Non-thermal Treatments for Food Preservation

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Abstract

Objectives: The purpose of this work was to review the recent advances in the non-thermal treatments for food preservation such as ultrasound, microwave, ultraviolet irradiation, electric field, electromagnetic field, and high hydrostatic pressure. **Methods/Statistical Analysis:** In order to elaborate this review, it was performed the following procedure: First, by the use of databases available, the principal findings published related to the non-thermal treatments used to preserve specific food product were chosen. Second, the principal characteristics such as conditions of operation, effects on mechanical and physicochemical properties, and relevant results were highlighted from each study. Third, a short description of each study was realized. **Findings**: In this review, the non-thermal treatments can generate in food minimal alterations of the physicochemical and mechanical properties, stimulate the production of edible microorganism, generate localized heating conserving its nutritional quality, promote the enzymatic inactivation, and have antimicrobial effects. **Application/Improvements**: Non-thermal treatments used for sterilization process in food can implement the use of others technologies such as example the nanostructured materials used in the fabrication of food packaging, the use of different types of food packaging i.e., active, intelligent, biodegradable, the application of treatments such as the use of nzyme or biopreservation, and the incorporation of bio-compounds.

Keywords: Electric Pulses, Electromagnetic Pulses, Food Preservation, Hydrostatic Pressure, Microbial Inactivation, Microwave, Ultrasound

1. Introduction

Reduction of the microbial load and the water activity is an objective of food preservation. The microbial load is referred to as microorganisms and enzymes that cause food spoilage. Water activity determinates the amount of water available that can participate in the chemical reactions in food such for example the microbiological growth. At the same time, food deterioration process is catalyzed by environmental factors (i.e., temperature, humidity, oxygen, and light) that trigger this effect and have repercussions on the product acceptability by consumers.

The preservation methods looking for securing and guaranteeing the food integrity by the inactivation of pathogen and microorganism without modifying its organoleptic and nutritional characteristics. Nowadays, the thermal treatments in the food industry are used to inactive the microbial and enzymatic process, although, specific microorganism, such as spores from bacteria, are not susceptible to the effects antimicrobial of heat treatments^{4,5}.

Therefore, in the last years, non-thermal technologies are being used to inactivate these microorganisms, obtaining food product sterilized and with high nutritional quality. New non-thermal technologies such as ultrasound, microwave, ultraviolet irradiation, electric and electromagnetic pulses, and high hydrostatic pressure are being applied to the inactivation of the microbial load at temperatures close to the environment.

In this review are highlighted recent studies performed in the different types of non-thermal technologies such

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as ultrasound, microwave, ultraviolet irradiation, electric and electromagnetic pulses, and high hydrostatic pressure, which are focused onobtaining of pathogen-free food (Figure 1).

2. Non-Thermal Treatments

2.1 Ultrasound

UltraSound (US) are an oscillating sound pressure wave that generates changes to the local level, for example, the medium's density and pressure. At the same time, the ultrasound exerts both thermal and non-thermal effects on liquids and in soft tissues⁷. This type of energy produces pressure waves with frequency upper to 20 KHz and can be divided into two categories: low intensity (i.e., frequency > 100 kHz with intensities < 1 W/cm2) and high intensity (i.e., 20 kHz <frequency > 500 kHz with intensities > 1 W/cm2)^{6,8}. Nowadays, this technology is being used in the processes for food products elaboration and their sterilization. In the food industry, this method allows the inactivation of microorganism due to the capacity of the ultrasound to generates damage to cell level by breakage of the cell walls, disruption and

thinning of cell membranes, and DNA damage via free radical production². This technology is useful for the conservation of the product and has potential in the food industry to develop safe, economical processes that positively affect the properties of food.

Recently, researchers have reported the use of ultrasound to food conservation. Aspects such as the microbiological quality (i.e., i.e., mesophiles, total coliforms, and fecal) and functional properties (i.e., pH and stability of the emulsions) of buffalo meat (Bubalus bubalis) have been evaluated under the combined ultrasound and magnetic fields. The results indicated that the exposition to both physical stimuli increased the stability of the emulsions with a decrease in pH and stimulated the antimicrobial activity10. Similarly, evaluated the effects produced by the exposition to the ultrasound and the magnetic fields on pH, texture profile and color in tuna loin meat (Thunnus albacares). According to the results of this study, the combination of these effects generated changes in mechanical properties (i.e., a decrease of hardness and elasticity) and the color of the meat⁶.

In the same way, in products such as the milk and vegetables also have been evaluated the effects caused by the exposition to several ultrasound intensities.

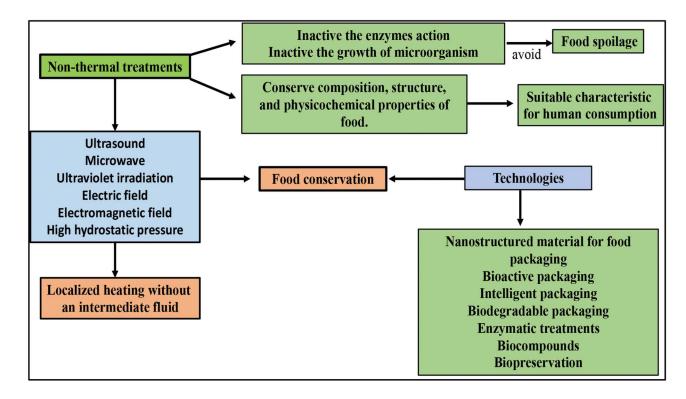


Figure 1. Non-thermal treatment used in the food industry.

Gelvez-Ordoñes and coworkers (2015)11, proved packed milk under vacuum to thermosonication (40 KHz) at temperatures of 40, 50, 60 and 70 ° C, for 30 minutes. This treatment positively affected the pH, acidity and viscosity parameters of milk during storage; except for the density that did not show significant changes. The treatments that conserved the parameters within the allowed ranges of the milk during the 15 days were those that used sound waves at 40 kHz at temperatures of 60°C during 30 min. Likewise, the effects of ultrasound in vegetables are used principally to their disinfection without altering the physicochemical properties. In their study examined the microbicidal activity of Slightly Acid Electrolyzed Water (SAEW) in col Chinese, lettuce, sesame leaves, and spinach, four fresh vegetables common in Korea¹². These researchers indicated that a simultaneous treatment with SAEW with ultrasound at 40 kHz followed by washing with water at room temperature produced improved microbial reductions of Escherichia coli O157: H7, Listeria monocytogenes, yeasts, and molds in these vegetables species.

Similarly, experimented with ultraviolet light (UV 254 nm) and ultrasound (frequency of 37 kHz and a power of up to 30 W / L) to inactive bacteria (i.e., E coli, Listeria innocua, Salmonella enteritidis and Staphylococcus aureus) in lettuce and strawberries8. The results of this study demonstrated the antimicrobial effect caused by this biophysical stimulation without altering the color of the vegetables. Besides, the combination of ultrasounds and surfactants to reduce the spores of Bacillus cereus in lettuce and carrots have demonstrated to be an alternative method to conventional disinfectants containing chlorine¹³. In this study, the combination of ultrasound and 0.1% Tween 20 produced reductions of the levels of spores of B.cereus in lettuce and carrots, respectively, without causing a deterioration in their quality.

Likewise, it has found that ultrasound stimulates the production of edible fungi. In $\frac{14}{2}$ analyzed the effects of ultrasound treatment on the physicochemical characteristics of species of edible fungi Pleurotus ostreatus. These researchers exposed packed samples in low-density polyethylene bags with a vacuum of 60 % at 40 KHz with different temperatures 20, 40 and 60 ° C for several times periods. The changes in the characteristics of color, pH and enzymatic activity storage under refrigeration conditions determined that the best condition for fungi growth under ultrasound be at 40 °C. In Table 1 described some studies related to ultrasound treatment for food preservation.

2.2 Microwave

Microwaves are electromagnetic waves generated in the frequency range between 300 MHz and 3000 MHz. This type of waves is found between the infrared and radio The effects caused by the microwave radiation are subjected to the electrical properties of the material15.

Food can store and dissipate electric energy when subjected to an electromagnetic field due to their poor insulator properties and dielectric properties16. Also, the use of Microwave Assisted Thermal Sterilization (MATS) is being used as an alternative for sterilization of food. In this technique, the food products are exposed to 915 MHz frequency microwave energy with the purpose of reaching internal heating homogeneous. Dr. Juming Tang's Microwave Group at Washington State University developed this technology17. The food industry uses this type of stimulation for food preparation and conservation. The objective of this technique is obtaining localized heating without the usage of an intermediate fluid^{18, 19.}

The application of this technique in the food conservation is focused in Microwave Assisted Pasteurization and Sterilization without altering the properties physicochemical and organoleptic characteristics of food. Likewise, this technique is used for the process such as thawing and tempering, precooking and cooking, baking, drying, and blanching20.

The effect of microwave sterilization on fruit, fruitcake, and vegetable²¹⁻²⁴, mashed²⁵, meat products (i.e., stewed pork liver and recombinant meat)²⁶, cereals (i.e., rice, rice noodles)27, etc., are some examples of the application of microwave stimulation in food preservation. The stimulation by microwaves has allowed not only the inhibition of microorganism activity and the degree of browning, but also, the conservation of the nutritional content, color, and texture19.

Recenty, studies determined the some have electromagnetic energy from the microwave works favorably in the process of destruction of fungus. It has found that the microwaves achieve to inactivate the microbial load and preserve the attributes of mango juice (i.e., pH and soluble solids concentration). In this study, the juice was subjected to the action of microwave (2450 MHz and power 1.5 kW) resulting in the decrease of microbial population of filamentous fungi Aspergillus sp²⁸, ²⁹. Similarly, this technique has been used in the pas-

Table 1.Ultrasound treatment for food preservation and processing

| Food Products | Operation Conditions | Principal Results |
|---|--|--|
| Emulsion of buffalo meat (Bubalus bubalis). | 37 kHz and 0.1147 T. Temperature of 16 °C. | Reduction of mesophiles and total coliforms. |
| Tuna meat (Thunnus albacares). | 37kHz, 25W/cm ² , and 1 Tesla. Temperature of 18°C. | Decrease of hardness and elasticity |
| Milk | Thermosonication (40 KwHz) to temperatures of 40, 50, 60 and 70 °C for 30 minutes. | The treatment positively affects color, pH, acidity and viscosity of milk. |
| Chinese cabbage, lettuce, sesame leaf and spinach | Simultaneous slightly acid electrolyzed water (SAEW) treatment + 40 kHz | Reductions of E. coli O157:H7 and L. monocytogenes |
| Lettuce and strawberry | Frequency of 37 kHz and a power up to 30 W/L) during 10, 20, 30, 45 and 60 min. | Reduction of E. coli and S. Enteritidis. |

teurization of orange juice. In this study, the juice was exposed to at various temperatures (i.e., 60, 70, 75 and 85 °C) in an oven microwave with 3 kW and frequency of 2.45 GHz where the activity of Pectin Methyl Esterase (PME), color, compounds of carotenoids and the content of vitamin C were monitored. The results showed the stabilization of fresh juice by the inactivation of the enzyme activity²⁸.

Likewise, De la Vega-Miranda and coworkers analyzed the treatment of water-assisted microwave against the pathogenic bacterium Salmonella typhimurium in Jalapeno and cilantro fresh. These researchers found a feasible option of thermal treatment using a domestic microwave. Jalapeño and cilantro were exposed to 950 Watt for 25 seconds and 10 seconds, respectively. In both vegetables, it was seen a reduction of the population of bacteria with no changes in their firmness. Besides, changes in the color of the vegetables were seen, but no sensory acceptance was affected30. On the other hand, similar results were obtained in the beef meat using different times of radiation (10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 s). The results of this study showed a total elimination of E. coli O157: H7 after the end of the exposure time of 30 s, when the surface temperature increased to 73 ° C³¹. Finally, researchers also have obtained extracts from thinned nectarines, which can block the action of the polyphenoloxidase enzyme. Studies in minimally processed peaches have demonstrated this effect32. In Table 2 described some studies related to microwave treatment used in food preservation.

2.3 Ultraviolet Irradiation

Ultraviolet light has three regions: UV-A, UV-B, and UV-C, which corresponds to 315-400 nm, 280-315 nm, and 200-280 nm respectively33. USDA (United States Department of Agriculture, USA) has approved the use of the irradiation light (UV-C) in food products for the disinfection process³⁴, ³⁵. This type of irradiation causes damage a cell level because of the formation of thymine dimers that inactive the DNA transcription and replication 35, 36. Researchers have indicated that this technique is very secured due to the reduced potency of the gamma rays that can make the food radioactive and the no direct contact with the food during the exposition 37. Nevertheless, the lack of studies that predict the surface disinfection rate and the high cost in operation of this technique have caused that this technology is not widely applied $\frac{38}{}$.

Recent studies have reported that UV-C can disinfect a wide variety of fruits with slight changes in its physicochemical properties³⁹. Also, similar effects have been observed in eggs⁴⁰. Researchers have found that UV-C irradiation on Dragon fruit (*Hylocereusundatus* (Haw) Britt. and Rose) decreased the microbial growth of bacteria, coliforms, yeast, and mold³⁵. Also, a study has evaluated the UV-C light effects on the structure, color and the sensory properties of fresh-cut apples⁴¹. The results of this study showed that the application of this technique generated an antimicrobial effect in the fruits. Although, the fruits exposed to values above 1.2 kJ/m2 presented dehydration and oxidation.Likewise,

Table 2. Micro wave treatment for food preservation

| Food Product | Operation Conditions | Principal Results |
|--|--|---|
| Mango juice | 2450 MHz microwave and 1.5 kW power. | Reduction of filamentous fungi <i>Aspergillus</i> sp. |
| Peach fruit nectar (<i>Prunus persica</i> (L.) Batschvar. <i>Laura nectarine</i>) | High levels of microwave power (500, 1000 and 1500 W). | Inhibition of enzymatic browning in minimally processed peaches during 8 days of storage. |
| Orange Juice | 3 kW and standard frequency of 2.45 GHz at different temperatures (60, 70, 75, and 85 $^{\circ}$ C). | Inactivation of pectin methyl esterase (PME), decreased content of carotenoids and ascorbic acid. |
| Jalapeño peppers and coriander foliage | 950 W to reach up 63 °C for 10 and 25 s. | Reduction of <i>Salmonella</i> population. |
| Beefcattleslices | 2450 MHz and 850 watts and radiation for 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 s. | Total reduction of E. coli O157: H7. |

the impact of this technique on the safety and quality of fresh melon during cutting and before packaging also has been evaluated39. According to the results, it was produced various effects such as the reduction in the growth of Enterobacteriaceae, the decrease of the filtration, and no significant changes on the color and the firmness of the product during storage at 6 °C for 14 days.

Studies realized fruits such as mango, pineapple and mamey minimally processed demonstrated that radiation dose UV-C (i.e., 0, 7 and 14 kJ/m²) does not alter their physico-chemical, microbiological and antioxidants characteristics. The dose of UV-C irradiation of 14 kJ/m² allowed to obtain higher antioxidant properties and lower microbial count of aerobic mesophilic bacteria, fungi and yeasts42. Another study also has highlighted the antimicrobial effect of UV-C irradiation in apples, pears, strawberries, red raspberries and melons⁴³. This study the rates inactivation of Escherichia coli O157: H7 and Listeria monocytogenes were higher for fruits less hydrophobic with most smooth surfaces (apples and pears) compared with fruits (i.e., melon, strawberry, and raspberry) over rough surfaces. By last, a finding has reported that the combination of immersion solutions containing malic acid and treatment with UV-C light reduces the growth of Salmonella Poona and l. monocytogenes in fresh-cut papaya44. In Table 3 are described some studies related to ultraviolet irradiation treatment for food preservation.

2.4 Pulsed Electric Fields (PEFs)

Pulsed Electric Fields (PEF) decontaminate the food because to reduce their enzyme activity⁴⁵. This technique consists in the application of high voltage electric fields with short duration pulses (i.e., µs to ms). This effect causes the electroporation, which permeabilizes of cell membranes 46,47. This technique reduces the heat amount used for complete the enzyme inactivation during the blanching process48. Also, it can modulate the activity of the enzyme Poly-Phenol Oxidases (PPOS)49. Moreover, it has demonstrated that a Concentrated High Intensity Electric Field (CHIEF) produces the same antimicrobial effects generated during a pasteurization process traditional50.

Recent studies in this field have demonstrated that pulsed electric field reduces the mechanical force allowing decreasing the intensity of the cutting force in carrots and achieving at the same time an enhancement in the cutting quality. Therefore, the application of this treatment before blanching could secure the enzyme inactivation in vegetables48. The effect of pulsed electric fields on the final quality of potatoes for frying fat also has been studied47,51,52. The electroporation causes specific structural changes in the vegetal tissues, which resulted in lower absorption of oil in the potato.

The application of this technology in the conservation of juices also has been investigated. It has reported studies that indicate PEF combined with bioactive agents⁵³ and antimicrobial bottles54 exerts a bactericidal effect on the food. The use of PEF in orange juice with nisin and

Table 3. Ultravioletlight treatment for food preservation

| Food Product | Operation Conditions | Principal Results |
|--|---|--|
| Fresh-cutapple | UV-C light treatments at 1.2, 6.0, 12.0 and 24.0 kJ/m². | Germicidal effect |
| Fresh-cutmelon | UV-C light fluence were 0, 1200, 6000 and 12,000 J/m 2 . Irradiance of 20 W/m 2 increasing time up to 10 min. | Reduction of Enterobacteriacea growth. |
| Mango, pineapple and mamey | UV-C (0, 7 and 14 kJ/m²) stored for 15 days at 5 $^{\circ}$ C and HR of 85 - 90% | Reduction of 0.89, 1.5 y 2.26 log CFU/g in mango, pineapple and mamey, respectively. |
| "Maradol" red papaya (<i>Carica</i> papaya L) | UV-C light (0, 0.96, 2.88, 5.76 and 8.64 kJ/m ²). | Reductions of 5.28 and 3.15 Log_{10} CFU/g for <i>Salmonella</i> Poona and <i>L. monocytogenes</i> , respectively. |
| Apples, pears, strawberries, red raspberries and cantaloupes | UV-C light does up to 11.9 kJ/m² at 23°C with exposure times between 0-14 min. | Reduction of E. coli O157 and <i>L. monocytogenes</i> in apples, pears, strawberries and raspberries. |

lysozyme incorporated reduces the salmonella growth. In addition, pomegranate juices processed with PEF and stored in antimicrobial bottles can be conserved for long time. In Table 4 are described some studies related to electric field treatment for food preservation.

2.5 Electromagnetic Field

Magnetic fields application produce changes in the organisms to cell level due to the capacity to modulate the concentration of enzymes, the transport of ions, concentrations of hormones, and DNA transcription⁵⁵⁻⁵⁹. These effects are produced by the increase of the permeability of the plasma membrane due to that part of calcium bound to the phospholipids are removed by colloidal particles suspended in culture medium when the system is exposed to magnetic fields⁶⁰⁻⁶². Besides, some important factors that determine the effectiveness of this treatment are the range of frequency intensity and the operating conditions used to inactive the microorganism growth (i.e., dynamic or static test)⁶³.

Researchers have reported the effect of magnetic fields on Escherichia coli and *Salmonella enteritidis* inoculated in liquid whole egg⁶⁰. The results of this study indicated that a reduction of bacteria population was observed and that greater efficiencies are obtained with the highest time of treatment. In another study, it was determined that magnetic fields could increase the conductivity of the hemoglobin molecules in hatched chicks⁶⁴. Similarly, magnetic fields did not affect the hatchability of eggs and

chick weight at hatch⁶⁵. Conversely, in another study, an increase in the egg hatchability is generated by the use of magnetic fields⁶⁶.

Researchers also have demonstrated that electromagnetic fields enhance the microbial productivity as an example the polypeptides production⁶⁷, production of probiotic cultures for yogurt (i.e., *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *L.casei*, and Bioyogurt)^{68,69}. Also, it has reported the design of a device for milk treatment used in the fabrication of white cheese. This device looks for the improvement the properties milk such as acidity, microbial growth, and cheese production⁷⁰.

2.6 High Hydrostatic Pressure (HHP)

High Hydrostatic Pressure (HHP) causes effects on the composition of food such as volatile compounds, pigments, enzymes and bioactive compound. In the food industry, this type of technology is used to the preservation of products. Hence, many researchers study the effects caused by the exposition of high hydrostatic pressure on the food.

Studies performed by Jing Shen and coworkers revealed that at values greater than or equal to 400MPa for 20 minutes caused inactivation of microorganism and allowed conserve the physicochemical properties in jujube pulp⁷². Similarly, other investigations have shown that the use of high hydrostatic pressures inactivates the growth of the microorganism in papaya drink without altering its properties⁷¹. Another study

Table 4. Electric field treatment for food preservation

| Food Product | Operation Conditions | Principal Results |
|---|---|--|
| Carrot (Daucus carota var. Nantes) | PEF of 162 kJ/kg, 80 Hz, 3000 pulses and 0.6kV/cm; Pre-conditioning temperature (10, 20, 30 and 40 $^{\circ}$ C). | Inactivation of Ascorbic Acid Oxidase (AAO) and Per-OxiDase (POD) at least 20% to 50%. |
| Potatoes (Solanum tuberosum, var. Rooster) | $18.9\ kJ/kg$ PEF treatments by applying 9000 pulses at 0.75 kV/cm electric field. | Less absorption of oil when frying potatoes. |
| Pomegranate juice | Laboratory scale (flow rate 7.2 L/h, field strength of 35kV/cm, time of 72 μ s) and pilot scale (flow rate 100 L/h, field strength 35 kV / cm, time 281 μ s). | Juices treated with PEF had 21-day shelf life at laboratory scale, and more than 84 days at pilot scale. |
| Orange juice | PEF with a field strength of 90 kV / cm, 20 pulses and 55 $^{\circ}$ C. | Reduction of Salmonella typhimurium |
| Avocado | Field strength at 10 kV/cm at frequencies from 0 to 950 Hz. Treatment times between 0-6 min. | The minimal activity of 12% of the enzyme Poly-Phenol Oxidases (PPO) after 6 min at 260 Hz. |

also indicated the inactivation of Listeria monocytogenes LGB and two braids of Zygosaccharomyces bailii in commercial shakes⁷³. In this study, also it was demonstrated the synergistic effect of temperature and HHP.

Studies realized in melon puree determined the inactivation of Salmonella enterica and Listeria monocytogenes by the application of HHP. Similarly, the growth of natural yeasts and molds and the total aerobic microorganisms in the puree also was reduced under this effect⁷⁴. A similar result was evidenced in sweet cherries where the quality and safety microbiological characteristics were maintained. The effects caused by HHP treatment and natural extracts in avocado puree induced an increase of free fatty acids, an inhibition of enzymatic activities, and protection of nutritional content⁷⁶. Similar results were observed in olive paste, where the application of HHP treatment induced a reduction in the presence of the microorganism, oxidative stability, and sensory acceptance⁷⁷.

The application of HHP treatment cereals reduced the enthalpy change of starch retrogradation and delayed water transformation freezable in non-releasable water during retrogradation 78.

On the other hand, studies have found that the pressurization process used to attack a certain type of plague as example Anastrephaludens, which affects the physiology maturity of Magniferaindica. These microorganisms alter the consistency of the pulp and its

physicochemical properties, which influence negatively in the acceptation of the product by the consume 79 .

In the meat industry, high hydrostatic pressures have been used as an alternative for the decrease of pathogenic microorganisms in processed products. Some studies related to the evaluation of the parameters of quality such as color, texture, exudate and microbiological stability in the beef under HHP has revealed that the different combinations of the treatments provide an acceptable color and microbiological stability during four and six weeks of storage during refrigeration. Other aspects such as the texture and the capacity of retention of water were significantly affected by the application of this effect⁸⁰. Similarly, HHP combined with reuterin, Lacto-Peroxidase (LPS) and lacto-Ferrin (LF) in ham cooked in slices have an antimicrobial effect on pathogens (i.e., Enteritidis and E. coli O157: H7)81. A study performed by Jofre and coworkers in 2009 indicated that high pressures inactivate the growth of E. coli, yeast, and the foodborne pathogens L. monocytogenes, Salmonella, Y. enterocolitica and C. jejuni in baked sliced ham, dried slices cured and loin marinated res⁸². Besides, it has reported the preservation of meat products of chicken by the synergistic effect between HHP and atmospheres of carbon dioxide83. In this study, both effects inactivated the growth of bacteria and pathogenic common. Hayes and coworkers also found the inactivation of S. aureus in meat by the combination of HHP and nisin⁸⁴.

The antimicrobial effect of HHP in cheese also has been investigated. In a study85, it has reported the inactivation of *Streptococcus thermophilus* bacteriophages present in cheese exposed to pressures between 400-600 MPa for a time of 0-30 min.In another study, the effect of HHP on the reduction of fat in cheddar cheese, in order to improve its flavor and texture also has been evaluated. In this study⁸⁶, the application of HHP resulted in a reduction of fat and a softer texture of the cheese. Lately, researchers have proposed the use of HHP with carbon dioxide atmospheres since affect the metabolism and growth of microorganism pathogens⁸⁷.

On the other hand, studies indicate that consumers may find less acceptable the meat treated with HHP than untreated meat based on its sensory properties^{88,89} and also, substantial changes in the physicochemical, microbiological properties and organoleptic elements of meat stimulated with HHP⁹⁰. Also, the effects antimicrobial caused by the pressurization in frozen carpaccio were not superior to the effects produced by thermal inactivation of the microorganism⁹¹. The authors of this study argue the lower water activity produced by HHP treatment during the centrifugation stage. In Table 5 are described recent studies related to HHP treatment in this field.

3. Conclusion

The application of non-thermal treatments used to preserve food products for example fruits, minimally processed fruits, juices, meat, milk product, vegetables, etc., causes effects on their structure, achieving their sterilization and nutritional integrity. These nonthermal methods inactive the microbial load present in the food, conserve their functional properties and do not generate considerable changes in their mechanical properties.

The mechanism used by these techniques to attain the microbial inactivation is related to the capacity to generate damage to the cell level, which affect DNA transcription and replication process. Each treatment has advantages, which are based on the disinfection effect and the minimal alteration in the composition, structure, and physicochemical properties. Some of the advantages that offer this non-thermal treatment when are applied in food can highlight the followings:

- Good texture in food or desirable mechanical properties (i.e., hardness, elasticity, etc.),
- Minimal or no alteration of physicochemical properties (color, pH, acid, etc.),
- Desirables organoleptic characteristic,
- Production of edible microorganism,
- Localized heating without to use an intermediate fluid,
- Inhibition of the degree of browning. (i.e., fruits and vegetables),
- Conservation of the nutritional contents,
- Enzymes inactivation for avoid the food spoilage, and
- Antimicrobial effect on contaminant agents.

Table 5. High hydrostatic pressure treatment for food

| Food Product | Operation Condition | Microorganism |
|------------------|---|---|
| Dry-cured Ham | 347-852MPa, 5 min/15 °C | Salmonella entérica. |
| Sweet Cherries | 600 MPa, 8 min and stored at 4 °C for 60 days | Gluconobacter and Enterobacteriaceae. |
| Cantaloupe Puree | 300, 400 and 500 MPa at 8°C and 15 °C for 5 min | Salmonella entericaand Listeria monocytogenes. |
| Cheese | 400-600 MPa and holding time (0-30 min), | Streptococcusthermophilus. |
| Meat Slurry | 350-550 MPa, 3-12 min at room temperature | Staphylococcusaureus. |
| Smoothies | 100 to 300 MPa and temperature (5 to 45°C) | Listeria monocytogenes, Zygosaccharomycesbailii. |
| Poultry Sausages | 350 MPa 10 min at room temperature | Leuconostoccarnosum, Brochothrixthermosphacta, Salmonella enteritidis, Campylobacterjejuni and Listeria innocua. |
| Meat Products | 600 MPa and storage at 4 $^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$ | Listeria monocytogenes, Salmonella enterica, Staphylococcusaureus, Yersinia enterocolitica and Campylobacterjejuni. |

Non-thermal treatment is an option as a disinfection method for the food product; however, it is necessary for more studies in this area. These studies must be focused on determinate better operation conditions, exposition time, and the antimicrobial effect that can be used to carry out each type of treatment. Alike, the joint application of various technologies for the disinfection process can be useful. Some technologies that can be foregrounded in this area are the use of nanostructured material for food packaging, bioactive packaging, intelligent packaging, biodegradable packaging, enzymatic treatments, biocompounds, and biopreservation.

4. Acknowledgment

The authors are thankful to the University of Sucre for their support to the development of this study and for providing the tools necessary for successfully conclude this research.

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