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Methods and compositions for the prevention and treatment of kidney disease

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(54) Title: METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF KIDNEY DISEASE

(57) Abstract: Compositions for preventing or treating kidney disease comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium, typically protein in amounts of from about 5% to about 40%, sodium in amounts of from about 0.01% to about 1%, and potassium in amounts of from about 0.01% to about 1%, and methods comprising administering such compositions to patients susceptible to or suffering from kidney disease for the purpose of preventing or treating kidney disease.

METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF
KIDNEY DISEASE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/695,152 filed June 29, 2005, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0002] This invention relates generally to compositions and methods for combating kidney disease and particularly to the use of food compositions for preventing or treating kidney disease.

Description of the Prior Art

[0003] Chronic kidney disease currently affects as many as 20 million Americans. Unfortunately, the incidence and prevalence of the disease have doubled in the past few years. The increase is most likely attributable to improved treatments for hypertension, diabetes, and coronary disease. These improvements have increased the longevity for affected patients and, therefore, their likelihood of developing chronic kidney disease. Estimated medical and other economic costs of chronic kidney disease are expected to approach \$28 billion annually within a few years.

[0004] The effect of dietary protein restriction on kidney disease is the subject of debate. Some studies suggest that dietary protein restriction slows the progression of kidney disease, particularly in patients with diabetes (Pedrini MT, Levey AS, Lau J, Chalmers TC, Wang PH. The effect of dietary protein restriction on the progression of diabetic and nondiabetic renal diseases: a meta-analysis. Ann Intern Med 1996;124:627-32). However, these studies were inconclusive by the use of ACE-inhibitor therapy on the rate of disease progression. One study attempted to determine a level of protein intake that might reduce the risk of kidney disease progression and also minimize the risk of malnutrition (Klahr S, Levey AS, Beck GJ, Caggiula AW, Hunsicker L, Kusek JW, et al. The effects of dietary protein restriction and blood-pressure control on the progression of chronic renal disease. Modification of Diet in Renal Disease Study Group. N Engl J Med 1994;330:877-84). The study evaluated three levels of dietary protein intake and found that a very-low-protein diet slightly decreased the rate of progression of proteinuria compared with diets with higher protein intake. The very-low-protein diet did not result in malnutrition but it also did not decrease the progression of kidney disease.

[0005] Further, diets that contain very low amounts of protein and other nutrients may be beneficial for preventing or treating kidney disease but can cause undesirable weight loss and muscle wasting. In contrast, diets that have higher amounts of protein and other nutrients are generally not useful for preventing or treating kidney disease. Similarly, there is no useful information on the combination of nutrients that can be used to prevent or treat kidney disease. There is, therefore, a need for food

compositions having defined ranges of protein and other nutrients that are beneficial for preventing or treating kidney disease while avoiding the undesirable weight loss and muscle wasting.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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[0006] It is, therefore, an aspect of the present invention to provide compositions and methods for preventing or treating kidney disease.

[0007] It is another aspect of the invention to provide articles of manufacture in the form of kits that contain combinations of compositions and devices useful for 10 preventing or treating kidney disease.

[0008] It is a further aspect of the invention to provide a means for communicating information about or instructions for using a food composition comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium for preventing or treating kidney disease.

15 [0009] These and other aspect are achieved using novel compositions and methods for preventing or treating kidney disease. The compositions comprise one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium, typically protein in amounts of from about 5% to about 40%, sodium in amounts of from about 0.01% to about 1%, and potassium in amounts of from about 0.01% to 20 about 1%. The methods comprise administering such compositions to patients susceptible to or suffering from kidney disease. Kits comprising a food composition in combination with renal drugs, renal diagnostic devices, and means for communicating information about and instructions for using the invention are also provided.

[0010] Other and further aspects, features, and advantages of the present invention will 25 be readily apparent to those skilled in the art.

According to the invention there is also provided a food composition for preventing or treating kidney disease comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium.

According to the invention there is also provided a method for preventing or 30 treating kidney disease comprising feeding a patient a food composition comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium.

According to the invention there is also provided a method for manufacturing a food composition suitable for preventing or treating renal disease comprising admixing 35 a food composition containing extremely low amounts of one or more of protein, sodium, and potassium and one or more supplements containing sufficient protein,

sodium, or potassium to produce a food composition containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium when the supplement(s) are admixed with the food composition containing extremely low amounts of one or more of protein, sodium, and potassium.

5 According to the invention there is also provided a kit when used for preventing kidney disease in a patient comprising in separate containers in a single package a food composition containing extremely low amounts of one or more of protein, sodium, and potassium and one or more supplements containing sufficient protein, sodium, or potassium to produce a food composition containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium when the supplement(s) are admixed with the food composition containing extremely low amounts of one or more of protein, sodium, and potassium.

According to the invention there is also provided a kit when used for preventing kidney disease in a patient comprising in separate containers in a single package or in separate containers in a virtual package, as appropriate, a food composition comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium and at least one of (1) a renal drug, (2) a renal diagnostic device, (3) a means for communicating information about or instructions for admixing a food composition containing extremely low amounts of one or more of protein, sodium, and potassium and one or more supplements containing sufficient protein, sodium, or potassium to produce a food composition containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium when the supplement(s) are admixed with the food composition containing extremely low amounts of one or more of protein, sodium, and potassium, (4) a means for communicating information about or instructions for using a food composition comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium for preventing or treating kidney disease, (5) a means for communicating information about or instructions for administering in conjunction a food composition comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium and a renal drug for preventing or treating kidney disease, and (6) a means for communicating information about or instructions for administering in conjunction a food composition comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium and using renal diagnostic devices for determining kidney function and evaluating the presence and severity of renal insufficiency or dysfunction.

According to the invention there is also provided a method for preventing or treating kidney disease comprising feeding a patient a food composition comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein.

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According to the invention there is also provided a food composition useful for preventing or treating kidney disease comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein.

The present invention also provides a food composition when used for preventing or treating kidney disease in a patient comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium, and wherein the composition contains protein in amounts of from 10% to 20%, sodium in amounts of from 0.1% to 0.5%, and potassium in amounts of from 0.1% to 0.5%.

Throughout this specification the word "comprise", or variations such as "comprises" or "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated element, integer or step, or group of elements, integers or steps, but not the exclusion of any other element, integer or step, or group of elements, integers or steps.

Any discussion of documents, acts, materials, devices, articles or the like which has been included in the present specification is solely for the purpose of providing a context for the present invention. It is not to be taken as an admission that any or all of these matters form part of the prior art base or were common general knowledge in the field relevant to the present invention as it existed before the priority date of each claim of this application.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

20 Definitions

[0011] The term "patient" means a human or other animal susceptible to or suffering from kidney disease, including avian, bovine, canine, equine, feline, hircine, murine, ovine, and porcine animals. Preferably, the patient is a canine or feline.

[0012] The term "relatively low amounts" means amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium that prevent or treat kidney disease but not amounts that are so low that they cause undesirable weight loss and muscle wasting.

[0013] The term "extremely low amounts" means amounts of protein, sodium, potassium that may prevent or treat kidney disease but amounts that are so low that they cause undesirable weight loss and muscle wasting.

30 [0014] The term "renal drug" means any compound, composition, or drug useful for preventing or treating kidney disease.

[0015] The term "single package" means that the components of a kit are physically associated in or with one or more containers and considered a unit for manufacture, distribution, sale, or use.

Containers include, but are not limited to, bags, boxes, bottles, shrink wrap packages, stapled or otherwise affixed components, or combinations thereof.

[0016] The term “virtual package” means that the components of a kit are associated by directions on one or more physical or virtual kit components instructing the user how to obtain the other components, e.g., in a bag containing one component and directions instructing the user to go to a website, contact a recorded message, view a visual message, or contact a caregiver or instructor to obtain instructions on how to use the kit.

[0017] The term “in conjunction” means that one or more of the compositions and compounds (e.g., renal drugs or composition components) of the present invention are administered to a patient (1) together in a food composition or (2) separately at the same or different frequency using the same or different administration routes at about the same time or periodically. “Periodically” means that the compositions, food compositions, and compounds are administered on a dosage schedule acceptable for a specific composition, food composition, and compound and that the food compositions are administered or fed to a patient routinely as appropriate for the particular patient. “About the same time” generally means that the compositions, composition components, renal drugs, and food compositions are administered at the same time or within about 72 hours of each other. In conjunction specifically includes administration schemes wherein renal drugs are administered for a prescribed period and the compositions are administered indefinitely.

[0018] This invention is not limited to the particular methodology, protocols, and reagents described herein because they may vary. Further, the terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only and is not intended to limit the scope of the present invention. As used herein and in the appended claims, the singular forms “a,” “an,” and “the” include plural reference unless the context clearly dictates otherwise, e.g., reference to “a method” or “a food composition” includes a plurality of such methods or compositions. Similarly, the words “comprise”, “comprises”, and “comprising” are to be interpreted inclusively rather than exclusively.

[0019] Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms and any acronyms used herein have the same meanings as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art in the field of the invention. Although any methods and materials similar or equivalent to those described herein can be used in the practice of the present invention, the preferred methods, devices, and materials are described herein.

[0020] All patents, patent applications, and publications mentioned herein are incorporated herein by reference to the extent allowed by law for the purpose of describing and disclosing the compounds, processes, techniques, procedures, technology, articles, and other compositions and methods disclosed therein that might be used with the present invention. However, nothing herein is to be construed as an admission that the invention is not entitled to antedate such disclosure by virtue of prior invention.

The Invention

[0021] In one aspect, the present invention provides a food composition for preventing or treating kidney disease. The food composition comprises one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium. The invention is based upon the novel discovery that kidney function can be altered by administering the composition to a patient and that altering kidney function with the composition can prevent or treat kidney disease. The composition contains a novel combination of ingredients in specific amounts that have been found to be useful to prevent and/or treat kidney disease.

[0022] In one embodiment, the food composition comprises one or more food ingredients containing protein in amounts of from about 5% to about 40%, sodium in amounts of from about 0.01% to about 1%, and potassium in amounts of from about 0.01% to about 1%. In another embodiment, the food composition comprises one or more food ingredients containing protein in amounts of from about 8% to about 25%, sodium in amounts of from about 0.05% to about 0.6%, and potassium in amounts of from about 0.05% to about 0.6%. In a further embodiment, the food composition comprises one or more food ingredients containing protein in amounts of from about 10% to about 16%, sodium in amounts of from about 0.1% to about 0.5%, and potassium in amounts of from about 0.1% to about 0.5%.

[0023] All percentages expressed herein are on a weight by dry matter basis unless specifically stated otherwise. In a further, embodiment, the food composition comprises one or more food ingredients containing protein in amounts of from about 5% to about 30%, sodium in amounts of from about 0.01% to about 2%, potassium in amounts of from about 0.01% to about 2%, and phosphorous in amounts of from about 0.2% to about 1%.

[0024] The food ingredients useful in the present invention include any food ingredient suitable for consumption by a patient. Typical food ingredients include but are not limited to fats, carbohydrates, proteins, fibers, and nutrients such as vitamins, minerals, and trace elements. Skilled artisans can select the amount and type of food ingredients for a typical food based upon the dietary requirements of the patient, e.g., the patient's species, age, size, weight, health, and function.

[0025] The food composition can comprise 100% of any particular food ingredient or can comprise a mixture of food ingredients in various proportions. In preferred embodiments, the food composition comprises a combination of food ingredients in amounts of from about 5% to about 40% protein, from about 0.01% to about 1% sodium, from about 0.01% to about 1% potassium, from about 0% to about 50% fat, from about 0% to about 75% carbohydrate, from about 0% to about 40% dietary fiber, and from about 0% to about 15% of one or more nutrients.

[0026] The fat and carbohydrate food ingredient is obtained from a variety of sources such as animal fat, fish oil, vegetable oil, meat, meat by-products, grains, other animal or plant sources, and mixtures thereof. Grains include wheat, corn, barley, and rice.

[0027] The protein food ingredient is obtained from a variety sources such as plants, animals, or both. Animal protein includes meat, meat by-products, dairy, and eggs. Meats include the flesh from poultry, fish, and animals such as cattle, swine, sheep, goats, and the like. Meat by-products include lungs, kidneys, brain, livers, stomachs, and intestines. The protein food ingredient may also be free amino acids and/or peptides. Preferably, the protein food ingredient comprises meat, a meat by-product, dairy products, or eggs.

[0028] The fiber food ingredient is obtained from a variety of sources such as vegetable fiber sources, e.g., cellulose, beet pulp, peanut hulls, and soy fiber.

[0029] The nutrients are obtained from a variety of sources known to skilled artisans, e.g., vitamin and mineral supplements and food ingredients. Vitamins and minerals can be included in amounts required to avoid deficiency and maintain health. These amounts are readily available in the art. The National Research Council (NRC) provides recommended amounts of such nutrients for farm animals. See, e.g., Nutrient Requirements of Swine (10th Rev. Ed., Nat'l Academy Press, Wash. D.C., 1998), Nutrient Requirements of Poultry (9th Rev. Ed., Nat'l Academy Press, Wash. D.C., 1994), Nutrient Requirements of Horses (5th Rev. Ed., Nat'l Academy Press, Wash. D.C., 1989). The American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) provides recommended amounts of such nutrients for dogs and cats. See American Feed Control Officials, Inc., Official publication, pp. 129-137 (2004). Vitamins generally useful as food additives include vitamin A, vitamin B1, vitamin B2, vitamin B6, vitamin B12, vitamin D, biotin, vitamin K, folic acid, inositol, niacin, and pantothenic acid. Minerals and trace elements useful as food additives include calcium, phosphorus, sodium, potassium, magnesium, copper, zinc, chloride, iron, selenium, iodine, and iron.

[0030] The food compositions may contain additional ingredients such as vitamins, minerals, fillers, palatability enhancers, binding agents, flavors, stabilizers, emulsifiers, sweeteners, colorants, buffers, salts, coatings, and the like known to skilled artisans. Stabilizers include substances that tend to increase the shelf life of the composition such as preservatives, synergists and sequestrants, packaging gases, stabilizers, emulsifiers, thickeners, gelling agents, and humectants. Examples of emulsifiers and/or thickening agents include gelatin, cellulose ethers, starch, starch esters, starch ethers, and modified starches. Specific amounts for each composition component, food ingredient, and other ingredients will depend on a variety of factors such as the particular components and ingredients included in the composition; the species of patient; the patient's age, body weight, general health, sex, and diet; the patient's consumption rate; the type of kidney disease being treated; and the like. Therefore, the component and ingredient amounts may vary widely and may deviate from the preferred proportions described herein.

[0031] The food compositions may be prepared in a canned or wet form using conventional food preparation processes known to skilled artisans. Typically, ground animal proteinaceous tissues are mixed with the other ingredients such as fish oils, cereal grains, balancing ingredients, special purpose

additives (e.g., vitamin and mineral mixtures, inorganic salts, cellulose and beet pulp, bulking agents, and the like) and water in amounts sufficient for processing. These ingredients are mixed in a vessel suitable for heating while blending the components. Heating of the mixture is effected using any suitable manner, e.g., direct steam injection or using a vessel fitted with a heat exchanger. Following the addition of the last ingredient, the mixture is heated to a temperature of from about 50°F to about 212°F. Temperatures outside this range are acceptable but may be commercially impractical without use of other processing aids. When heated to the appropriate temperature, the material will typically be in the form of a thick liquid. The thick liquid is filled into cans. A lid is applied, and the container is hermetically sealed. The sealed can is then placed into conventional equipment designed to sterilize the contents. Sterilization is usually accomplished by heating to temperatures of greater than about 230°F for an appropriate time depending on the temperature used, the composition, and similar factors. The compositions of the present invention can be added to the food compositions before, during, or after preparation.

[0032] The food compositions may be prepared in a dry form using conventional processes known to skilled artisans. Typically, dry ingredients such as animal protein, plant protein, grains, and the like are ground and mixed together. Moist or liquid ingredients, including fats, oils, animal protein, water, and the like are then added to and mixed with the dry mix. The mixture is then processed into dry food pieces.

[0033] The food compositions can be in any form useful for feeding the composition to a patient, e.g., kibbles, treats, and toys for animal food. Kibbles are generally formed using an extrusion process in which the mixture of dry and wet ingredients is subjected to mechanical work at a high pressure and temperature and forced through small openings and cut off into kibble by a rotating knife. The wet kibble is then dried and optionally coated with one or more topical coatings such as flavors, fats, oils, powders, and the like. Kibble also can be made from the dough using a baking process, rather than extrusion, wherein the dough is placed into a mold before dry-heat processing. Treats include compositions that are given to an animal to entice the animal to eat during a non-meal time, e.g., dog bones or biscuits for canines. Treats may be nutritional wherein the composition comprises one or more nutrients or and may have a food-like composition. Non-nutritional treats encompass any other treats that are non-toxic. The composition or components are coated onto the treat, incorporated into the treat, or both. Treats of the present invention can be prepared by an extrusion or baking process similar to those used for dry food. Other processes also may be used to either coat the composition on the exterior of existing treat forms or inject the composition into an existing treat form. Toys include chewable toys such as artificial bones and food compositions shaped to resemble natural foods that are appealing to the animal. The food composition of the present invention can comprise the toy or can form a coating on the surface of the toy or on the surface of a component of the toy. The composition can be incorporated partially or fully throughout the toy or both. In one embodiment, the

composition is orally accessible by the intended user. There are a wide range of suitable toys known to skilled artisans, e.g., as shown in US Patent Nos. 5,339,771 and 5,419,283. The present invention encompasses partially consumable toys, e.g., toys comprising plastic components, and fully consumable toys, e.g., various artificial bones and similar foods. Further, the invention encompasses toys for both human and non-human use, particularly toys for companion, farm, and zoo animal use, and more particularly for feline and canine use.

[0034] In another aspect, the present invention provides the food compositions of the present invention further comprising one or more renal drugs. Renal drugs useful in the invention are any renal drugs known to skilled artisans to be useful for combating kidney disease. Preferred drugs include lysosome-activating compounds such as those described in US Patent Number (USPN) 6,589,748, triterpene saponins such as those described in USPN 6,784,159, activin inhibitors such as those described in USPN 6,599,876 and US Patent Application Number (USPAN) 20020028762, integrin receptor inhibitors and TGF inhibitors such as those described in USPN 6,492,325, TGF activation inhibitors such as those described in USPN 6,458,767, and insulin-like growth factor (IGF) as described in USPN 5,723,441. Most Preferred drugs include Converting Enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, androgens, erythropoeten, and calcitriol. Angiotensin and endothelin are potent systemic vasoconstrictors with specific intrarenal effects that contribute to progressive renal injury. A variety of renal drugs are used to mitigate the effect of these vasoconstrictors. Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors (enalapril – Enacard and Vasotec and benazepril - Lotensin) have been associated with a reduction in the severity of proteinuria and slowing of progression of renal failure. The ACE inhibitor enalapril (Enacard, Vasotec) limits glomerular and systemic hypertension, proteinuria, and glomerular and tubulointerstitial lesions. Angiotensin blockers and endothelin inhibitors have beneficial effects in renal disease. Vasopeptide inhibitors are agents that inhibit both ACE and neutral endopeptidase, an enzyme involved in the breakdown of natriuretic peptides, adrenomedullin, and bradykinin. These renal drugs decrease angiotensin II production and increase accumulation of vasodilators. Renal patients with systemic hypertension respond to calcium channel blockers such as amlodipine (Norvasc). Uremic gastritis (esophagitis, gastritis, gastric ulceration and hemorrhage) is treated with H2 receptor antagonists (cimetidine – Tagamet, famotidine – Pepcid), proton pump blockers (omeprazole – Prilosec), cytoprotective agents (misoprostol – Cytotec), and antiemetic drugs that effect the emetic center (chlorpromazine – Thorazine, perchlorperazine – Compazine, metoclopramide - Reglan). Androgens or anabolic steroids (Stanozol, Winstrol-V) are used in the treatment of anemia associated with chronic renal failure. Hormone replacement therapy using recombinant human (or other species) erythropoeten (Epoetin alpha, Epogen, Procrit) is the treatment of choice for severe anemia associated with renal failure. Phosphate binders (aluminum hydroxide – Amphotet, aluminum carbonate - Basaljel) are used to control hyperphosphatemia and secondary renal hyperparathyroidism. Calcitriol (1, 25-dihydroxycholecalciferol) (Rocaltrol) and vitamin D

analogues cause a calcium- independent suppression of parathyroid hormone (PTH). Administration of phosphate binders, calcitriol and related compounds has been advocated in chronic renal failure to prevent multi-system toxicity caused by PTH. Potassium depletion and hypokalemia are common in cats with chronic renal failure. Oral supplementation of potassium in the form of potassium gluconate (Tumil K, RenaKare, Kolyum) or citrate is recommended. Holistic renal drugs and compositions are also included in the present invention. Preferred holistic renal drugs include cranberry extract and mannose. Cranberry extract is purported to reduce the prevalence of urinary tract infection which is a common risk factor for long-term decline of renal function. Renal drugs include typical small molecule pharmaceuticals, small proteins, macromolecular proteins and molecules, and antibodies and further include vaccines designed to prevent renal disease. Antibodies include polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies and immunoglobulin fragments such as Fv, Fab, Fab', F(ab')2, or other antigen-binding antibody subsequences that interact with an antigen and perform the same biological function as a native antibody. The renal drugs are administered to the patient using any method appropriate for the renal drug and in amounts known to skilled artisans to be sufficient to treat or prevent renal disease.

[0035] In a further aspect, the present invention provides a method for preventing or treating kidney disease. The method comprises feeding a patient a food composition comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium. The method further comprises feeding a patient a food composition comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium in conjunction with a kidney disease preventing or treating amount of a renal drug.

[0036] In another aspect, the present invention provides a method for preventing or treating kidney disease. The method comprises feeding a patient a food composition comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein. This aspect of the invention is based upon the novel discovery that food compositions containing protein in certain amounts can prevent or treat kidney disease while not causing the undesirable weight loss and muscle wasting characteristic of previously known food compositions having very low amounts of protein. In various embodiments, the food composition useful in the method comprises one or more food ingredients containing protein in amounts of from about 5% to about 40%, preferably from about 8% to about 25%, most preferably from about 10% to about 16%. The invention also provides a food composition for preventing or treating kidney disease comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, preferably in amounts of from about 5% to about 40%, more preferably from about 8% to about 25%, most preferably from about 10% to about 16%. In a further embodiment, the method comprises feeding a patient a food composition comprising one or more food ingredients containing protein in amounts of from about 5% to about 30%, sodium in amounts of from about 0.01% to about

2%, potassium in amounts of from about 0.01% to about 2%, and phosphorous in amounts of from about 0.2% to about 1%.

[0037] In another aspect, the present invention provides a method for manufacturing a food composition suitable for preventing or treating renal disease. The method comprises admixing a food composition containing extremely low amounts of one or more of protein, sodium, and potassium and one or more supplements containing sufficient protein, sodium, or potassium to produce a food composition containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium when the supplement(s) are admixed with the food composition containing extremely low amounts of one or more of protein, sodium, and potassium. In one embodiment, the food composition comprises one or more food ingredients containing protein in amounts of from about 5% to about 40%, sodium in amounts of from about 0.01% to about 1%, and potassium in amounts of from about 0.01% to about 1%.

[0038] In a further aspect, the present invention provides a kit comprising in separate containers in a single package a food composition containing extremely low amounts of one or more of protein, sodium, and potassium and one or more supplements containing sufficient protein, sodium, or potassium to produce a food composition containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium when the supplement(s) are admixed with the food composition containing extremely low amounts of one or more of protein, sodium, and potassium. The supplements can be food compositions containing protein, sodium, and/or potassium or can be compounds or other compositions suitable for consumption by a patient. Foods, minerals, and trace elements known to contain enriched amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium are particularly useful. Supplements useful for other diseases such as arthritis and supplements useful for cleaning teeth and ensuring fresh breath can be included, e.g., EPA, glucosamine, chondroitin sulfate, and SAMe. In other embodiments, the kit further comprises in separate containers in a single package or in separate containers in a virtual package, as appropriate for the kit component, at least one of (1) a renal drug, (2) a renal diagnostic device, (3) a means for communicating information about or instructions for admixing a food composition containing extremely low amounts of one or more of protein, sodium, and potassium and one or more supplements containing sufficient protein, sodium, or potassium to produce a food composition containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium when the supplement(s) are admixed with the food composition containing extremely low amounts of one or more of protein, sodium, and potassium, (4) a means for communicating information about or instructions for using a food composition comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium for preventing or treating kidney disease, (5) a means for communicating information about or instructions for administering in conjunction a food composition comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium and a renal drug for preventing or treating kidney disease, and (6) a

means for communicating information about or instructions for administering in conjunction a food composition comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium and using renal diagnostic devices for determining kidney function and evaluating the presence and severity of renal insufficiency or dysfunction. The kit components are typically in a separate package, in or on the package with one of the other kit components, or in a virtual package, as appropriate for the type of kit component. When the kit comprises a virtual package, the kit is limited to the instructions in a virtual environment in combination with one or more of the other physical kit components.

[0039] In an additional aspect, the present invention provides a kit comprising in separate containers in a single package or in separate containers in a virtual package, as appropriate, a food composition comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium and at least one of (1) a renal drug, (2) a renal diagnostic device, (3) a means for communicating information about or instructions for admixing a food composition containing extremely low amounts of one or more of protein, sodium, and potassium and one or more supplements containing sufficient protein, sodium, or potassium to produce a food composition containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium when the supplement(s) are admixed with the food composition containing extremely low amounts of one or more of protein, sodium, and potassium, (4) a means for communicating information about or instructions for using a food composition comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium for preventing or treating kidney disease, (5) a means for communicating information about or instructions for administering in conjunction a food composition comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium and a renal drug for preventing or treating kidney disease, and (6) a means for communicating information about or instructions for administering in conjunction a food composition comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium and using renal diagnostic devices for determining kidney function and evaluating the presence and severity of renal insufficiency or dysfunction. The kit components are typically in a separate package, in or on the package with one of the other kit components, or in a virtual package, as appropriate for the type of kit component. When the kit comprises a virtual package, the kit is limited to the instructions in a virtual environment in combination with one or more of the other physical kit components.

[0040] The food composition in a kit comprises one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium.

[0041] In some embodiments, the kits contain one or more renal diagnostic devices for determining kidney function and evaluating the presence and severity of renal insufficiency or dysfunction in a patient. The renal diagnostic devices are typically in a separate package but may be in the package

with one of the other kit components. The renal diagnostic devices useful in the present invention include any device suitable for determining kidney function and evaluating the presence and severity of renal insufficiency or dysfunction in an animal. Preferred diagnostic methods include serum urea nitrogen (SUN), creatinine levels, urine specific gravity, and DNA damage, including urine assays for albumin such as those described in USPN 6,589,748, USPN 6,447,989 and USPN 20050026225 and comet tail assays. Diagnostic methods are based upon known techniques including (1) blood markers such as elevated blood urea nitrogen concentration, elevated serum creatinine concentration, hyperphosphatemia, hyperkalemia or hypokalemia, metabolic acidosis and hypoalbuminemia, (2) urine markers such as impaired urine concentrating ability, proteinuria, cylindruria, renal hematuria, inappropriate urine pH, inappropriate urine glucose concentration, and cystinuria, (3) physical, imaging, and diagnostic markers such as size, shape, location, and density, (4) single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) such as those disclosed in WO 2004113570 A2, (5) genetic profiles that are indicative of renal insufficiency or dysfunction, (6) proteomic profiles that are indicative of renal insufficiency or dysfunction, and (7) metabolic profiles that are indicative of renal insufficiency or dysfunction. These diagnostic methods and devices (e.g., test strips, ELISA assays, comet assays,) based upon such methods are commonly available to skilled artisans such as scientists and health care professionals and many are available to consumers, e.g., the Heska Corporation's (Fort Collins Colorado) E.R.D.-HealthScreen Urine Tests that detects small amounts of albumin in the urine ("microalbuminuria").

[0042] The kits provide a food composition comprising one or more food ingredients containing protein in amounts of from about 5% to about 40%, sodium in amounts of from about 0.01% to about 1%, and potassium in amounts of from about 0.01% to about 1%.

[0043] In another aspect, the present invention provides a means for communicating information about or instructions for (1) using a food composition containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium for preventing or treating kidney disease, (2) administering in conjunction a food composition comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium and a renal drug for preventing or treating kidney disease, (3) admixing and administering a food composition containing extremely low amounts of one or more of protein, sodium, and potassium and one or more supplements containing sufficient protein, sodium, or potassium to produce a food composition containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium when the supplement(s) are admixed with the food composition containing extremely low amounts of one or more of protein, sodium, and potassium, (4) using a kit of the present invention for preventing or treating renal disease, and (5) administering in conjunction a food composition comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium and using renal diagnostic devices for determining kidney function and evaluating the presence and severity of renal insufficiency or dysfunction. The communicating means comprises a

document, digital storage media, optical storage media, audio presentation, or visual display containing the information or instructions. Preferably, the communication is a displayed web site or a brochure, product label, package insert, advertisement, or visual display containing such information or instructions. Useful information includes one or more of (1) methods and techniques for manufacturing and/or administering the food compositions of the invention and renal drugs, (2) information for using the renal diagnostic devices, (3) details about the side effects, if any, caused by using the present invention in combination with other drugs, and (4) contact information for patients to use if they have a question about the invention and its use. Useful instructions include dosages, administration amounts and frequency, and administration routes. The communication means is useful for instructing a patient on the benefits of using the present invention and communicating the approved methods for administering the invention to a patient.

[0044] The compositions, methods, and kits are useful for decreasing the morbidity and mortality for patients susceptible to or suffering from kidney disease.

EXAMPLES

[0045] This invention can be further illustrated by the following examples of preferred embodiments thereof, although it will be understood that these examples are included merely for purposes of illustration and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention unless otherwise specifically indicated.

Example 1

Canine Study

[0046] **Study Design:** This study utilized 10 healthy geriatric beagle dogs (10 years old or over) per group (40 dogs total). The dogs were determined to be healthy by physical exam and blood chemistry screen. Dogs with confirmed renal failure, cancer, arthritis, hypothyroidism or other diseases were excluded. The dogs were cared for in accordance with Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee protocols. The study design utilized a 30 day pre-feeding period followed by a 6 month test feeding period for a total of 7 months.

[0047] During the 30 day pre-feeding period, all dogs were fed a control formula food. During the last week of the pre-feeding period, blood and urine samples were taken from each animal. Dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA) scans pressure map analysis were also performed. The dogs were then blocked by age, gender and body fat percentage and assigned to 4 different treatment groups. Each group of dogs was randomly assigned to receive either the new Geriatric food or one of three competitor products.

[0048] During the 7 month test period, blood samples were drawn at 1 month, 3 months and 6 months for analysis of biomarkers. Dogs were scanned by DXA at 3 months and 6 months to document changes in body composition and bone density. To assess changes in kidney health, urine microalbuminuria tests were performed at 3 months and 6 months. Throughout the duration of the

study, body weights were recorded weekly and food intake recorded daily. Additionally, dogs were offered enrichment toys, received routine grooming and had daily opportunities for socialization with other dogs and people. Blood samples were also collected to determine proteomic/genomic marker differences over time.

[0049] Removal Criteria: If dogs were diagnosed with renal disease, cancer, hypothyroidism, Cushings or other disease, they were removed from the study and received treatment appropriate for their disease condition. In addition, dogs that refused to eat at least 25% of their assigned food for more than 4 days or had weight loss that exceeds 2.0%/weekly, they were removed from the study. Other health issues or conditions that arose during the study, such as diarrhea, were monitored and treated as needed while attempting to maintain the dogs on the assigned treatment foods. If the necessary treatment involved switching dogs to another food for more than 4 days, the dog was removed from the study.

[0050] Data was taken according to the Study Schedule shown below. The foods used in the study are shown in Table 1. The data were collected using the Analytical Methods shown herein. The study was conducted using the Feeding and/or Treatment Administration regime shown below.

Study Schedule

Study Day	Procedure	Measurement	Sample
Pre-Feeding Period			
Days 0-30	All dogs receive Control Food	Food Intake daily Body Weight - weekly	
Day 30	Block by age, gender, body fat & assign to groups & foods		10 ml blood- Biomarkers & chemistry Screen 5 ml Urine-micro-albuminuria & specific gravity
Test Feeding Period			
Days 31-210	Each group of dogs receive assigned food	Food intake - daily Body weight - weekly	10 ml blood – Biomarkers and chemistry screen (day 61,121, 211) 5 ml Urine-micro-albuminuria and specific gravity (day 61,121, 211)

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Table I

Analyzed Nutrient Profiles of the Four Foods Utilized in the Study

Nutrients, 100% Dry Matter Basis	Food 61522	Food 62292	Food 62794	Food 62814
Crude Protein, %	20.10	27.65	27.76	29.39
Fat, %	16.45	13.52	11.08	13.59
Ca, %	0.71	0.79	1.28	1.35
P, %	0.61	0.68	0.93	1.14
EPA, %	0.32	0.10	<0.01	0.10
Total n-3 fatty acids, %	1.30	0.48	0.13	0.41
Total n-6 fatty acids, %	3.96	3.10	1.79	2.66
Taurine, ppm	1400	1090	<100	1600
Carnitine, ppm	314	55	19	84
Methionine, %	1.00	0.49	0.51	0.66
Cystine, %	0.25	0.43	0.47	0.34
Manganese, ppm	87	77	71	69
Vitamin E, IU/kg	1492	594	894	421
Vitamin C, ppm	127	288	86	21

Analytical Methods

5 [0051] Urine Samples: Microalbuminuria were performed on all urine samples collected during the study.

[0052] Blood Samples: Blood samples collected on days 0, 30 and 90 were analyzed for arthritic markers, antioxidant status markers, fatty acids, amino acids and chemistry screen to ensure the health of all animals on the study.

Feeding and/or Treatment Administration

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Food 61522			
Weight (lbs)	Dry Food		Dry Food
	kcal/Day	Amount per Day (cups)	Amount per Day (cups)
0.5	37	1/8	1/8 - 1/8
1	62	1/8	1/8 - 1/4
1.5	84	1/4	1/4 - 1/4
2	104	1/3	1/4 - 1/3

2.5	123	1/3	1/3 - 3/8
3	141	3/8	1/3 - 1/2
4	175	1/2	3/8 - 5/8
5	207	5/8	1/2 - 2/3
6	237	2/3	5/8 - 3/4
7	266	3/4	5/8 - 7/8
8	294	7/8	2/3 - 1
9	322	7/8	3/4 - 1
10	348	1	7/8 - 1 1/8
15	472	1 1/3	1 1/8 - 1 1/2
20	585	1 2/3	1 3/8 - 1 7/8
25	692	2	1 5/8 - 2 1/4
30	794	2 1/4	1 7/8 - 2 5/8
40	985	2 3/4	2 1/3 - 3 1/4
50	1164	3 1/4	2 3/4 - 3 7/8
60	1335	3 3/4	3 1/8 - 4 3/8
70	1498	4 1/4	3 1/2 - 4 7/8
80	1656	4 2/3	3 7/8 - 5 3/8
90	1809	5 1/8	4 1/3 - 5 7/8
100	1958	5 1/2	4 5/8 - 6 3/8

Food 62794

Weight, lbs	Weight, kg	Minimum food, g	Mid point food, g	Maximum, food, g
3 - 12	1.4 - 5.5	53	93	133
13 - 20	5.9 - 9.1	133	160	186
21 - 35	9.5 - 15.9	186	226	265
36 - 50	16.4 - 22.7	265	305	345
51 - 75	23.2 - 34.1	345	398	451
76 - 100	34.5 - 45.5	451	504	557
Over 100	45.5 +			

Based on standard 8oz cup (351 kcal/cup, 1510 kcal/lb, 3.3 kcal/gram, 106 gram/cup)

[0053] Amounts are recommended for an average adult dog with normal activity. Food intake requirements vary depending on age, activity, and environment, and should be adjusted accordingly.

Food 62814

Weight, lbs	Weight, kg	Minimum, Grams/day
3	1.4	25
10	4.5	80
20	9.1	115
30	13.6	150
40	18.2	185
50	22.7	215

[0054] Those guideline amounts are a starting point and your dog may need more food depending upon age, activity and temperament. To reach an optimal body condition, you may need to adjust food intake. Feed this formula to dogs up to 100 lbs, who are 7 years and older.

Food 62292

Weight, lbs	Weight, kg	Indoor	Activity (1 hr)	Activity (2 hr)
26.4	12	165	185	205
30.8	14	185	205	230
35.2	16	200	230	255
39.6	18	220	250	275
44.0	20	240	270	300
48.4	22	255	285	320
52.8	24	270	305	340
55.0	25	280	315	350

Optimal feeding amounts may vary with age, temperament and environment.

Example 2

Feline Study

[0055] Study Design: This study utilized 10 healthy geriatric cats (12 years old or over) per group (40 cats total). The cats were determined to be healthy by physical exam and blood chemistry screen. Cats with confirmed renal failure, cancer, arthritis, hyperthyroidism or other diseases were excluded. The cats were located in the Hill's Pet Nutrition Center (Topeka, KS) and were cared for in accordance with Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee protocols. The study design utilized a 30 day pre-feeding period followed by a 6 month test feeding period for a total test period of 7 months.

[0056] During the 30 day pre-feeding period, all cats were fed the control formula food (Science Diet Senior without the antioxidant package). During the last week of the pre-feeding period, blood samples taken and DXA scans were performed. The cats were then blocked by age, gender and body fat percentage and assigned to 3 different groups. Each group of cats was randomly assigned to

receive either the new geriatric food or one of three competitor products. All foods were formulated to meet or exceed AAFCO nutrient recommendations.

[0057] During the 7 month test period, blood samples were taken at 1 month, 3 months and 6 months for analysis of biomarkers. Cats were scanned by DXA at 3 months and 6 months to document changes in body composition and bone density. To assess changes in kidney health, urine microalbuminuria tests were performed at 1 month, 3 months and 6 months. Throughout the duration of the study, body weight was recorded weekly and food intake recorded daily. Additionally, cats were offered enrichment toys, received routine grooming and had daily opportunities for socialization with other cats and people.

[0058] Removal Criteria: If at any point in the study, cats were diagnosed with renal disease, cancer, hyperthyroidism, or other disease, they were removed from the study and received treatment appropriate for their disease condition. In addition, cats that refuse to eat at least 25% of their assigned food for more than 4 days or had weight loss that exceeds 2.0%/week, were removed from the study. Other health issues or conditions that arose during the study, such as diarrhea, were monitored and treated as needed while attempting to maintain the cats on the assigned treatment foods. If the necessary treatment involved switching cats to another food for more than 4 days, the cat was removed from the study.

[0059] Data was taken according to the Study Schedule shown below. The foods used in the study are shown in Table 2. The data were collected using the Analytical Methods shown herein. The study was conducted using the Feeding and/or Treatment Administration regime shown below.

[0060] The results of the study were analyzed to determine the affects of various foods, food components, and nutrients on the kidney and their usefulness for the prevention and/or treatment of kidney disease. The results show that relatively low levels of protein, sodium, and potassium are beneficial for preventing and/or treating kidney disease.

Study Schedule

Study Day	Procedure	Measurement	Sample
Pre-Feeding Period			
Days 0-30	All cats receive Control Food	Food Intake daily Body weight-weekly	
Day 30	Block by age, gender, body fat & assign to groups & foods		10 ml blood-Biomarkers & chemistry Screen 5 ml Urine-micro-albuminuria & specific gravity

Test Feeding Period			
Days 31-210	Each group of dogs receive assigned food	Food intake - daily Body weight - weekly	10 ml blood – Biomarkers and chemistry screen (day 61,121, 211) 5 ml Urine-micro-albuminuria and specific gravity (day 61,121, 211)

Table 2
Analyzed Nutrient Profiles of the Four Foods Utilized in the Study

Key Nutrients, 100% Dry Matter Basis	Food 61526	Food 62264	Food 62695	Food 62779
Crude Protein, %	35.73	34.85	30.52	40.45
Fat, %	22.47	15.39	23.63	15.69
Ca, %	0.94	1.22	0.80	1.38
P, %	0.77	1.05	0.72	1.30
DHA, %	0.23	0.08	0.11	0.07
EPA, %	0.32	0.07	0.13	0.07
Total n-3 fatty acids, %	1.14	0.28	0.74	0.32
Total n-6 fatty acids, %	5.09	2.87	5.02	2.13
Taurine, ppm	2100	1800	1600	2100
Carnitine, ppm	367	28	90	28
Methionine, %	1.32	1.05	0.72	0.77
Cystine, %	0.47	0.38	0.51	0.53
Manganese, ppm	104	63	70	73
Vitamin E, IU/kg	1292	390	608	964
Vitamin C, ppm	141	12	511	110

Analytical Methods

[0061] Urine Samples: Microablumeria were performed on all urine samples collected during the study.

[0062] Blood Samples: Blood samples collected on days 30, 59 and 120 and 210 were analyzed for arthritic markers, antioxidant status markers, fatty acids, amino acids and chemistry screen to ensure the health of all animals on the study.

Feeding and/or Treatment Administration

Food 61526

Weight (lbs)	kcal/Day	Dry Food	Dry Food
		Amount per Day (cups)	Amount per Day (cups)
0.5	28	1/8	1/8 - 1/8
1	46	1/8	1/8 - 1/8
1.5	63	1/8	1/8 - 1/8
2	78	1/4	1/8 - 1/4
2.5	92	1/4	1/4 - 1/4
3	106	1/4	1/4 - 1/3
4	131	1/3	1/4 - 3/8
5	155	3/8	1/3 - 1/2
6	178	1/2	3/8 - 1/2
7	200	1/2	3/8 - 5/8
8	221	1/2	1/2 - 5/8
9	241	5/8	1/2 - 2/3
10	261	2/3	1/2 - 1/4
15	354	7/8	3/4 - 1

Food 62779

Weight, lbs	Weight, kg	Minimum food, g	Mid point food, g	Maximum, food, g
5-9	2-4	35	44	53
10-14	4-6	71	89	106

Food 62264

Weight, lbs	Weight, kg	Minimum food, g	Mid point food, g	Maximum, food, g
4	2	25	30	35
8	4	50	60	70
12	6	75	88	100

16	8	95	115	135
22	10	120	145	170

[0064] The chart lists the approximate amount of food your cat will need daily to maintain a healthy body weight (Portions are based on the use of a standard 8 ounce measuring cup). Your cat may eat more or less depending on age, temperament and activity. Adjust to maintain ideal body weight.

Food 62695

Weight, lbs	Weight, kg	Lean	Ideal	Overweight
4 - 7	2 - 3	51	51	41
7 - 11	3 - 5	82	68	51
11 - 15	5 - 7	102	89	82
15 - 22	7 - 10	136	115	102

Standard 8 oz measuring cup = 102 grams. Optimal feeding amounts may vary according to your cat's temperament, activity level, and environment.

Calculations and Statistics

[0065] Data from both Examples were analyzed using General Linear Models procedure of SAS to determine treatment means. The experimental unit was dog or cat and day 0 was used as a covariate. The geriatric food was then compared to the three other foods. Differences were considered significant when $P < 0.05$ and trends were determined when $P < 0.10$.

Results

[0066] The results of the two studies were analyzed to determine the affects of various foods, food components, and nutrients on the kidney and their usefulness for the prevention and/or treatment of kidney disease. The results show that food compositions containing relatively low levels of protein, sodium, and potassium are beneficial for preventing and/or treating kidney disease.

[0067] In the specification, there have been disclosed typical preferred embodiments of the invention and, although specific terms are employed, they are used in a generic and descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation, the scope of the invention being set forth in the following claims. Obviously many modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings. It is therefore to be understood that within the scope of the appended claims the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described.

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THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A food composition when used for preventing or treating kidney disease in a patient comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium, and wherein the composition contains protein in amounts of from 10% to 20%, sodium in amounts of from 0.1% to 0.5%, and potassium in amounts of from 0.1% to 0.5%.
2. The composition according to any one of claims 1 further comprising phosphorous in amounts of from about 0.2% to about 1%.
3. The composition according to claim 1 or claim 2 further comprising one or more renal drugs.
4. The composition according to any one of claims 1-3 wherein the renal drug is selected from the group consisting of Converting Enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, androgens, erythropoietin, angiotensin, endothelin, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors, calcium channel blockers, H2 receptor antagonists, proton pump blockers, and calcitriol.
5. A method for preventing or treating kidney disease comprising feeding a patient a food composition comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium wherein the food composition contains protein in amounts of from 10% to 20%, sodium in amounts of from 0.1% to 0.5%, and potassium in amounts of from 0.1% to 0.5%.
6. The method according to any one of claims 5 wherein the food composition further comprising phosphorous in amounts of from 0.2% to 1%.
7. The method according to claim 5 or claim 6 further comprising feeding the food composition in conjunction with a kidney disease preventing or treating amount of a renal drug.
8. The method according to any one of claims 5-7 wherein the patient is a canine or a feline.

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9. The method according to any one of claims 5-8 wherein the food is a canned moist food or a dry food.
10. A method for manufacturing a food composition when used for preventing or treating renal disease comprising admixing a food composition containing extremely low amounts of one or more of protein, sodium, and potassium and one or more supplements containing sufficient protein, sodium, or potassium to produce a food composition containing relatively low amounts of protein, sodium, and potassium when the supplement(s) are admixed with the food composition containing extremely low amounts of one or more of protein, sodium, and potassium
wherein the food composition comprises one or more food ingredients containing protein in amounts of from 10% to 20%, sodium in amounts of from 0.1% to 0.5%, and potassium in amounts of from 0.1% to 0.5%.
11. A method for preventing or treating kidney disease comprising feeding a patient a food composition comprising one or more food ingredients containing relatively low amounts of protein
wherein the food composition contains protein in amounts of from 10% to 20%, sodium in amounts of from 0.1% to 0.5%, and potassium in amounts of from 0.1% to 0.5%.