding 1% matcha green tea to a high-fat diet could improve obesity, fat
697 accumulation, and liver steatosis in rats.⁷⁵ The results showed that matcha green tea
698 could reverse the decline of *Akkermansia* caused by a high-fat diet, restore the
699 composition of intestinal microorganisms, and thus restore the BA spectrum of feces.

700 In addition, it was found that apple polyphenols extract,^{45,61,94} blueberry extract,⁸⁹
701 cranberry extract,⁶⁶ quinoa,⁷⁹ flavonoids from whole-grain oat,⁷¹ and xyloglucan
702 compounded inulin⁸⁵ could increase the level of *Akkermansia* and act as an indirect
703 agonist of FXR or TGR5. It reduces the expression level of CYP7A1, regulates BA

704 synthesis and metabolism, and reduces the body weight level of C57BL/6 mice. This
705 association was further confirmed by adding chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa* L.)⁶⁴ to
706 the Wistar rats fed on a high-fat diet. At present, only one study found that
707 proanthocyanidin-rich extract of grape polyphenols⁷⁸ can increase the level of
708 *Akkermansia* as an indirect inhibitor of intestinal FXR. It increases the expression
709 level of liver CYP7A1. *Akkermansia* can be used as a medium for polyphenols to
710 regulate BA metabolism, although the relationship mechanism is unclear. The
711 possible mechanism is that *Akkermansia* affects the growth of BSH-producing
712 microorganisms in the intestinal tract, which regulates BA metabolism.

713 *Prevotella* has been found to improve glucose homeostasis by enhancing BA
714 synthesis and metabolism and FXR signal transduction, which is a promising
715 intervention for new T2DM. 1000 mg/kg/d chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa* L.) can
716 prevent obesity and liver steatosis and improve dyslipidemia in rats fed with a high-
717 fat diet.⁶⁴ Chokeberry supplementation decreased the relative content of CA and DCA
718 and increased the relative content of CDCA. These changes were positively correlated
719 with *Bacteroides* and *Prevotella* and negatively correlated with *Clostridium*,
720 *Eubacteria*, and *Ruminococcaceae*. In our study, we also found that quinoa⁷⁹ and total
721 phenolic extracts of *Citrus aurantium* L.⁸³ can increase the level of *Prevotella* in the
722 intestinal tract of C57BL/6 mice and male Wistar rats, thus helping to activate FXR
723 and TGR5.

724 It is reported that *Desulfovibrio* can promote the formation of secondary BAs,
725 produce endotoxins such as LPS, and participate in the pathogenesis of intestinal
726 inflammatory diseases.¹⁰⁴ EGCG,^{68,70} flavonoids from whole-grain oat,⁷¹ and
727 chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa* L.)⁶⁴ decreased the level of *Desulfovibrio* in the
728 intestinal tract of high-fat-fed mice, which was beneficial to the activation of FXR and

729 TGR5.

730 In addition, the supplement of polyphenols from different sources increased the
731 number of beneficial bacteria such as *Faecalibaculum*, *Allobaculum*, *Eubacterium*,
732 *Ruminococcaceae*, and *Turicibacter* in the intestinal tract. It decreased the number of
733 harmful bacteria such as *Lachnoclostridium* and *Streptococcus*. Although there is a
734 lack of studies on the effects of these bacteria on BA synthesis and metabolism, they
735 may become an essential medium for polyphenols to affect BA synthesis and
736 metabolism indirectly.

737 In conclusion, as important bioactive compounds, polyphenols may represent a
738 natural complement and integrative therapy. They have the ability to influence the
739 transformation and modification of primary and secondary BAs by gut microbes,
740 regulate the effects of endogenous activators/inhibitors (BAs) on FXR and TGR5, and
741 control metabolic diseases such as obesity and inflammation. Furthermore, plays a
742 significant role in this process. The presence of polyphenols in the intestinal lumen
743 can lead to changes in one or multiple microorganisms, ultimately affecting the entire
744 intestinal microbial system. Further research is needed to explore the
745 interrelationships between these microorganisms. Future studies should focus on
746 investigating how polyphenols or their catabolism modulate host pathways and
747 determining whether there is a causal link between changes in gut microbiota and host
748 metabolic parameters. Given the complexity of the intestinal environment, the
749 analysis of polyphenol metabolites' structure and function is still in its early stages.
750 Therefore, it is crucial to conduct more omics analysis of intestinal microbial
751 metabolites and identify metabolites that exhibit biological activity.

752 **4.3 Polyphenols can activate/inhibit FXR and TGR5, but the mechanism is not**
753 **elucidated**

754 Many studies have shown that other polyphenols also can regulate the synthesis and
755 metabolism of BAs, thereby regulating the health of the body. Table S1 summarizes
756 these polyphenol extracts. Curcumin is a natural polyphenol beneficial to patients
757 with NAFLD. It has been proved that curcumin of 50/100 mg/kg can be used as an
758 activator of FXR to increase the transcription of CYP7A1 in C57BL/6 mice.¹⁰⁹ From
759 the classical way to promote the transformation of cholesterol to BA, it plays a
760 significant role in alleviating NAFLD induced by a high-fat and high-fructose diet.
761 Feeding *Rhizoma Coptidis* alkaloids at 140 mg/kg for 35 days reduced body weight
762 gain and serum total cholesterol (TC), triglyceride (TG), low-density lipoprotein
763 cholesterol (LDL-C), total BA (TBA), and lipopolysaccharide¹²⁹. Another study found
764 that grape seed proanthocyanidins extract enhanced FXR activity in a dose-dependent
765 manner in the presence of CDCA.¹¹⁸ Intra-gastric administration of grape seed
766 proanthocyanidins could reduce triglyceridemia in wild-type mice but not in FXR
767 deletion mice. This shows that FXR is an important mediator of the TG-lowering
768 effect of procyanidins *in vivo*. In addition, the researchers found that grape seed
769 proanthocyanidins increased histone acetylation, decreased HDAC1 activity *in vivo*,
770 and inhibited recombinant HDAC2 and three activities in a dose-dependent manner *in*
771 *vitro*. At this time, the expression of the PPAR α gene and phosphorylated protein
772 increased, and the target genes involved in fatty acid catabolism also increased. With
773 the increase of serum fibroblast growth factor 21 (*Fgf21*), the level of TG decreased
774 by 28%.¹¹⁷ Resveratrol was fed to *M. amblycephala* juveniles on a high-carbohydrate
775 diet and was found to act as an inhibitor of FXR in the hindgut.¹²⁸ However, it can be
776 used as a TGR5 agonist to up-regulate CYP7A1 and down-regulate *mrp2*, *oatp1*, and
777 *oatp4* in the hindgut to increase BAs synthesis and bile excretion, thereby reducing
778 cholesterol accumulation. Furthermore, in mouse liver, enzymatically modified

779 isoquercitrin promoted the phosphorylation of acetyl-CoA carboxylase and increased
780 the expression of PPAR α , constitutive androstane receptor, and FXR.¹¹⁵

781 Although these studies found that polyphenols from different sources can exert
782 activating/inhibiting effects on BA-activated receptors, the mechanism of action still
783 needs to be investigated. Complementary molecular docking and cellular models may
784 be the current preferred means to understand polyphenols' detailed mechanism of
785 action. In addition, these polyphenols may be more inclined to play a regulatory role
786 by regulating gut microbes on BAs, so exploring the interaction mechanism between
787 polyphenols and gut microbes is essential.

788 In summary, dietary polyphenol-rich extracts have demonstrated effectiveness in
789 humans in regulating BA synthesis and metabolism. These polyphenols achieve
790 cholesterol excretion through multiple pathways. We propose two mechanisms by
791 which dietary polyphenols regulate BA metabolism: (1) Direct interaction with BA-
792 activated receptors (FXR and TGR5). (2) Modulation of BA synthesis and
793 metabolism by influencing the gut microbiome. However, there are several areas in
794 current research that require improvement. Firstly, many of the studies lack
795 identification of the active compounds and their concentrations. Polyphenols, being
796 natural compounds, exhibit variations in distribution and concentration across source
797 materials, thereby impacting their effectiveness. Secondly, the research on
798 polyphenol-mediated regulation of BA metabolism through gut microbes has mainly
799 been correlational, and the underlying mechanisms remain undiscovered. Lastly, the
800 majority of the research has been conducted on animals, and clinical studies provide
801 limited and conflicting data. Future research should prioritize the following aspects:
802 (1) *In vivo* studies must be validated through targeted *in vitro* experiments such as
803 cellular and molecular simulations. (2) Targeting polyphenols and their metabolites to

804 specific microorganisms should be better understood. (3) More microbes that can
805 modify BAs should be found. (4) Addressing the significant limitation of poor
806 bioavailability in using polyphenols. This can be achieved by exploring alternative
807 routes of delivery or administration, which is crucial for translational studies of
808 polyphenols. (5) Evaluating the side effects of certain polyphenols, including
809 carcinogenicity, pruritus-causing effects, toxicity, increased cholesterol and LDL-c
810 levels, and decreased high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-c). Additionally, it is
811 important to assess the effects of dosage and the sources of polyphenols. (6)
812 Conducting clinical trials to develop drugs that regulate BA metabolism.

813 **Author contribution statement**

814 Yongyong Liu: Writing - original draft, Investigation. Kai Huang: Writing - review &
815 editing. Yu Zhang: Writing – editing, Formal analysis, Conceptualization. Hongwei
816 Cao: Software, Validation. Xiao Guan: Funding acquisition, Supervision.

817 **Interest conflict**

818 The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

819 **Acknowledgments**

820 This work was supported by Shanghai Agriculture Applied Technology Development
821 Program, China (2021-02-08-00-12-F00780), the Capacity-Building Project of Local
822 Universities of SSTC (20060502100), the Major Project of Inner Mongolia Science
823 and Technology Department (2021ZD0017), and the National Natural Science
824 Foundation of China (32202054).

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Fig. 1. Synthesis and transformation pathway of BAs in the liver and intestine.

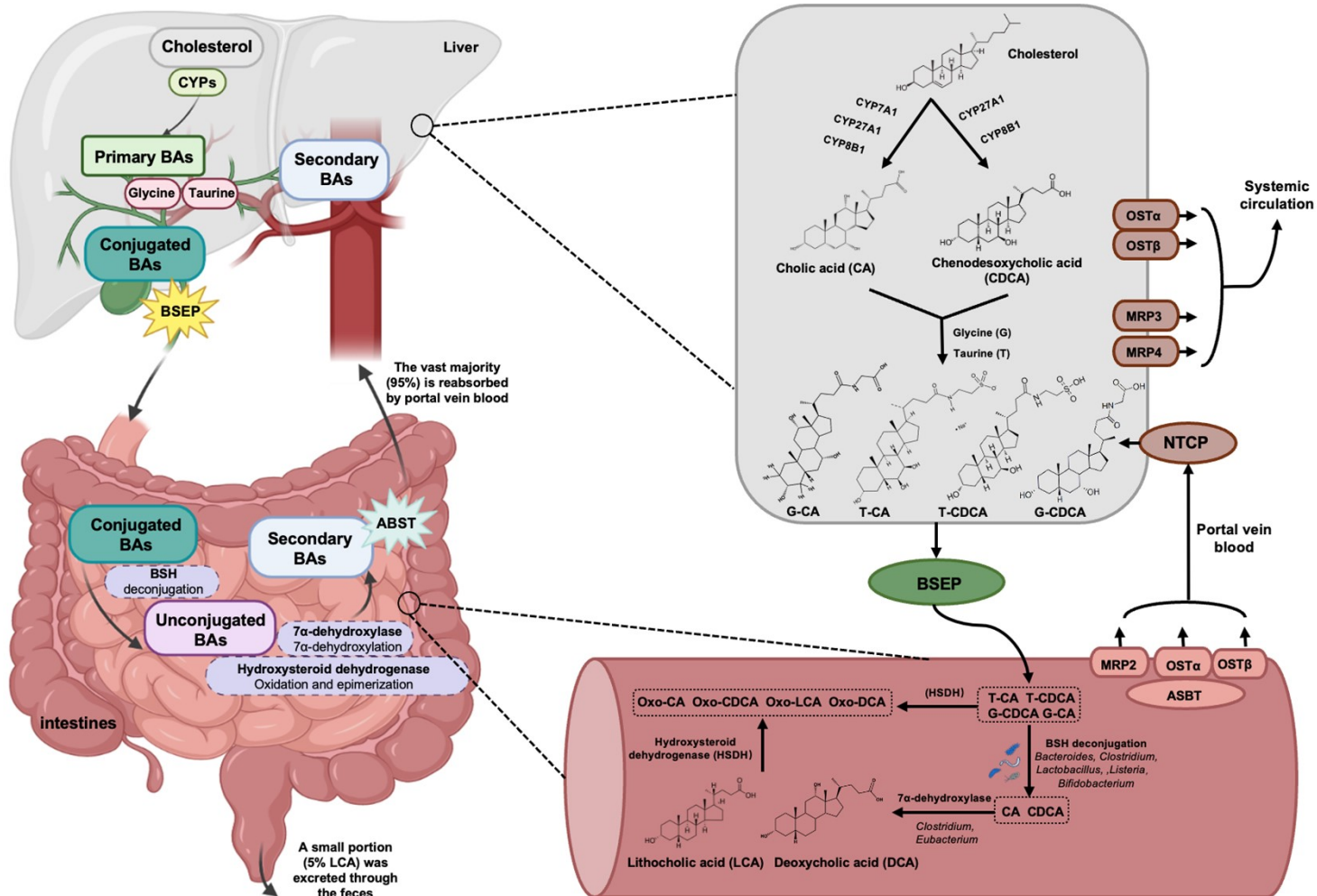


Fig. 2. Bioavailability of dietary polyphenols *in vivo*.

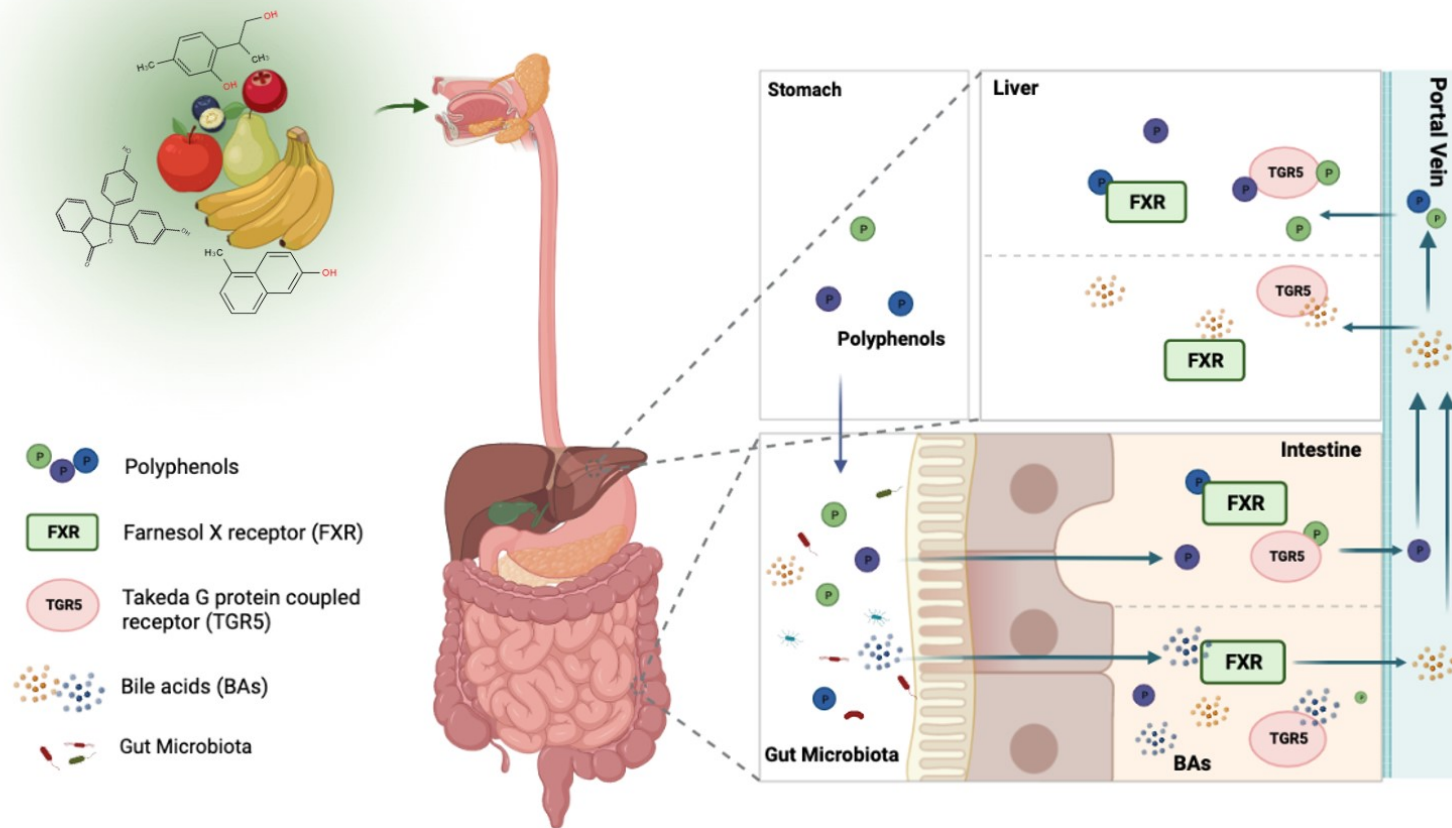
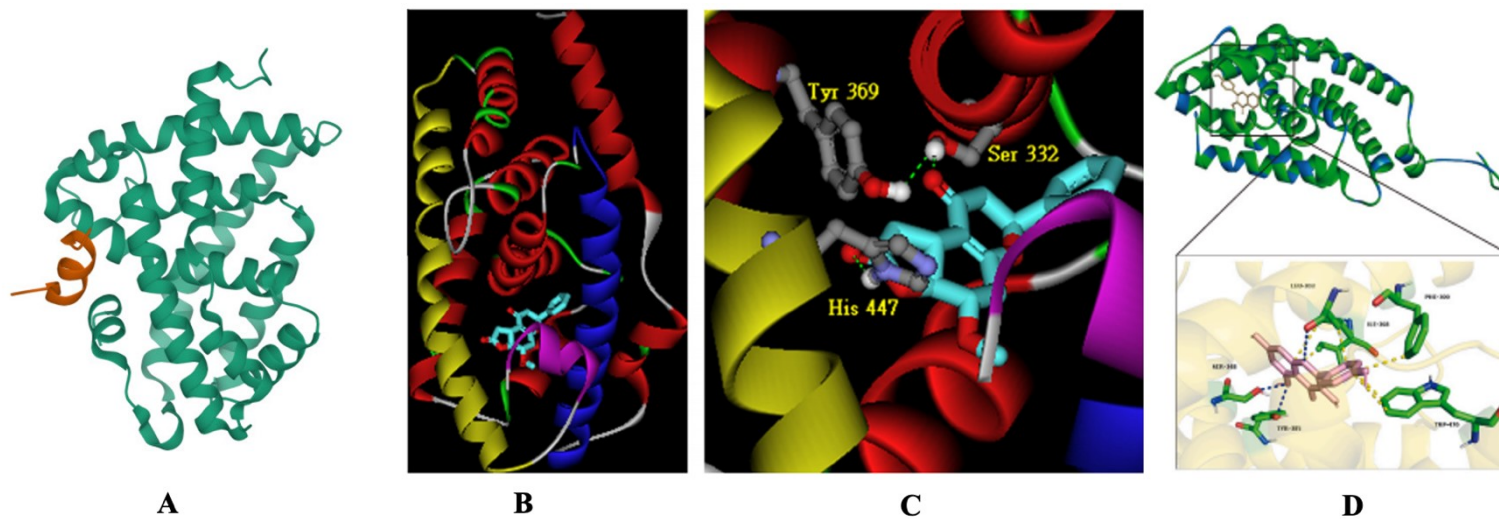


Fig. 3. (A) FXR structure; (B) Binding model of cryptochinone C in FXR ligand binding pocket. (C) Hydrophilic interactive binding mode of cryptochinone C in FXR ligand binding pocket. The oxygen atom is red and the hydrogen atom is white in color. The green line indicates the hydrogen bond interaction.¹⁶ (D) The predicted binding position of kaempferol with mouse FXR.¹⁸



1248 Fig. 4. Dietary polyphenols can regulate the composition of intestinal microorganisms, especially BSH enzyme producing bacteria (*Lactobacillus*,
 1249 *Bifidobacterium*, *Enterococcus*, and *Clostridium*) and 7-dehydroxy active bacteria (*Clostridium* and *Eubacum*). Regulate intestinal FXR-FGF19 by regulating
 1250 the ratio and type of endogenous primary and secondary BAs activators/inhibitors, and finally affect the synthesis of primary BAs in the liver. In addition, the
 1251 activation/inhibition of TGR5 by polyphenols can regulate the expression of GLP-1 and PYY, and then regulate blood glucose.

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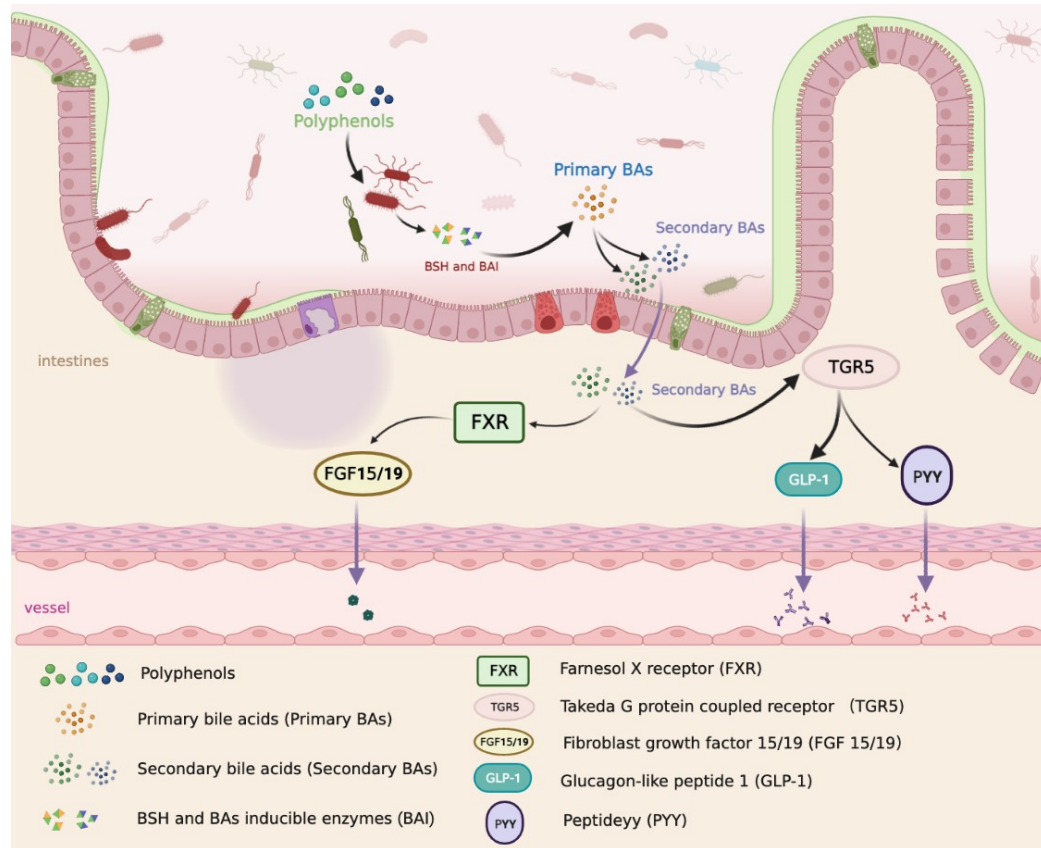


Table 1. Dietary polyphenols directly activate/inhibit FXR and TGR5 in the liver and intestine

Source of polyphenols	Dose	Model	time	With receptor action form	Metabolic or Functional Effects	Refs
Berberine	2.5-50 mM	HepG2 cell	24 hours	FXR agonist	OATP1B1, BSEP, PLTP, CYP7A1 ↑; NTCP ↓	10
Cryptochinones from <i>Cryptocarya chinensis</i>	1 mM	HepG-2 cell; Docking models	/	FXR agonist	SHP, PPARγ ↑; CYP7A1 ↓	11
Date palm extract (including hydroxycinnamic acids, proanthocyanidins, and lipophilic polyphenols)	100 mg/L	Caco-2 cells, Dulbecco's Modified Eagles medium (DMEM) supplemented with 20% FBS, 1% L-glutamine	12 hours	FXR agonist	PPARα, fibroblast growth factor 19(FGF19), <i>Osta</i> ; IBABP, <i>OSTβ</i> ↓	9
Epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG)	100 mg/kg	C57BL/6J FXR-knockout KO male mice	2 days	Intestinal FXR agonist	intestine FXR ↑; FXR target gene expression induced by either GW4064 or chenodeoxycholic acid in vitro ↓	49
Guggulsterone	10 μM	Human Primary Hepatocyte and Hepatoma Cell	30 hours	FXR inhibitor	BSEP ↑	50
		HepG-2 cell	24 hours	FXR inhibitor	BSEP, SHP ↑	51
Kaempferol	50/100 mg/kg	<i>Apc^{Min/+}</i> mice carry an impaired tumor suppress gene, molecular docking	6 weeks	FXR agonist	Ki67, LGR5 ↓; CYP27A1, CYP8B1, BSEP ↑	52
Polyphenols rich <i>Passiflora leschenaultii</i> leaves	200/400 mg/kg	Swiss albino male mice and Wistar albino rat paracetamol-induced, molecular docking	14 days	FXR agonist	SGPT, SGOT, ALP ↓	53
Pu-erh tea extract	10/30/ 50 μg/mL	Cell model PPARδ, PPARγ, FXR and LXR	/	FXR agonist	FXR ↑	54

Prosopis cineraria L(Druce) Fruit
Extract

400/600 mg/kg

Triton-induced Sprague Dawley rats,
molecular docking

24 hours

FXR agonist

serum cholesterol, triglyceride,
VLDL, LDL, atherogenic index ↓

55

Table 2. Dietary polyphenols indirectly activate/inhibit liver and intestinal FXR and TGR5 through gut microbes

Polyphenol	Dose	Animal Model	time	microbiome profiles	With receptor action form	Metabolic or Functional Effects	Refs
Apple Polyphenol Extract	125/500 mg/(kg·bw·day)	Male C57BL/6J mice fed a high-fat diet	12 weeks	<i>Akkermansia</i> ↑; <i>Lactobacillus</i> ↓	Liver FXR agonist	CYP7A1, CYP27A1, LRH-1 ↓; MAFG, <i>Lxr</i> , <i>Abca1</i> , <i>Abcg1</i> , <i>Abcg5</i> , <i>Abcg8</i> , <i>Sar1b</i> ↑	45
	500 mg/(kg·bw·day)	Regulating the circadian rhythms in daytime-restricted high-fat diet feeding C57BL/6 male mice	5 weeks	<i>Firmicutes/Bacteroidetes</i> , <i>Lactobacillus</i> ↓; <i>Akkermansia</i> ↑	Liver FXR agonists, Ilea FXR inhibitor	BSEP ↑; CYP7A1, ASBT ↓; restored the rhythms of <i>Clock</i> , <i>Cry1</i> and <i>Cry2</i> in the ileum, restored the rhythm of <i>shp</i>	61
	100 mg/kg	C57BL/6 is processed with DSS	3 weeks	<i>Bacteroides</i> , <i>Akkermansia</i> ↑; <i>Bacteroidetes</i> ↓	FXR and TGR5 agonist	NF-κB, p65, IKKβ, p-p65, p65, Il-6, CYP7A1, Lrh-1 ↓; TGR5, Occludin, SHP, Fgf15, β-klotho ↑	62
Blueberry Extract	5 gL ⁻¹ BE in drinking water	Male C57BL/6J mice fed a high-fat diet	14 weeks	<i>Akkermansia</i> , <i>Bifidobacterium</i> , <i>Lactobacillus</i> , <i>Desulfovibrio</i> . <i>Bifidobacterium Lactobacillus</i> ↑	FXR and TGR5 agonist	FXR, SHP, SREBP-1c, ChREBP, ACC-1, PPARγ1, PPARγ 2, CD36, FAS, GPAT, FABP4, ATG4b, ATG5, ATG7, CPT-1, PPARα, ACS, CYP7A1, D2, UCP1, PRDM16, PGC-1α ↑; TαMCA, TβMCA ↓	63
Chokeberry (<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> L.)	1000 mg/kg	Male Wistar rats fed a high-fat diet	40 days	<i>Firmicutes/Bacteroidetes</i> , <i>Desulfovibrio</i> , <i>Lachnospiraceae</i> , <i>Lachnospiraceae_NK4A13_group</i> ↓; <i>Bacteroides</i> , <i>Prevotella</i> , <i>Akkermansia</i> , <i>Bacteroides</i> , <i>Prevotella</i> ↑	FXR and TGR5 agonist	PPARγ, UCP1, PGC-1α, ACC1, SREBP-1c, UCP1 ↑	64
Curcumin	300 mg/kg	The chickens injected with LPS	21 days	<i>Butyricoccus</i> , <i>Enterococcus</i> , <i>Firmicutes/Bacteroidota</i> ↑	FXR agonist	IL-10, IL-22, <i>sirtuin 1</i> , <i>sirtuin 5</i> , <i>GPRC5A</i> , <i>GPRC5B</i> ↑	65
Cranberry extract	200 mg/kg	C57BL/6J mice fed high Fat-High Sucrose (HFHS) diet	13 weeks	<i>Firmicutes/Bacteroidetes</i> ↓; <i>Akkermansia muciniphila</i> , <i>Barnesiella spp</i> ↑	FXR agonist	PPARg, LXRa/b ↑; COX2, TNFa, NF-κB, IκB ↓	66

Dihydromyricetin	100 mg/kg	Male C57BL/6J mice fed administering 3% (w/v) DSS in drinking water	7 days	<i>Lactobacillus, Akkermansia, Romboutsia, Turicibacter, Lachnoclostridium, Bacteroides, Blautia, Streptococcus, Enterococcus</i> ↑	FXR and TGR5 agonist	LCA, CDCA ↑	67
	40 mg/kg EGCG and 20 mg/kg caffeine	Sprague Dawley (SD) male rats fed a high-fat diet	10 weeks	<i>Bifidobacterium, Alloprevotella, Allobaculum, Faecalibaculum, Turicibacter</i> ↑; <i>Firmicutes, Actinobacteria</i> ↓	Liver TGR5 agonist, intestinal FXR inhibitor	CYP7A1 ↑; FGF15 ↓	68
Epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG)	100 mg/kg	C57BL/6 mice fed a Western diet (21% fat, 34% sucrose, and 0.2% cholesterol, w/w)	12 weeks	<i>Akkermansia muciniphila, Verrucomicrobiaceae, Enterococcaceae</i> ↑; <i>Lachnospiraceae, Desulfovibrionaceae, Bacteroidaceae, Prevotellaceae, Rikenellaceae, Deferribacteraceae</i> ↓	Liver FXR and TGR5 agonist	CD36, PPAR-γ, SREBP-1C, FASN, <i>Scd1, Scd2, Cyp7a1, Cyp8b1</i> ↓; <i>Cyp4a10</i> ↑	69
	0.32% of the diet	Male C57BL/6N mice fed a high-fat diet	8 weeks	<i>Adlercreutzia, Akkermansia, Allobaculum, f_Coriobacteriaceae, g_Adlercreutzia</i> ↑; <i>Desulfovibrionaceae, g_Unclassified</i> ↓	FXR agonist	serum primary cholic acid, β-muricholic acid ↑; taurine-conjugated cholic acid, β-muricholic acid and deoxycholic acid ↓	70
Flavonoids from Whole-Grain Oat	50/100 mg/kg	Male C57BL/6N mice fed a high-fat diet	4 weeks	<i>Akkermansia</i> ↑; <i>Lachnoclostridium, Blautia, Colidextribacter, and Desulfovibrio</i> ↓	FXR agonist	PPARα, CPT-1, CYP7A1, FXR, TGR5, NTCP, BSTP ↑; SREBP-1c, FAS ↓	71
Grape Extract	1% of the diet	Male C57BL/6Nc mice fed a high-fat and high-fructose diet LPS and antibiotic gavage male C57BL/6J mice	13 weeks	<i>Bifidobacterium, Clostridia, Firmicutes/Bacteroidetes</i> ↑	TGR5 agonist	PRDM16, UCP1, DCA ↑	72
Grape Seed Proanthocyanidin	250 mg/kg	Male C57BL/6Nc mice fed a high-fat and high-fructose diet LPS and antibiotic gavage male C57BL/6J mice	20 days	<i>Bacteroidetes, Ruminococcaceae, and Ruminococcus</i> ↑; <i>Actinobacteria</i> ↓	FXR agonist	LCA, CDCA, CYP27A1, CYP7B1 ↑; CYP8B1 ↓	73
Hesperetin-7-O-glucoside	0.05% of the diet	C57BL/6J mice	9 weeks	<i>Firmicutes/Bacteroidetes</i> ↓, <i>Clostridium, Muribaculaceae, Lactobacillus, Eubacterium, Ruminococcus, Lachnoclostridium, Turicibacter, Colidextribacter, Coriobacteriaceae, Desulfovibrio, and Rikenellaceae</i> ↑	TGR5 agonist	taurine, phosphocholine, creatine, and lactate ↓; BCAAs, phenylalanine, and tyrosine, Cyp7a1, Fgf15, Tgr5 ↑	73
Lignin-Rich Insoluble Residue of Brewer's Spent Grain	20% of the diet	Male C57BL/6 mice fed a high-fat diet	14 weeks	<i>Clostridium leptum, Bacteriodes</i> ↑	FXR agonist	<i>Srebp2, Hmgcr, Ldlr, Cyp7a1, Ppara, Fxr, and Pxr</i> ↑	74

L-Theanine	100/300 mg/kg	Balb/c mice	28 days	<i>Lactobacillus, Streptococcus, Bacteroides, Clostridium, Enterorhabdus</i> ↓	FXR inhibitor	CYP27A1, 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-CoA, SREBP-1c, HMGCR ↑; BSH, FASN, FGF15, stearoyl-CoA desaturase-1, liver low-density lipoprotein receptor, type B scavenger receptor ↓	46
Matcha green tea	1% of the diet	Male C57BL/6 mice fed a high-fat diet	8 weeks	<i>Faecalibaculum, Alloprevotella, Romboutsia, Akkermansia, Alistipes</i> ↑	FXR agonist	C/ebp- α , CD36, Fatp, Fas, Acat2 ↓	75
Nuciferine	10/25 mg/kg	Sprague-Dawley rats fed a high-fat diet	8 weeks	<i>Lactobacillus, Clostridium, Enterococcus, Clostridium, Eubacterium</i> ↓; <i>Bilophila, Escherichia</i> ↑	intestinal FXR inhibitors, hepatic FXR/SHP agonist	FXR, FGF15, FGFR4, ASBT, <i>Cyp8b1, Ibabp, Osta/β</i> ↓; CYP7A1, CYP27A1, Cyp7b1 ↑	76
<i>Penthorum chinense</i> Pursh. extract	2/4/8 g/kg	Male C57BL/6J mice fed a high-fat diet	8 weeks	<i>Firmicutes/Bacteroidetes, Clostridium_IV, Clostridium_XIVb, Lactobacillus, Clostridium, Lactobacillus</i> ↓	intestinal FXR inhibitors, hepatic FXR/SHP agonist	FGF15, BSH, CYP7A1 ↓; CYP27A1, CYP7B1, BSEP ↑	77
Polyphenol-rich extract from chokeberry (<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> L.)	1000 mg/kg	Male wistar rats fed high fat diet	40 days	<i>Firmicutes/Bacteroidetes, Desulfovibrio, Lachnospiraceae_NK4A136_group</i> ↓; <i>Bacteroides, Prevotella, Akkermansia</i> ↑	FXR and TGR5 agonist	PPAR γ (iBAT), UCP1(iBAT), PGC-1 α (iBAT), SHP, FGF15, FGFR4, BSEP, TGR5 ↑; SREBP-1c, C/EBP α , ACC1, PPAR γ , FAS, CYP7A1 ↓	64
Proanthocyanidin-rich extract of grape polyphenols	1% of the diet	Male C57BL/6J mice fed a high-fat diet	10 weeks	<i>Akkermansia, Blautia, Clostridium, S24-7</i> ↑; <i>Clostridiales, Ruminococcaceae, Lachnospiraceae families, Clostridium genus</i> ↓	Intestinal FXR inhibitor	<i>Shp, Fgf15, Fabp6, Smpd3, Sptlc2, Cers4, Fxr, Tgr5</i> ↓; <i>Cyp7a1</i> ↑	78
Quinoa	2 g/d	Male C57BL/6 mice fed a high-fat diet	8 weeks	<i>Firmicutes/Bacteroidetes, Blautia</i> ↓; <i>Akkermansia, Bifidobacterium, Atopobium, Lactobacillus, Prevotellaceae</i> ↑	TGR5 agonist	GLP-1 ↑, TLR4 ↓	79
Resveratrol	400 mg/kg	ApoE ^{-/-} mice with a C57BL/6 genetic background	8 weeks	<i>Lactobacillus, Enterococcus faecalis, Bacteroidetes/Firmicutes, Bifidobacterium</i> ↑	FXR inhibitor	CYP7A1, BSH, FMO3, FMO ↑; FGF15, TEM ↓	80

	0.4% of the diet	<i>db/db</i> mice	10 weeks	<i>Firmicutes, Lactobacillaceae, Bacteroidetes_S24_7_group, Lachnospiraceae</i> ↓; <i>Bacteroidaceae, Porphyromonadaceae, Alcaligenaceae</i> ↑	TGR5 agonist	UCP1, PGC1a, SIRT1, BAT ↑	81
	500 mg/kg	Male C57BL/6J mice fed a high-fat diet	12 weeks	<i>Bacteroidetes/Firmicutes, Eubacterium_nodatum_group, Bacteroides</i> ↑, <i>Eubacterium_brachy_group, Erythrobacter, Streptomyces</i> ↓	FXR inhibitor	jejunal SR-B1, CDCA ↓; Cpt1a, Acadm ↑	82
Total phenolic extracts of <i>Citrus aurantium</i> L.	8.7 g/kg	Antibiotics-Induced male C57BL6 mice	4 weeks	<i>Firmicutes, Ruminococcaceae, Prevotellaceae, Lactobacillaceae</i> ↑	FXR agonist	ZO-1, Occludin proteins, FGF15, BSEP, NTCP, OATPs ↑; serum endotoxin, CYP7A1 ↓	83
Theabrownin from Pu-erh tea	450 mg/kg	Male C57BL/6 mice fed a high-fat diet	26 weeks	<i>Lactobacillus, Bacillus, Streptococcus, and Lactococcus</i> ↓	intestinal FXR inhibitors, hepatic FXR agonists	SHP (liver), TCDCA, TUDCA ↑; FGF15, FGFR4 ↓	84
Xyloglucan compounded inulin	4 % of the diet	Male ICR/KM mice fed a high-fat diet	8 weeks	<i>Allobaculum, Lachnospiraceae_NK4A136, Bifidobacterium, Lachnospiraceae_UCG_001, Lachnospiraceae, Bacteroides, Akkermansia</i> ↑; <i>Firmicutes, Helicobacter, Faecalibaculum</i> ↓	FXR and TGR5 agonist	Glut4, Occludin ↑; OGTT, G6Pase, CYP7A1, TNF-α, Il1-β ↓	85

Graphical Abstract

