N- NITROSOPROLINE FORMATION IN MALNOURISHED CHILDREN.

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Vegetable has been the main source of nitrate consumed by man. It can be converted to nitrosating agent for the endogenous formation of N-nitroso-compounds (NOCs). To determine the possibility of this chemical formation in malnourished state, proline solution (125 mg in 10 ml water) was given with vegetables to 14 mild malnourished and 14 normal children, aged 9-13 years on 3 consecutive days. Saliva and urine were collected for nitrate, nitrite and N-Nitrosoproline (NPRO) analysis. The result was indicated that endogenous NPRO formation in mild malnourished state was lower but it was not significantly different from the normal state. However, the average conversion rate of salivary nitrate to nitrite was higher (32% vs 28% of ingested nitrate) among the malnourished group.