# THE EFFECT OF VACUUM COOKING ON ENTERAL FOOD MADE FROM FRESH AND SEMI-FINISHED INGREDIENTS

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#### Abstract

Enteral feeding also known as enteral nutrition is nutritient delivery into the stomach. Products for enteral nutrition are a specific group of products designed to provide nutrients to the human body in case of various diseases and after surgery, when the daily intake of the product is affected. Today market offers special dietetic products, which are supplemented with synthetic vitamins and minerals, which bioavailability in the body is lower than that of natural organic complexes. Therefore it is important to develop special dietetic products from natural raw materials. The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of vacuum cooking on the content of bioactive compounds, soluble solids, pH and shelf life of enteral food made from fresh and semi-finished (heated) fruit and vegetable juices. For this research enteral food was made using fresh or semi-finished fruit and vegetable juices. Products were vacuum cooked in 0.02 MPa pressure, with boiling point 67 °C, and 0.06 MPa pressure at 79 °C, withstander for 15 min. All samples were stored at room temperature and tested for their content of vitamin C, total carotenoids, anthocyanins, total phenols and antioxidant activity and microbiological safety, as control untreated enteral food samples were used. The obtained data showed that samples made from semi-finished juices have higher contents of vitamin C and total carotenoids and anthocyanins than samples prepared from fresh juices, but this wasn't observed with content of total phenols and antiradical scavenging activity (DPPH), where the type of ingredients used for sample preparation had no significant effect.

Key words: enteral nutrition, microbial safety, total carotenoids, phenols, anthocyanins, antiradical scavenging activity.

#### Introduction

Enteral nutrition using oral nutrition supplements and tube feeding gives the opportunity of increasing or ensuring nutrient intake when it is inadequate. This can only be used on patients with sufficient digestion where the food can be digested and nutrients assimilated in the body of a specially prepared diet (Ozola *et al.*, 2017; Weimann *et al.*, 2006). Enteral feeding is a method of supplying oral food and fluids using nasogastric, gastrostomy or jejunostomy feeding, which are also referred to as enteral tube feeding (Jones *et al.*, 2011; Ozola *et al.*, 2017).

Depending on the intended use and specific needs of the patient, there are several types of enteral food, though most of them are synthetic it is possible to create enteral food using natural ingredients. To fully provide the necessary nutrients and at the same time the microbiological safety of the product it is needed to explore other product processing methods, that are lenient to bioactive compounds, vacuum cooking (cook-vide) is considered to be one of them.

The vacuum cooking treatments are aimed at improving the quality of coked products (Iborra-Bernad *et al.*, 2014). Vacuum based cooking treatments may be innovative combined techniques with high potential application on an industrial scale, this could benefit microbiological, nutritional, physicochemical and sensorial quality compared to conventional cooking methods, since the partial vacuum that is created allows cooking at lower temperature (Martinez-Hernandez *et al.*, 2013).

To vacuum treatments such as sous-vide (SV) and cook-vide the main advantage is the absence of oxygen and the use of temperatures under 100 °C, these two factors play a major role in protection of bioactive compounds, that are sensitive to temperature and can increase their degradation rate during food processing. The use of vacuum technologies could provide higher flavour retention, lower production of acrylamide and higher retention of pigments, where all these factors can lead to a better quality of the final product (Iborra-Bernad *et al.*, 2014; Ozola & Kampuse, 2017).

In contrast to SV treatments cook-vide consist of cooking in boiling water below 100 °C by lowering the pressure to reach the vapour pressure of water, this method of coocking has been already used in some traditional cuisine restaurants. The low pressure is maintained during the cooking time by vacuumpump. Up to this day very few scientific studies have been found in the literature about the use of this technique on fruit and vegetable or other product treatment (Iborra-Bernad, García-Segovia, & Martínez-Monzó, 2015; Martinez-Hernandez et al., 2013) physicochemical and structural properties of cut and cooked purple-flesh potato, green bean pods, and carrots have been studied. Three different cooking methods have been applied: traditional cooking (boiling water at 100 \u00b0C

The aim of this research was to analyse the effect of vacuum cooking on the bioactive compound content, soluble solids, pH and shelf life of enteral food made from fresh and semi-finished (heated) fruit and vegetable juices.

### **Materials and Methods**

Sample preparation

The research was carried out from January to February 2017 in Latvia University of Agriculture, Faculty of Food technology. For the purpose of this research samples of the same recipe enteral food were prepared ensuring 418.4 kJ intake per 161.25 g of product by using juices (97.3% of total weight) from blackcurrant (Ribers nigrum), beetroot (Beta vulgaris), pumpkin from Hubbard group (Cucurbita maxima), cabbage (Brassica oleracea) and Jerusalem artichoke (Helianthus tuberosus) and whey protein, canola oil made from Brassiacaceae family of plants, cod liver oil made from fish of the Gadus genus, iodized salt. For one part of the experiment fresh juices (obtained from raw fruits and vegetables grown in organic management system), for the other part juices previously vacuum cooked (heated, semifinished) (prepared by Ltd 'KEEFA' 'Natural Food manufacturer' from the same raw material) were used (Ozola et al., 2017). Semi-finished juice samples were vacuum cooked in temperatures 73  $\pm$ 5 °C under  $0.05 \pm 0.01$  MPa pressure for  $20 \pm 5$  min, depending on processed product, and heated up to 94 °C before packaging. Cooled juices were stored at  $5 \pm 2$  °C.

### Vacuum cocking

One average sample of each set of ingredients was made and vacuum cooked using Stephan UMC 5 vacuum kettle (Stephan Food Service Equipment GmbH, Germany) under two modes: 0.06 MPa pressure, product temperature during cooking reaches  $79 \pm 2$  °C withstanded for 15 min; 0.02 MPa pressure, product temperature during cooking  $67 \pm 2$  °C withstanded for 15 min (Ozola & Kampuse, 2017). The processed samples were divided between 6 individually packaged 100 mL polypropylene (PP) bottles (Kartell, Italy) from each cooking mode.

After product processing, samples were stored at room temperature ( $19 \pm 2$  °C) in direct light to observe

the changes of bioactive compounds content during storage. Obtained results were compared depending on the type of used ingredients for the preparation of products and the selected vacuum cooking modes. For initial comparison of the vacuum coking impact on both group samples control tests were done with samples that were not treated (Ozola *et al.*, 2017).

The quality changes of the samples during the storage were evaluated by microbial safety, tested with the determination of total plate count, coliforms, moulds, and yeasts, determination of soluble solids content, pH value, vitamin C, total carotenoids, total anthocyanins, total phenols, and antiradical activity (Ozola *et al.*, 2017).

## Microbiological analyses

Microbiological testing of enteral food was completed using 90 mL of 0.5% sterile peptone water solution to which 10 mL of enteral food was added and mixed. The mixture was pour-plated in duplicate for determination of: total plate count (TPC) according to standard LVS EN ISO 4833:2003 (Ref. No. 01-14, Sharlau, nutrient agar, incubation at 30 °C for 72 h); Coliforms according to standard LVS ISO 7251:2005 (Ref. No. 401460, Sharlau ENDO agar, incubation at 37 °C for 24 h); mould fungi and yeast cells according to standard ISO 21257-2:2008 (Ref. No.01-111, MRS agar, incubation at 27 °C for 48 h (yeast cells) and 5 to 7 days (mould fungi).

Microbiological safety of enteral food was evaluated according to the guidelines by Cabinet of Ministers, Latvia regulation No 461/2014 for Vegetable jams, purees and similar products which sets allowed limits for TPC at 5·10<sup>3</sup> CFU g<sup>-1</sup>; presence of Coliforms per 1 g of product is not allowed; Mould fungi and yeast cells no more than 50 CFU g<sup>-1</sup> (Ozola *et al.*, 2017).

## Soluble solids content and pH

The soluble solids content (Brix%) was measured with digital refractometer Refracto 30GS (Mettler Toledo, Japan) using standard method ISO 2173:2003.

The identification of enteral food samples

Type and description of used juices	Vac	G 1		
	temperature (°C)	pressure (MPa)	time (min)	Sample name
Fresh juices (made from raw fruits and vegetables)		fresh		
	67 ± 2	0.02	15	I VS
	79 ± 2	0.06	15	II VS
Semi-finished juices (industrially vacuum cooked)		heated		
	67 ± 2	0.02	15	I VP
	79 ± 2	0.06	15	II VP

Measurements were carried out in five replications. Potential of hydrogen commonly known as pH was measured with pH-meter (Lutron electronic enterprise CO., Ltd., UK) using standard method LVS ISO 5542:2010. Measurements were carried out in two replications (Ozola *et al.*, 2017).

### Vitamin C

Content of vitamin C was determined according to iodine method (Kerch et al., 2011). Method is based on determination of Lascorbic acid, a reduced form of ascorbic acid. A sample of 25 g of product was poured with 100 mL of 6% solution of oxalic acid and homogenized for 1 minute and filtered. Then, 2 mL of 1% solution of starch was added to 10 mL of filtrate and the filtrate was titrated until change of colour, which does not disappear during 30 s. For standardsolution of ascorbic acid 20 mg of ascorbic acid were dissolved in 100 mL of the oxalic acid solution, 2 mL of the starch solution was added to 25 mL of the standard-solution and the mixture was titrated. The content of ascorbic acid mg per 100 g of product was calculated using formula (1) (Kerch et al., 2011; Ozola et al., 2017):

$$C = 5000 \cdot \frac{V_{sample}}{m \cdot V_{s \text{ tan } dard}} \tag{1}$$

where:  $V_{\text{sample}}$  - volume of the iodine solution titrated in a sample, mL;  $V_{\text{standard}}$  - volume of the iodine solution titrated in a standard solution, mL; m - the amount of sample, g.

Measurements were carried out in four replications.

# Total Carotenoids

For total carotenoid determination a spectrophotometric (UV/VIS spectrophotometer Jenway 6705 (Bibby Scientific Ltd., UK)) method described by (Kampuse *et al.*, 2015) was used at wavelength of 440 nm. The content of carotenoids (mg 100 g<sup>-1</sup>) was calculated in four replications (Ozola *et al.*, 2017).

# Total anthocyanins

Total anthocyanin content was determined by spectrophotometric method according to (Kerch *et al.*, 2011), detected on spectrophotometer Jenway 6705 at wavelength of 540 nm. 20 g of sample was doused with 40 g of ethanol and 1.5 *M* HCl solution (85:15 by volume) and homogenized for 1 min. Then the sample was filtered, and light absorption at 540 nm was detected with spectrophotometer. Sample was diluted until absorption coefficient was between 0.6 and 0.8. Content mg per 100 g was calculated with the equation (2) (Ozola *et al.*, 2017):

$$C = \frac{A \cdot v \cdot d \cdot 1000}{980 \cdot m} \tag{2}$$

where: A – absorption coefficient; v – volume of the extraction (90); d – dilution; m – sample weight in g (20).

Measurements were carried out in two replications.

#### Total phenol content

The detection of total phenol content was done according to the Folin- Ciocalteu method (Yu *et. al.*, 2003)2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl radical (DPPH\u2022 with modifications: to 0.5 mL of extracted sample add 2.5 mL of 0.2 N Folin-Ciocalteu reagent, that has been diluted ten times with distilled water; after 5 min add 2.0 mL of 7.5% NaCO<sub>3</sub>; the resulting solution was mixed and allowed to stand for 30 min at  $18 \pm 1$  °C in a dark place; absorption was read at 760 nm using JENWAY 6300 (Banoworld Scientific Ltf., UK) spectrophotometer (Priecina & Karklina, 2014) (Ozola *et al.*, 2017).

Measurements were carried out in six replications from two separately weighed samples.

## Antiradical scavenging activity (DPPH)

The antiradical scavenging activity of extracts was determined according to (Yu et al., 2003)2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl radical (DPPH\u2022 with modifications: to 0.5 mL of extracted sample 3.5 mL freshly made DPPH solution was added; the mixture was shaken and kept in the dark place at  $18 \pm 1$  °C for 30 min; absorbance was measured at 517 nm using JENWAY 6300 Spectrophotometer (Ozola et al., 2017; Priecina & Karklina, 2014).

Measurements were carried out in six replications from two separately weighed samples.

## Statistical analysis

The obtained data was processed using 'Microsoft Office Excel' 2007 version, differences between the results were analysed using ANOVA: one and two-factor with replications. The obtained results are presented as their mean with standard error. Differences among results were considered to be significant if pvalue $<\alpha_{0.05}$  (Ozola *et al.*, 2017).

## **Results and Discussion**

Effect of vacuum cooking and storage on microbial safety

All samples including control (without vacuum cooking) were microbiologically tested before storage, vacuum treated enteral food samples were also tested during storage. No coliforms and mould fungi were found in evaluated samples. The initial results (Table 2) on enteral food made from fresh juices show

that vacuum cooking can decrease the total plate count and yeast cell count, but the used treatment modes have not been successful for creating microbiologically safe products, this information does not coincide with previously made research on vacuum cooking mode application on pumpkin-guilder rose sauces (Ozola & Kampuse, 2017) and other author findings, that suggest vacuum-based cooking generally induces higher microbial reduction. Enteral food samples made from semi-finished juices show a higher microbial safety before storage however only storing them for 7 days already show some signs of spoilage for sample I VP (cooked at 67 °C, 0.02 MPa pressure) and in 14 days sample II VP (cooked at 79 °C, 0.06 MPa). Temperatures and pressure modes used in this research should be sufficient for minimizing the yeast cell count in product, but the obtained data suggest the opposite. These findings could be affected and be a direct response to contamination from air or packaging as the product filling process was done in open space.

Martinez-Hernandez et al., 2013 in their research vacuum boiled Kailan-hybrid broccoli (Brassica oleracea) at 0.9 bar (0.01 MPa) where the boiling point was reached at 54 °C and the microbial testing showed no signs of yeasts and moulds, however some mesophilic, psychrophilic and enterobacteria still had remained. The microbial testing showed that the most effective cooking method was pressure cooking and sous vide (Martinez-Hernandez et al., 2013).

NA-not analysed; Fresh- enteral food made from fresh juices, untreated; I VS- enteral food made from fresh juices, vacuum cooked at 0.02 MPa pressure; II VS- enteral food made from fresh juices, vacuum cooked at 0.06 MPa pressure; Heated- enteral food made from semi-finished juices, untreated; I VS- enteral food made from semi-finished juices, vacuum cooked at 0.02 MPa pressure; II VS- enteral food made from semi-finished juices, vacuum cooked at 0.06 MPa pressure.

Samples made from fresh juices after vacuum cooking exceed the allowed yeast cell count

50 CUF g<sup>-1</sup> (Table 2) and are considered to be unsuited for further use and testing. After storing the rest of enteral food samples for 7 days sample cooked at 0.02 MPa was determined to be unsuitable accordingly to the guidelines by Cabinet of Ministers, Latvia regulation No 461/2014 for 'Vegetable jams, purees and similar products' for further testing by exceeding both total plate count 6.5·10<sup>3</sup> CFU g<sup>-1</sup> (allowed TPC 5·10<sup>3</sup> CUF g<sup>-1</sup>) and yeast count 1.5·10<sup>2</sup> CFU g<sup>-1</sup>. Sample II VP, which was processed at 0.02 MPa, boiling point 67 °C, after storing for 14 days started to show some microbial spoilage, but signs of microbial fermentation was determined only after additional week, when this sample also was presumed to be unsuitable.

Effect of vacuum cooking and storage on soluble solids and pH

Soluble solids and product pH didn't show any significant differences and changes between the enteral foods after treatment, also no significant differences were noticed during storage or between the types of used juices for enteral food preparation. On average the soluble solids content was  $11.4 \pm 0.2$  Brix% and the pH to samples made from fresh juices was pH 5.00  $\pm$  0.03, but from semi-finished pH 4.61  $\pm$  0.04.

Effect of vacuum cooking and storage on bioactive compounds (vitamin C, total carotenoids, total anthocyanins, total phenols and DPPH)

The obtained data on vitamin C, total carotenoids and anthocyanin content in enteral food samples is given in Table 3. The data show a significant difference (p < 0.05) in content of vitamin C between the samples depending on what type of juices were used for the preparation. Samples from fresh juices showed overall higher content of vitamin C, than samples made from semi-finished juices, but no significant difference was detected between the treatment methods or depending on the storage time.

The content of total carotenoids (Table 3) showed significant changes not only on type of juices used

Table 2

Total plate and yeast cell count in enteral food made from natural juices (CUF g<sup>-1</sup>)

Sample	Total plate count			Yeast cell count		
	before storage	day 7	day 14	before storage	day 7	day 14
Fresh	1.3·10 <sup>3</sup>	NA	NA	3.4.102	NA	NA
IVS	2.9·10²	NA	NA	2.4·10²	NA	NA
II VS	1.6·10 <sup>2</sup>	NA	NA	1.2·10 <sup>2</sup>	NA	NA
Heated	<10	NA	NA	<10	NA	NA
I VP	<10	6.5 · 103	NA	<10	1.5.102	NA
II VP	<10	<10	59	<10	<10	47

Table 3

Content of vitamin C, total carotenoids and total anthocyanins in enteral food made from natural juices (mg 100 g<sup>-1</sup>)

Sample	Storage time	Vitamin C	Total carotenoids	Total anthocyanins
Fresh	before storage	$24.99 \pm 3.46$	$0.44 \pm 0.00$	$1.50 \pm 0.07$
I VS	before storage	$24.11 \pm 2.97$	$0.41 \pm 0.01$	$1.59 \pm 0.02$
II VS	before storage	$22.29 \pm 1.21$	$0.32 \pm 0.01$	$1.27 \pm 0.01$
Heated	before storage	$21.37 \pm 1.22$	$0.43 \pm 0.02$	$2.45 \pm 0.15$
I VP	before storage	$19.33 \pm 1.12$	$0.43 \pm 0.01$	$2.17 \pm 0.01$
	day 7	$18.15 \pm 2.06$	$0.37 \pm 0.01$	$1.84 \pm 0.04$
II VP	before storage	$19.13 \pm 1.49$	$0.44 \pm 0.01$	$1.65 \pm 0.13$
	day 7	$18.24 \pm 2.00$	$0.37 \pm 0.01$	$1.49 \pm 0.00$
	day 14	$16.25 \pm 1.26$	$0.35 \pm 0.00$	$1.41 \pm 0.04$

for enteral foods, but also samples made from fresh juices have been affected more by the vacuum cooking modes. Samples made from fresh juices show higher decrees in content of total carotenoids and anthocyanins when the vacuum cooking pressure and temperature is higher, opposite to vacuum cooking samples at 0.02 MPa pressure, when the content of total carotenoids and anthocyanins was typically closer to the control samples. Semi-finished juice enteral food samples showed a 13% decrees in content of total carotenoids during storage when it significantly dropped after storing for 7 days in sample I VP 0.43  $\pm$  0.0 mg 100 g $^{-1}$  before storage to 0.37  $\pm$  0.01 mg 100 g $^{-1}$  before storage to 0.35  $\pm$  0.01 mg 100 g $^{-1}$  before storage to 0.35  $\pm$  0.00 mg 100 g $^{-1}$  day 14.

Changes of total anthocyanin content depending on the used vacuum cooking mode was also noticed in semi-finished samples, the highest total anthocyanin content was in sample I VP (0.02 MPa) made from semi-finished juices  $2.17 \pm 0.01$  mg 100 g<sup>-1</sup>, but the lowest in sample II VS (0.06 MPa) made from fresh

juices  $1.27 \pm 0.01$  mg 100 g<sup>-1</sup>. These coincide with other author findings about better colour retention in products by using vacuum based treatments compared to conventional cooking which does suggest that application of higher temperatures can significantly decrees the content of carotenoids and anthocyanins that often are responsible for the natural colour of fruits and vegetables (Iborra-Bernad *et al.*, 2015)physicochemical and structural properties of cut and cooked purple-flesh potato, green bean pods, and carrots have been studied. Three different cooking methods have been applied: traditional cooking (boiling water at  $100 \setminus 0.00$ 

Fresh- enteral food made from fresh juices, untreated; I VS- enteral food made from fresh juices, vacuum cooked at 0.02 MPa pressure; II VS- enteral food made from fresh juices, vacuum cooked at 0.06 MPa pressure; Heated- enteral food made from semi-finished juices, untreated; I VS- enteral food made from semi-finished juices, vacuum cooked at 0.02 MPa pressure; II VS- enteral food made from

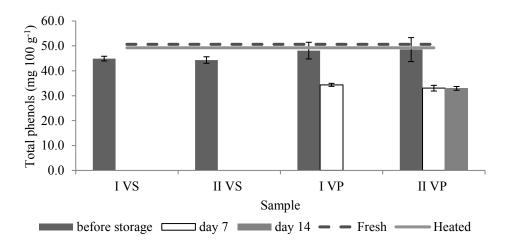


Figure 1. Content of total phenols in enteral food made from natural juices (GAE·mg 100 g<sup>-1</sup>).

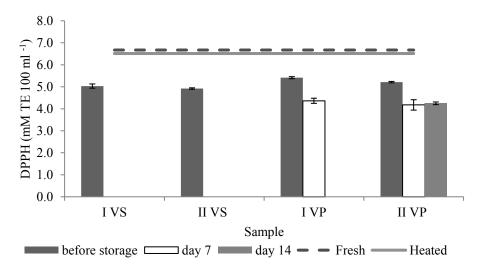


Figure 2. Contents of antiradical activity (DPPH) in enteral food made from natural juices (mM TE 100 ml<sup>-1</sup>).

semi-finished juices, vacuum cooked at 0.06 MPa pressure.

Total phenol content (Figure 1) in enteral food samples show no significant difference (p < 0.05) between the type of juices used for sample preparation, however slightly higher total phenol content was noticed in samples made from semifinished juices. After storing samples for 7 days a 30% loss of total phenols was detected to samples made from semi finished juices, sample I VP 48.11  $\pm$  3.34 GAE·mg 100 g¹ before storage, to 34.36  $\pm$  0.60 GAE·mg 100 g¹ at day 7 and to sample II VP 48.52  $\pm$  4.81 GAE·mg 100 g¹ before storage, to 39.96  $\pm$  0.75 GAE·mg 100 g¹ day 14.

Fresh- enteral food made from fresh juices, untreated; I VS- enteral food made from fresh juices, vacuum cooked at 0.02 MPa pressure; II VS- enteral food made from fresh juices, vacuum cooked at 0.06 MPa pressure; Heated- enteral food made from semi-finished juices, untreated; I VS- enteral food made from semi-finished juices, vacuum cooked at 0.02 MPa pressure; II VS- enteral food made from semi-finished juices, vacuum cooked at 0.06 MPa pressure.

The antiradical activity (Figure 2) of enteral food samples contrary to total phenol content showed a significant difference (p < 0.05) between the vacuum cooking modes used in this research and slight differences by type of juices used for sample preparation. The most noticeable changes in DPPH were detected during storage where on average a 19% decrease of DPPH was noticed after 7 days of sample storage.

Fresh- enteral food made from fresh juices, untreated; I VS- enteral food made from fresh juices, vacuum cooked at 0.02 MPa pressure; II VS- enteral food made from fresh juices, vacuum cooked at 0.06 MPa pressure; Heated- enteral food made from

semi-finished juices, untreated; I VS- enteral food made from semi-finished juices, vacuum cooked at 0.02 MPa pressure; II VS- enteral food made from semi-finished juices, vacuum cooked at 0.06 MPa pressure.

The differences in DPPH depending on vacuum cooking mode could be impacted by the differences in content of vitamin C and total anthocyanins, which showed a bigger retention in samples cooked under lower temperature and higher pressure (67 °C, 0.02 MPa pressure) for samples made from semi-finished juices. To enteral food samples made from fresh juices also total carotenoid content was significantly different depending on the used vacuum cooking mode.

The findings of this research partly coincide with previous research done on vacuum cooking modes, where pumpkin-guelder rose sauce samples cooked under vacuum didn't show any significant differences in bioactive compound content depending on the used vacuum treatment (Ozola & Kampuse, 2017). However this research showed some coincidences with enteral food samples made from semi-finished juices.

The overall research on this particular thermal processing method is rather deficient. Due to the lack of research on this subjeckt it is difficult to make a full study analysis and to fully evaluate the efficiency of the vacuum cooking process compared to other thermal treatments.

### Conclusions

The findings of this research coincide with some of the few researches that have been done on this subject, comparing to conventional cooking vacuum cooking does show a higher retention on total phenol content, DPPH and carotenoids and anthocyanins, but additional research needs to be done, to provide

sufficient amount of data on vacuum cooking modes and efficiency it has on bioactive compounds and microbial safety of products.

The obtained data also showed no significant difference in total phenol content and DPPH depending on type of juices used as ingredients, but showed better results in content of total carotenoids and anthocyanins with enteral food samples made from semi-finished juices.

Initial results show that vacuum cooking with following of hot filling wasn't sufficient enough to

provide microbiologically safe products made from fresh juices, but using semi-finished ingredients the shelf life of these products cannot exceed 14 days.

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