One out of every four obese school-aged

children (6 to 12 years old) develops an

are nearly 40 years old, metabolic

obesity.

future.

illness typically associated with adults that

syndrome, due to one clear reason: child

It has been revealed in a study carried out

by the department chair of the Institute of

Hernández, who warns that this syndrome

provokes arterial hypertension in children,

insulin resistance, and, in the long term,

type two diabetes, an illness associated

with numerous cardiovascular pathologies

cost for the Spanish Health Service in the

affects nowadays 17% of Spanish children,

consequences (a high level of triglycerides

According to the expert, child obesity

who suffer clinical consequences

(hypertension) and biochemical

and whose treatment will mean an elevated

Food Nutrition and Technology of the

University of Granada, Ángel Gil

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in plasma) because of it. The appearance of cardiovascular illnesses associated with obesity and diabetes will mean a grave problem in only a few years, postulates Gil Hernández.

A pandemic of the 21st century

The "ill-fated combination" of inadequate nutrient intake and a sedentary lifestyle, or cases of physical inactivity, can be found among the causes of child obesity ("one of the pandemics of the 21st century"). "Contrary to what most parents believe", affirms the university chair, "physical exercise is the key to combat obesity, child or adult: we could say that, along with the genetic predisposition, 70% of our figures are owed to exercise and only the remaining 30% correspond to diet". Gil Hernández recalls a Spanish saying that asserts that the secret of a good diet is "a little food and lots of foot".

According to the estimations of the study group directed by the University chair, if present day pattern continues, the cases of type-two diabetes in child population will have quadrupled by 2020. Angel Gil Hernández is the UGR Professor with more articles published in nutrition journals with a high-impact rate. Among other scientific journals, his papers have been published in Clinical Science, British Journal of Nutrition, and International Journal of Obesity.-Universidad de Granada

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