

## Effect of Fat Percentage and Prebiotic Composition on Proteolysis, ACE-Inhibitory and Antioxidant Activity of Probiotic Yogurt

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**Abstract :** In recent years, the consumption of functional foods, including foods containing probiotic bacteria, has come to notice. Milk proteins have been identified as a source of angiotensin-I-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitory peptides and are currently the best-known class of bioactive peptides. In this study, the effects of adding prebiotic ingredients (inulin and wheat fiber) and fat percentage (0%, 2% and 3.5%) in yogurt containing probiotic *Lactobacillus casei* on physicochemical properties, degree of proteolysis, antioxidant and ACE-inhibitory activity within 21 days of storage at  $5 \pm 1$  °C were evaluated. The results of statistical analysis showed that the application of prebiotic compounds led to a significant increase in water holding capacity, proteolysis and ACE-inhibitory of samples. The degree of proteolysis in yogurt increases as storage time elapses ( $P < 0.05$ ) but when proteolysis exceeds a certain threshold, this trend begins to decline. Also, during storage time, water holding capacity reduced initially but increased thereafter. Moreover, based on our findings, the survival of *Lactobacillus casei* in samples treated with inulin and wheat fiber increased significantly in comparison to the control sample ( $P < 0.05$ ) whereas the effect of fat percentage on the survival of probiotic bacteria was not significant ( $P = 0.095$ ). Furthermore, the effect of prebiotic ingredients and the presence of probiotic cultures on the antioxidant activity of samples was significant ( $P < 0.05$ ).

**Keywords :** probiotic yogurt, proteolysis, ACE-inhibitory, antioxidant activity

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