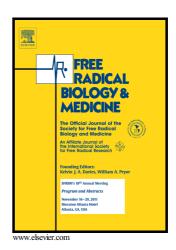
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Beneficial and Paradoxical Roles of Selenium at Nutritional Levels of Intake in Healthspan and Longevity

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Abstract

Accumulation of genome and macromolecule damage is a hallmark of aging, ageassociated degeneration, and genome instability syndromes. Although processes of aging
are irreversible, they can be modulated by genome maintenance pathways and
environmental factors such as diet. Selenium (Se) confers its physiological functions
mainly through selenoproteins, but Se compounds and other proteins that incorporate Se
nonspecifically also impact optimal health. Bruce Ames proposed that the aging process
could be mitigated by a subset of low-hierarchy selenoproteins whose levels are
preferentially reduced in response to Se deficiency. Consistent with this notion, results
from two selenotranscriptomic studies collectively implicate three low-hierarchy
selenoproteins in age or senescence. Experimental evidence generally supports beneficial
roles of selenoproteins in the protection against damage accumulation and redox
imbalance, but some selenoproteins have also been reported to unexpectedly display
harmful functions under sporadic conditions. While longevity and healthspan are usually
thought to be projected in parallel, emerging evidence suggests a trade-off between

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