

expenditure (DEE) of elderly people in free-living conditions: the doubly labelled water (DLW) technique [Ritz and Coward, (1995), *Diabete & Metab*], the factorial method (MFact) [Visser et al (1995), *Metab*] and the heart rate recording method (MHR) [Ceesay et al (1989), *Br J Nutr*]. For the individual calibration of MFact and MHR, energy costs of the various typical activities and individual relationships between HR and energy expenditure (EE) were determined from continuous measurements of HR and EE during 3 consecutive days in two open-circuit whole-body calorimeters in 12 healthy subjects (six males and six females;  $70.1 \pm 2.7$  years; mean  $\pm$  SD). In free-living conditions, DEE was determined by DLW during 17 days and by MFact and MHR from recordings of activities and HR during 14 and 4 days, respectively. Mean free-living DEE estimated using DLW, MFact and MHR was  $12.8 \pm 3.1$ ,  $12.7 \pm 2.2$  and  $13.5 \pm 2.7$  MJ.day<sup>-1</sup> in men and  $9.6 \pm 0.8$ ,  $8.8 \pm 1.2$  and  $10.2 \pm 1.5$  MJ.day<sup>-1</sup> in women, respectively. No significant differences were found between the three methods for both genders, using the *Bland & Altman* test which is based on a paired *t* test (*Lancet*, 1986).

It was concluded that MFact and MHR are satisfactory alternatives to DLW when considering the mean DEE of groups of subjects in free-living conditions, while MFact seems more suitable than MHR to estimate DEE of individuals.

**Circadian variation of the energetic and hormonal response to a meal.** M Romon<sup>1</sup>, JL Edmé<sup>2</sup>, C Le Fur<sup>1</sup>, B Hecquet<sup>3</sup> (<sup>1</sup> *Service de nutrition, CHU Lille*; <sup>2</sup> *Cereste, 5, avenue Oscar-Lambret, Lille cedex*; <sup>3</sup> *Centre Oscar-Lambret, 59000 Lille, France*).

The aim of this work was to study the effect of meal time on the energetic and hormonal response. It was realised among 12 healthy men (BMI:  $22.2 \pm 1.7$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>, age  $25.2 \pm 5.3$

years). They were given in a random order a standard meal; either they remained fasting at night (01h00) or during the day (13h00). The meal contained 40% of the estimated daily energy expenditure. During the 6 h following meal time, energy expenditure (EE) was measured by indirect calorimetry and blood samples were drawn at base line and every 20 min for assay of glucose, insulin, C Peptide, cortisol, glucagon and GH. The diet induced thermogenesis (DIT) was calculated as the areas under the curve of the differences between the post meal and the corresponding fasting energy expenditure. Comparisons between the sessions were made by a repeated two-way variance analysis (day/night and hour). During fed sessions, there was an interaction between the two factors ( $P = 0.002$ ), post-meal increase of energy expenditure was blunted during the night, but there was no difference in DIT. All blood parameters were increased post-meal; this increase was significantly higher during the night for glycemia ( $P = 0.01$ ) and insulinemia ( $P = 0.04$ ); for the others parameters there was an interaction between the two factors: post prandial increase is delayed during the night. Post-meal energy expenditure was correlated with C Peptide and 2 h cortisol during the day. During the night, no correlation was found. Multiple regression analysis were performed with energy expenditure as dependent variable and day/night, cortisol, C Peptide and glycemia as independent variables. It resulted in the identification of C Peptide as significant variable ( $\beta = 2.68$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ). This result confirms that the metabolic response to a meal is modulated by meal time.

**Precision of energy expenditure (EE) measurement in pre-term infants: contribution of natural isotopic abundance (NIA) variations.** JC Picaud<sup>1</sup>, S Normand<sup>2</sup>, C Pacchiaudi<sup>2</sup>, JP Riou<sup>2</sup>, BL Salle<sup>1</sup> (<sup>1</sup> *Neonatal Unit Hospital Edouard-Her-*