Online Resource 2. Sensitivity analysis of the association between fish consumption frequency and masticatory difficulties through white blood cell count among participants with WBC counts <9,000/μL

Path / effect	Effect (β)	SE	P value	95% CI
a path: Fish → logWBC	−0.0046	0.0018	0.0118	−0.0082 to −0.0010
b path: logWBC → masticatory difficulties	0.4006	0.1554	0.0099	0.0962 to 0.7051
Direct effect (c'): Fish → masticatory difficulties	−0.0947	0.0297	0.0014	−0.1529 to −0.0365
Indirect effect (a×b)	−0.0018	BootSE 0.0011	—	−0.0044 to −0.0002

The sensitivity analysis was restricted to participants with WBC counts <9,000/μL (n = 10,413). Fish consumption frequency was entered as the exposure, natural log-transformed WBC count as the mediator, and masticatory difficulties as the binary outcome. The model was adjusted for age, sex, body mass index, diabetes mellitus, sleep duration, regular aerobic exercise, alcohol consumption, and current smoking. The indirect effect was estimated using 5,000 bootstrap samples. Direct and indirect effects are presented on the log-odds scale. β, regression coefficient; SE, standard error; BootSE, bootstrap standard error; CI, confidence interval; WBC, white blood cell count.

Title: Habitual fish consumption and masticatory difficulties in Japanese adults: a cross-sectional study of lifestyle characteristics and systemic inflammation

Journal: Odontology

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