
Berücksichtigung der Bioverfügbarkeit bei der Ableitung der RDAs

**Consideration of bioavailability
in the derivation of RDAs**

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Overview

- **Introduction**
D-A-CH-Reference-Values (DRV)
- **General considerations on deriving DRV**
- **Zinc**
- **Iron**
- **Concluding remarks**

D-A-CH-Reference Values (DRV) for Nutrient Intake

Since year 2000 the D-A-CH-Reference Values are valid for the German speaking countries. The DRV are developed by the **German Nutrition Society (DGE)** in cooperation with the **Austrian (ÖGE)** and **Swiss (SGE)** nutrition societies.

- primary focus: nutritive aspects and the prevention of deficiency
- other preventive aspects were also taken into consideration
- up to now: 2 minor revisions have been made
- present situation: a complete revision is in progress

Dietary Reference Values

Differentiation between recommendations, estimated values and guiding values

- **Recommendations** (empfohlene Zufuhr): Average requirement increased by two standard deviations assuming a normal distribution. If lack of normal distribution of values, the average requirement can be increased by 20–30 % (*assuming a coefficient of variation of 10–15 %*)
- **Estimated values** (Schätzwert): In case, human requirements cannot be determined with desirable accuracy, estimated values are still experimentally supported and provide appropriate information for adequate and safe intake.
- **Guiding values** (Richtwert): Aims to orient intake regulations if they are necessary for human health (*lower limit for water, fluoride, dietary fibre and upper limit for fat, cholesterol, alcohol and table salt*).

List of nutrients for which DRV have been established

Recommendations	Estimated Values	Guiding values
Protein	n – 3 fatty acids	Energy
n – 6 fatty acids	β-Carotin	Fat
Vitamin A	Vitamin E	Cholesterol
Vitamin D	Vitamin K	Carbohydrates
Thiamine	Pantothenic acid	Dietary fibre
Riboflavin	Biotin	Alcohol
Niacin	Sodium	Water
Vitamin B ₆	Chloride	Fluoride
Folate	Potassium	
Vitamin B ₁₂	Selenium	
Vitamin C	Copper	
Calcium	Manganese	
Phosphorus	Chromium *	
Magnesium	Molybdenum	
Iron		
Iodine		
Zinc		

* The essentiality is still controversial.

The trace element requirement

Definition of **basal requirement** (WHO/FAO, 1996)

Target group: **healthy adults**

The **basal requirement** refers to the intake of trace elements needed to prevent pathologically relevant and clinically detectable signs of impaired functions attributable to inadequacy of the nutrient.

- Shows a wide variation.
- The determination in individual cases is difficult.

Dietary reference values process for trace elements

1. **Assessment of the nutrient function.**
2. **Description of status indices.**
3. **Definition of criteria for adequacy and excess.**
4. **Measurement/estimation of the physiological requirement (eg daily losses).**
5. **Estimation of the dietary bioavailability.**
6. **Set DRV, UL for specific groups (sex, age, pregnancy..).**
7. **Implementation DRV in food based dietary guidelines, assessment of diets,**
8. **Identifying knowledge gaps, reviewing the literature to identify new data → revision of DRV.**

Classical methods for the determination of nutritional requirements

- **Deficiency experiments on humans**
(→ long-lasting, heavy burden to subjects, ethically questionable)
- **Tracer studies** with isotopes or radioactive substances
(→ expensive, ethically questionable)
- **Balance studies** with stable nutrients (replacement of estimated daily excretion and losses → applicable for trace elements)
- **Factorial methods** (eg interpolation for children from adult data sets or derivativion from breast milk)
- **Measurement of nutrient concentrations** in body fluids and tissues at specified amounts of nutrients (→ only possible in not homoestatic regulated nutrients)
- **Biochemical markers**: e.g. specific enzymes for selenium
- **Biological markers**: e.g. iodine and thyroid hormones
- **Animal experiments**: limited strength (different growth and survival rates, ..), but suitable to identify essentiality

Bioavailability of trace elements (1)

- **total amount / dosage**
- **type of trace element compound**
(*e.g. iron fumarate, iron oxide*)
- **binding form in food**
(*e.g. phytate, oxalate*)
- **type of food**
(*animal or plant origin*)
- **food processing**
(*e.g. dough processing*)

Bioavailability of trace elements (2)

- **effectivity of the digestion**
(e.g. hydrochloric acid, digestive enzymes)
- **interaction with other trace elements**
- **trace element supply status**
- **mechanism of the absorption**
- **presence of concomitants**
(e.g. ascorbic acid, amino acids)
- **kind of transport mechanism**

Deriving a DRV for a trace element (WHO)

Step 1: estimation of the physiological requirement (R_{phys})
→ measuring the daily losses

Step 2: estimation of the minimum requirement (R_{min})
→ taking the average bioavailability into account:

$$\underline{R_{\text{phys}}} \times 100 / \text{bioavailability (\%)}$$

Step 3: Deriving dietary reference values (+ safety margin):
Determination of the usual intakes that would meet the condition that only few people are below their own requirement (97er percentile) → $CV + (15 \% \times 2)$

Estimated bioavailability of minerals and trace elements in humans

Calcium	20 - 40 %
Magnesium	20 - 30 %
Zinc	10 - 90 % (<i>~30 %</i>)
Copper	35 - 70 %
Iron	10 - 25 % (<i>5-8 % plant</i>)
Chromium	1 - 10 % (<i>~ 2 %</i>)
Selenium	50 - 95 %
Iodine	50 - 95 %

Deriving dietary reference values

Healthy people:

minimum requirement
+ safety margin
Dietary Reference Values

People with special physiological conditions:

minimum requirement
+ extra requirement
+ safety margin
Dietary Reference Values

Deriving dietary reference values for specific conditions

Extra requirement in specific conditions:

- **growth**
- **pregnancy**
- **lactation**
- **intensive physical activities or hot/humid climate**
(→ nutrient loss through sweat)
- **certain diseases**
- **old age (?)**

Zinc absorption from diet

- **Absorption in duodenum by an active mechanism**
- **Absorption rate ~ 30 % from a moderate availability diet (dependent to supply status!)**
- **Balance studies:**
 - reduced absorption with aging
 - 20-30 y.: 31 - 39 %
 - 65-74 y.: 17 - 21 %
- **Interactions:**
 - high intake of iron or copper
 - can interfere with and reduce zinc absorption
- **Elimination:**
 - mostly via feces; less via urine

Calculation of the DRV for zinc (adults)

Physiological requirement: m: 2,2 mg/day
w: 1,6 mg/day

Bioavailability: ~ 30 %

Minimum requirement: m: 7,5 mg/day
w: 5,5 mg/day

DRV (15 % CV → + 30 %) m: = 10 mg/day
w: = 7 mg/day

Zinc sources from food

- Meat, fish, shellfish, offals (liver), cheese, milk, eggs, cereal (whole wheat) and legumes are the main sources of zinc intake
- Bioavailability of zinc from foods of animal origin is much better than from plant foods

Factors influencing the bioavailability of zinc

- **Absorption promoting factors:**
 - proteins, peptides, amino acids
- **Absorption inhibiting factors:**
 - phytate (eg in cereals), high iron or copper intake, high intake of calcium, phosphate and heavy metal)

Zinc content in food [mg/100g]

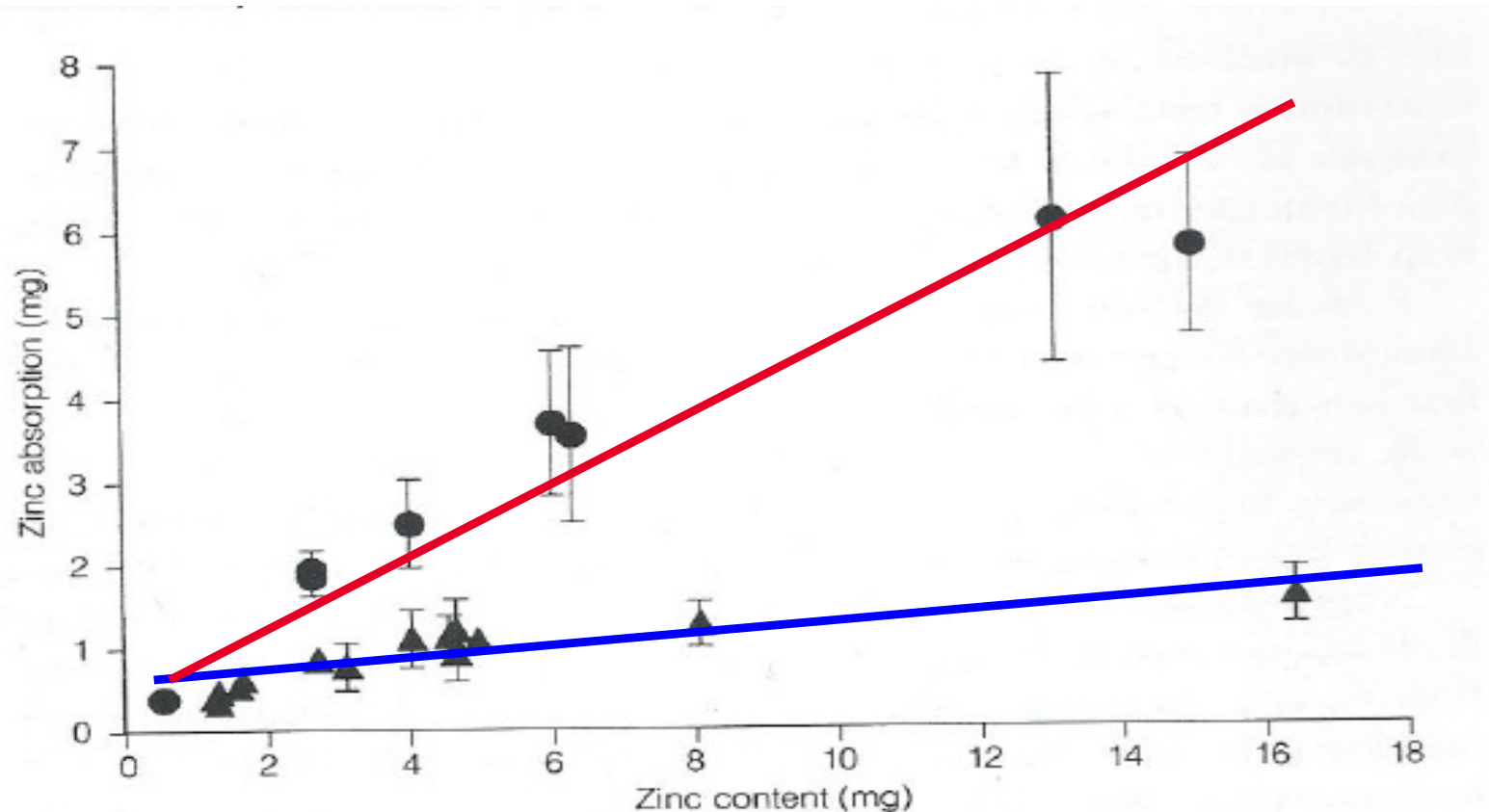
• oysters	6 – 160
• beef	4,3
• gouda cheese	3,9
• wheat (whole-corn)	2,7
• pork	2,0
• eggs	1,4
• chicken	1,0
• wheat flour (Type 405)	1,0
• milk	0,4

Absorption rate of zinc from food

- wheat bran <10 %
- whole wheat bread 11%
- beef 20 %
- turkey 30 %
- cornflakes with milk 36 %
- chicken 37 %

Zinc absorption by humans from aqueous solutions of zinc (●) or from single meals from which zinc is moderately available (▲) (WHO, 1996)

Figure 3.1. Zinc absorption by human adults from aqueous solutions of zinc (●) or from single meals from which zinc is moderately available (▲) (category B, Table 5.5)



Factors influencing the bioavailability of iron

- **Absorption promoting factors:**

→ ascorbic acid, meat proteins

- **Absorption inhibiting factors:**

→ phytate (eg in cereals), high zinc or copper intake, high intake, phosphate and oxalic acid

Iron: main sources

- Bread, meat, sausages, vegetables and legumes as the main sources for the supply of iron
- Body can utilize iron from foods of animal origin such as better from plant foods

Important iron sources

25,7 % bread and bakery goods

22,3 % meat, meat products and sausages

9,4 % vegetables and vegetable products

8,7 % beverages

6,3 % pasta and others

5,5 % eggs

5,2 % potatoes

4,3 % fruits, fruit products

2,4 % milk, milk products

Absorption rate of iron from food (1)

Food from plant origin:

- rice 1 %
- spinach 1 – 1,5 %
- corn 3 %
- lettuce 4 – 5 %
- wheat 5 %
- soy beans 5,5 %

Absorption rate of iron from food (2)

Food from animal origin:

- ferritin 5 – 6 %
- liver 10 – 18 %
- fish 10 – 12 %
- hemoglobin 12 – 15 %
- meat 20 – 25 %

Iron: Dietary Reference Values (D-A-CH)

Alter	Eisen			
	mg/Tag		mg/MJ ¹ (Nährstoffdichte)	
	m	w ²	m	w
Säuglinge³				
0 bis unter 4 Monate ^{4,5}		0,5	0,3	0,3
4 bis unter 12 Monate		8	2,7	2,8
Kinder				
1 bis unter 4 Jahre		8	1,7	1,8
4 bis unter 7 Jahre		8	1,3	1,4
7 bis unter 10 Jahre		10	1,3	1,4
10 bis unter 13 Jahre	12	15	1,3	1,8
13 bis unter 15 Jahre	12	15	1,1	1,6
Jugendliche und Erwachsene				
15 bis unter 19 Jahre	12	15	1,1	1,8
19 bis unter 25 Jahre	10	15	0,9	1,9
25 bis unter 51 Jahre	10	15	1,0	1,9
51 bis unter 65 Jahre	10	10	1,1	1,4
65 Jahre und älter	10	10	1,2	1,4
Schwangere				
		30		3,3
Stillende⁶				
		20		1,9

¹ Berechnet für Jugendliche und Erwachsene mit überwiegend sitzender Tätigkeit (PAL-Wert 1,4)

² Nichtmenstruierende Frauen, die nicht schwanger sind oder nicht stillen: 10 mg/Tag


³ Ausgenommen Unreifgeborene

⁴ Hierbei handelt es sich um einen Schätzwert

⁵ Ein Eisenbedarf besteht infolge der dem Neugeborenen von der Plazenta als Hb-Eisen mitgegebenen Eisenmenge erst ab dem 4. Monat

⁶ Diese Angabe gilt für stillende und nicht stillende Frauen nach der Geburt zum Ausgleich der Verluste während der Schwangerschaft

Trace element supply situation in Germany

- Trace element supply of consumers is primarily dependent on the bioavailability and less on the absolute amount of intake.
- Due to the high consumption of foods of animal origin overall  a good supply with trace elements is observed.
- Exception: iodine

Thank you !