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Innovative non-thermal technologies affecting potato tuber and fried potato quality

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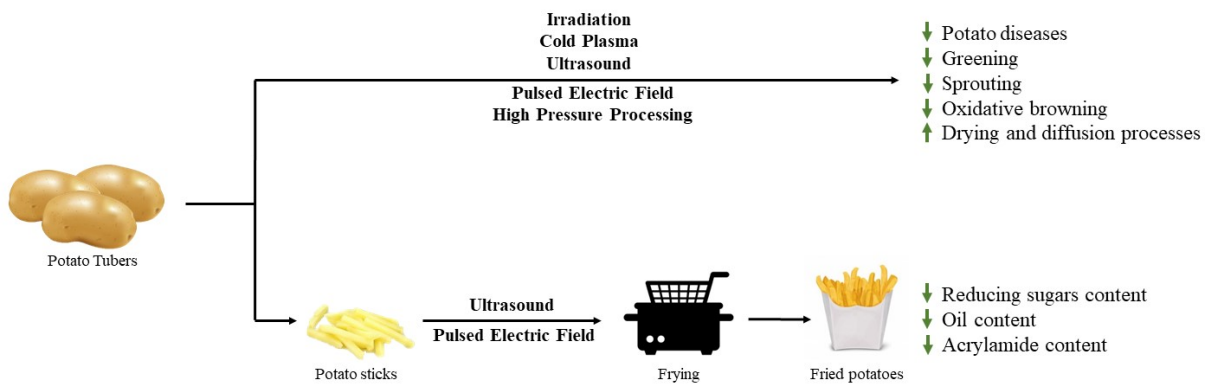
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**Abstract**

*Background:* Potatoes are important tubers for human consumption, providing an essential source of energy and great nutritional characteristics for human health. However, before consumption, potato tubers need to be stored and processed. As frying is the most common technique used in potato processing, fried potato is the most important processed potato product. Some food characteristics, provided by the frying process, are considered desirable, but others are harmful to human health and, thereby the main challenge is to reduce the formation of the undesirable characteristics, without compromising the sensorial attributes.

*Scope and approach:* In this review, the origin, economic importance, morphology and composition of potato tubers are presented. Afterwards, some factors affecting potato tuber quality, not only for human consumption, but also for further processing are addressed. Then, potato processing is discussed with a focus on the frying process, including the textural, chemical and nutritional changes induced by frying and the main characteristics affecting the quality of fried potato products. Finally, a special focus is given to the novel emerging non-thermal technologies and a brief review of their effects on potato tuber and fried potato quality is provided.

*Key findings and conclusions:* Irradiation, cold plasma, ultrasounds, pulsed electric fields and high pressure processing are innovative non-thermal technologies with potential to be an alternative for the traditional treatments of potato tubers and to be applied as a frying pre-treatment, improving time and energy for slicing and cooking, and creating improved and healthier fried potatoes. Further studies are needed to better understand the subjacent biochemical mechanisms.



1 **Innovative non-thermal technologies affecting potato tuber and fried potato**  
2 **quality**

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40 and creating improved and healthier fried potatoes. Further studies are needed to better  
41 understand the subjacent biochemical mechanisms.

42

43 **Keywords:** potato tuber; fried potatoes; quality; frying; acrylamide; oil uptake;  
44 emergent technologies; non-thermal technologies.

## 45 1. Introduction

46 Potato is a tuberous crop produced by a perennial herb (potato plant), which belongs to  
47 the family *Solanaceae*, species *Solanum tuberosum* L. (Singh and Kaur, 2016), being  
48 the second most important crop for human consumption in Europe and fourth on a  
49 global scale after maize, rice, and wheat (O'Connor et al., 2001). Actually, the  
50 production of starch per hectare is greater in potatoes than in any other crop and, with  
51 regard to protein production, they are the second main crop after soybeans (Oerke,  
52 2006). Nowadays, there are more than 4,500 varieties of potatoes (differing in texture,  
53 flavour, shape, and colour) growing in more than 160 countries, with a global total  
54 production exceeding 374 million tons per year, being consumed by more than a billion  
55 people worldwide (Camire et al., 2009; Cipotato, 2018; Singh and Kaur, 2016).

56 The potato tubers are essentially an underground stem and, morphologically, they  
57 have several differences in size, shape and flesh/skin colour, depending on the genetics  
58 of the cultivar. Nevertheless, the potato tubers are usually oval to round in shape, with  
59 pale brown skin and white flesh (Singh and Kaur, 2016). Their outer skin consist of a  
60 layer of corky periderm, formed by dead cells without starch and protein, providing the  
61 primary barrier against physical intrusions, diseases, insects, and dehydration (Fiers et  
62 al., 2012; Miranda and Aguilera, 2006). The cortex, a thin layer of parenchyma tissue,  
63 underlies the skin and is composed by cells with multiple oval-shaped starch granules  
64 stored as a reserve material (Miranda and Aguilera, 2006). In the central zone of the  
65 potato tuber is the pith (also called medulla or water core), composed of smaller cells  
66 with lower starch content (Troncoso et al., 2009).

67 Potatoes are considered an excellent source of energy, carbohydrates and dietary  
68 fibre, whose nutritional characteristics (such as starch digestibility and glycaemic index)  
69 are important in human health (Camire et al., 2009). Their nutritional composition vary

70 with potato varieties, soil type, crop practices, location, weather conditions and  
71 postharvest storage conditions (Miranda and Aguilera, 2006). **Table 1** shows the  
72 nutritional composition variability of raw potatoes. Generally, in a potato tuber about 1-  
73 2% is dietary fibre (being supplied especially by the thickened cell walls of the skin),  
74 20% consists of dry matter, and the remaining fraction is water (Singh and Kaur, 2016).  
75 The water is contained in different compartments inside the potato cells, being 84% in  
76 the vacuoles, the nucleus, and the cytoplasm, 13% inside starch granules and 3% in the  
77 cell wall (Rutledge et al., 1994). Starch is the major component of the dry matter,  
78 accounting for approximately 70% of the total solids, and is composed by amylose and  
79 amylopectin chains (Singh and Kaur, 2016). In addition, considering the several  
80 polymorphic types of starch crystallinity, potato starch belongs to B-type (Buléon et al.,  
81 1998; Pérez et al., 2009). Moreover, potato tubers have very low fat content and supply  
82 protein of high relative biological value (90-100). Regarding the free amino acids,  
83 asparagine (Asn) is an important amino acid for plant growth, playing a central role in  
84 nitrogen storage and transport (Lea et al., 2006), and is the most abundant free amino  
85 acid in potatoes, usually accounting for 0.2-4% for dry matter and 20-60% of total free  
86 amino acids (Food Drink Europe, 2013). Lastly, potatoes are also composed by several  
87 micronutrients, namely essential minerals like potassium, phosphorus, calcium and  
88 magnesium, and bioactive compounds, such as vitamins C (the major vitamin in raw  
89 potato), E and B (folic acid, niacin, pyridoxine, riboflavin and thiamine), carotenoids  
90 and phenolic compounds (phenolic acids, flavonoids, anthocyanins) (Camire et al.,  
91 2009; Singh and Kaur, 2016).

92 The main objective of this review article is to show the effects of innovative  
93 processing technologies on potato tuber and fried potato quality. For this purpose, the  
94 factors affecting potato tuber quality, not only for human consumption but also for

95 further processing are presented. Afterwards, the changes and problems induced by  
96 frying that affect the quality of fried potatoes will be addressed, and finally the novel  
97 methods for potato treatment will be introduced.

## 98 **2. Potato tuber quality**

99 The preservation of the potato tuber quality is essential for human consumption and  
100 processing, as well as to avoid/reduce economic losses, and is determined by several  
101 external, internal and nutritional aspects. The skin appearance (skin finish and greening)  
102 and sprouting are the main factors determining the external quality of potato tubers. In  
103 addition, the internal potato tuber quality may be affected by several factors, such as the  
104 susceptibility to enzymatic discoloration and the development of brown spots and  
105 hollow heart (Lisińska et al., 2009). Regarding the nutritional properties, potato tubers  
106 should have appropriate content of essential minerals and bioactive compounds (**Table**  
107 **1**), low reducing sugars content, and low anti-nutrients content (Lisińska et al., 2009;  
108 Meyhuay, 2001). **Table 2** summarizes the main events that affect the potato tuber  
109 quality, as well as their causes, more conventional control strategies and novel non-  
110 thermal technologies which may be used as an alternative treatment.

111

### 112 **2.1. Potato tuber diseases**

113 Several potato pathogens originate potato diseases, which cause severe damages on  
114 tuber skin finish as well on its interior, resulting in marketable yield reductions and  
115 economic losses. Total losses are estimated to be about 24% in Northwest Europe and  
116 more than 50% in Central Africa, highlighting accented differences in crop protection  
117 intensity (Cerda, 2017; Oerke, 2006). Actually, 40 soil-borne diseases are known  
118 worldwide and, frequently, the favourable conditions for potato diseases development



119 are the same as those needed for potato growth. For instance high humidity, medium pH  
120 and temperature around 10 and 25 °C (Fiers et al., 2012). Some of the most important  
121 diseases affecting potato tubers are described below, and summarized in **Table 2**.

122 The fungus *Colletotrichum coccodes* causes black dots, a disease characterized by  
123 silvery lesions on the tuber surface and may be controlled by using soil fumigants,  
124 chemical fungicides and cool and dry storage conditions (Lees and Hilton, 2003). The  
125 fungus *Helminthosporium solani* induces the silver scurf disease, which is associated  
126 with moisture loss and skin discoloration and sloughing, caused by rupture of periderm  
127 integrity (Elson et al., 1997). The fungus *Polyscytalum pustulans* originates the skin  
128 spot disease, being characterized by purplish-black raised spots of about 2 mm diameter  
129 on the tuber surface which appear at least after 6 weeks of storage (Lees et al., 2009).  
130 The control of these three blemish diseases may be accomplished by using dry and cool  
131 conditions for potato tuber storage (Fiers et al., 2012). In addition to these problems, the  
132 oomycete pathogen *Phytophthora infestans* causes the late blight disease, whose  
133 associated symptoms are a darker brown area on the tuber surface and a reddish brown  
134 granular rot in the tuber interior, being controlled by using chemical fungicides (CIPC,  
135 2015; Hijmans et al., 2000). Moreover, three Gram-negative bacteria, *Erwinia*  
136 *carotovora* spp. *carotovora* (Ecc), *E. carotovora* spp. *atroseptica* (Eca) and *E.*  
137 *chrysanthemi* (Ech) are important potato pathogenics, since under high temperature and  
138 humidity, poor ventilation and low oxygen levels, the synthesis and secretion of pectic  
139 enzymes is stimulated, causing tissue softening, water and nutrients release, and  
140 eventually cell death. Therefore, the infected tubers exhibit blackleg (stem rot) and soft  
141 rot (Nourian et al., 2002; Pérombelon, 2002). Besides, the *Potato virus Y*, currently  
142 considered the most important virus pathogen affecting potato crops, is capable of  
143 inducing superficial and internal necrosis on potato tubers and, consequently, the potato

144 tuber necrotic ringspot disease development (Karasev and Gray, 2013; Romancer et al.,  
145 1994).

## 146 **2.2. Discolouration**

147 Enzymatic discolouration consists in the oxidation of phenolic compounds, in the  
148 presence of O<sub>2</sub>, to *o*-quinones by the enzyme polyphenol oxidase (PPO), and in turn the  
149 *o*-quinones undergo polymerization being converted into black-brown polymers  
150 (Friedman, 1997). As PPO is located in the plastids of potato cells and phenolic  
151 compounds are stored in the vacuoles, enzymatic oxidation is prevented in undamaged  
152 living tissues by this physical separation. However, during harvesting and processing,  
153 plant tissues suffer damage due to physical processes like cutting and peeling,  
154 disrupting cellular compartments, which trigger the above-mentioned enzymatic  
155 reaction (Busch, 1999; van Eck, 2007; Yildiz, 2019). Although PPO is considered a key  
156 factor in this enzymatic process, high levels of tyrosine and free amino acids have also  
157 shown a positive influence on the discolouration of potato tubers (Corsini et al., 1992;  
158 van Eck, 2007). The inactivation or inhibition of oxidative enzymes (such as PPO and  
159 peroxidase, POD) is important in order to avoid undesirable browning reactions and  
160 detrimental effects on sensorial and nutritional quality of tubers (Bußler et al., 2017).  
161 Several strategies have been reported in the literature for the reduction or prevention of  
162 tuber discolouration, namely by using citric, acetic, malic and ascorbic acids to reduce  
163 the pH (Ali et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2011); vacuum packaging of cut food to decrease  
164 the quantity of available oxygen (Rocha et al., 2003); and using PPO inhibitors, such as  
165 4-hexylresorcinol (Buta and Moline, 2001).

## 166 **2.3. Greening**

167 Potato tubers, as underground stems, are non-photosynthetic plant organs. However,  
168 exposure of tubers to light induces the differentiation of amyloplasts into  
169 chloroamyloplasts, resulting in chlorophyll synthesis and accumulation on the newly  
170 membrane vesicle formed between the envelope and the starch grain of the plastid  
171 (Tanios et al., 2018). This phenomenon occurs in cortical parenchyma tissue directly  
172 beneath the periderm, which is responsible for the undesirable greening. Actually, tuber  
173 greening is considered an important cause of quality loss in potato tubers, being  
174 associated with problems for human health and marketability (Grunenfelder, 2005).

175 Steroidal glycoalkaloids are phytochemicals that are naturally formed (parallel and  
176 independently to chlorophyll synthesis) in green tubers, being present in all parts of the  
177 plant (Pettersson et al., 2013). However, the highest levels of these secondary  
178 metabolites have been found in metabolically active organs like tuber sprouts, flowers,  
179 peripheral layers of the tuber and the parenchyma of periderm cells (Friedman, 2006).  
180 In potatoes, glycoalkaloids predominantly (over 95%) exist in two main forms,  $\alpha$ -  
181 solanine and  $\alpha$ -chaconine (Pettersson et al., 2013), whose chemical structures are shown  
182 in **Table 2**, and they are probably responsible for the protection against the tissue  
183 invasion due to their antimicrobial, insecticidal and fungicidal properties. However,  
184 these compounds also present toxicological effects in humans, being  $\alpha$ -chaconine more  
185 toxic than  $\alpha$ -solanine. Due to the increase production and consumption of fresh and  
186 processed potatoes, glycoalkaloids formation and toxicity are a concern for public  
187 health (Nema et al., 2008). Therefore, it is important to select potato tubers for  
188 consumption with lower glycoalkaloids levels, *i.e.* not exceeding the safe limit  
189 established of 200 mg/Kg fresh weight (FW) (van Eck, 2007).

190 On the other hand, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) established  
191 that a green potato tuber is considered as “damaging” when removal causes a loss of

192 more than 5% of the total weight or when more than 25% of the tuber surface is affected  
193 by the green colour (USDA, 2011). Therefore, potato greening is a problem which  
194 results in economic losses and marketability reductions and according to the United  
195 Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI), in the United Kingdom (UK), tuber  
196 greening is responsible for an estimated loss of £37 million to the industry and 116,000  
197 tons of household potato waste annually (UKRI, 2018).

198 Tuber greening may be influenced by several factors, such as potato variety, tuber  
199 physiological age, environmental oxygen levels, temperature, and lighting conditions  
200 (Tanios et al., 2018). Once potatoes turn green, it is not possible to reverse the process  
201 and thereby, there are some possible strategies for greening prevention. The simplest  
202 one consists in minimizing light exposure during potato handling and storage, although  
203 low-oxygen storage, edible oil coatings and chemical treatments (such as, herbicides,  
204 nematicides and plant growth regulators and inhibitors) have also shown potential to  
205 reduce potato tuber greening (Nema et al., 2008; Pavlista, 2001; Tanios et al., 2018).  
206 Regarding to the greening control by manipulating the storage temperature, the results  
207 present in the literature are controversial and not consistent.

#### 208 **2.4. Sprouting**

209 The life cycle of a potato tuber is characterized by a set of stages, starting with tuber  
210 induction, initiation and enlargement followed by a period of dormancy and finally  
211 sprouting (Ferne and Willmitzer, 2001). Dormancy is a physiological process  
212 characterized by a temporary growth arrest of any plant structure, which contains a  
213 meristem. Upon a dormancy period, sprouts start to grow, resulting in the formation of  
214 roots at the tuber buds bases (Aksenova et al., 2013). Several factors are responsible for  
215 the regulation of tuber dormancy and sprouting, which include internal physiological  
216 and environmental factors (Mani et al., 2014). Phytohormones are endogenous

217 regulators that play an important role in the control of these phenomena. Cytokinins,  
218 such as abscisic acid and indole acetic acid, have shown to be involved with the  
219 induction and maintenance of tuber dormancy, inhibiting sprouting, while gibberellins,  
220 such as gibberellic acid, are associated with the active stimulation of tuber sprouting  
221 (Ferne and Willmitzer, 2001; Suttle, 2004; Weiner et al., 2010). The chemical  
222 structures of abscisic acid, indole acetic acid and a gibberellin are shown in **Table 2**.

223 Sprouting causes softening, shrinkage, formation of toxic alkaloids, and  
224 consequently leads to changes at nutritional and texture level (Soruce et al., 2005).  
225 Actually, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) established that any lot  
226 of potato tubers is considered as “damaging” when more than 5% of the potatoes have a  
227 sprout with more than 0.64 cm in length or have individual and/or groups of sprouts,  
228 which affects negatively the potato appearance (USDA, 2011). Therefore, the control of  
229 sprouting during potato storage is essential to avoid or decrease potato quality and  
230 economic losses. The storage at low temperatures (<8 °C) and the use of chemical  
231 sprouting inhibitors (such as, chlorpropham) are the primary methods used to control  
232 potato sprouting of stored tubers (Soruce et al., 2005). However, there are some problems  
233 associated with these control measures. Firstly, the storage at low temperatures  
234 increases the amount of sugars in potato tubers, which is undesirable for the potato  
235 processing industry (the reasons will be explained afterwards) (Sowokinos, 2007).  
236 Secondly, the demand for more organic and chemical-free foods is increasing (Statista,  
237 2018) and therefore, it is necessary to develop other methods to inhibit potato sprouting.

## 238 **2.5. Starch content**

239 Starch content (also known as dry matter content) is a moderately important parameter  
240 for table use, but with high importance for the processing industry (Sowokinos, 2007),  
241 an issue that will be described in more detail in section 4. *Quality of fried potato*

242 *products*. Certain storage conditions can lead to starch-to-sugar conversion and cause  
243 sugar (glucose, fructose and sucrose) accumulation mainly due to senescence  
244 sweetening and cold temperatures (Singh and Kaur, 2016). On the one hand, senescence  
245 sweetening is a normal biological process associated with sprouting, occurring more  
246 rapidly at higher storage temperatures ( $> 8\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) (Amrein et al., 2003). During this  
247 process, the sugars released are used as an energy source for the growth of the potato  
248 plant (Blenkinsop et al., 2010). On the other hand, cold temperatures ( $< 8\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) lead to a  
249 quick accumulation of reducing sugars in stored potato tubers, a phenomenon known as  
250 cold sweetening. This process serves as a cryoprotection mechanism since the release of  
251 sugars reduces the freezing point, preventing damages in tissues that could result from  
252 the formation of large ice crystals (Blenkinsop et al., 2010). The biochemical  
253 mechanism behind cold sweetening is complex and involves a series of reactions,  
254 including for example, changes in gene expression and/or modulation of post-  
255 translational activity of key enzymes, such as sucrose phosphate synthase (Hill et al.,  
256 1996), the appearance of a new amylolytic activity, specifically a cold-induced  $\beta$ -  
257 amylase isoform (Hill et al., 1996; Nielsen et al., 1997), increasing sucrose synthesis  
258 and starch degradation via phosphorolytic and hydrolytic reactions (Sowokinos, 1990).  
259 Therefore, ideally, potato tubers should be stored at 8-10  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , since reducing sugar  
260 content is not significantly influenced and although sprouting would occur at this  
261 temperature, it can be controlled using sprout suppressants such as chloropham (De  
262 Wilde et al., 2005, 2006a; Halford et al., 2012).

### 263 **3. Potato cooking**

264 Before consumption, potatoes need to be processed mainly due to the indigestibility of  
265 their ungelatinized starch. Indeed, according to García-Alonso and Goñi (2000), potato  
266 cooking greatly improves the digestibility of potato starch due to the conversion of the

267 natural resistant starch into highly digestible starch (**Figure 1**). The most popular  
268 cooking methods include boiling, baking, toasting, roasting, frying and microwaving  
269 (Decker and Ferruzzi, 2013; García-Alonso and Goñi, 2000), although emerging  
270 thermal technologies, such as ohmic heating, are being recently studied for potato  
271 cooking (Farahnaky et al., 2018). Considering all the products resulted from the potato  
272 cooking (**Figure 2**), the most important one refers to French fries, with an annual  
273 consumption of approximately 7 million metric ton worldwide, and the second one  
274 refers to potato chips (Miranda and Aguilera, 2006; Mordor Intelligence, 2016; National  
275 Potato Council, 2018).

276 The next section of this review will focus on potato frying process, addressing the  
277 changes induced by the frying procedure and the desired and undesired characteristics  
278 of fried potato products.

### 279 **3.1. Potato frying process**

280 Deep-fat or immersion frying is the most common technique used in potato processing  
281 (Miranda and Aguilera, 2006), which involves the immersion of potato slices in hot oil  
282 or fat and creates unique sensorial qualities, namely unique flavour and textures (Gertz,  
283 2014). In addition, recent new frying techniques have also been used, such as vacuum  
284 frying, a frying process performed under pressures below atmospheric levels, which has  
285 resulted in fried potatoes with less acrylamide levels (Belkova et al., 2018; Granda and  
286 Moreira, 2005); microwave-assisted vacuum frying, a special vacuum frying which uses  
287 the microwave as the only heating source and results in potato chips with a lower oil  
288 content and a better texture and flavour (Quan et al., 2014; Su et al., 2016, 2018a,  
289 2018b); and air frying, a process that produces fried potatoes with low oil content due to  
290 the utilization of oil droplets dispersed in a hot air stream, within a closed chamber  
291 (Santos et al., 2017, 2018).

292 Frying is mainly a drying procedure based on heat transfer by convection from the  
293 surrounding oil of the surface and afterwards, by conduction within the potato core  
294 (interior). In addition, mass transfer also takes place resulting in water removal and oil  
295 uptake by the potato strips (Aguilera and Gloria-Hernandez, 2000). As a result, several  
296 physical, structural, chemical and nutritional changes are induced by the potato frying  
297 process (Miranda and Aguilera, 2006), which are represented schematically in **Figure 3**.

### 298 **3.1.1. Physical and structural changes induced by frying**

299 During frying, the crust and the core of fried products suffer different changes at  
300 microstructural level. When the potato pieces are placed into the hot oil (160-180 °C),  
301 the temperature of the surface layers rises rapidly, the surface water boils and  
302 evaporates, starch granules undergo gelatinization and the tissues quickly dehydrate.  
303 Consequently, the surface porosity increases, as well as the shrinkage and roughness  
304 (Aguilera et al., 2001; Arslan et al., 2018; Bouchon and Aguilera, 2001; Gertz, 2014).  
305 As frying proceeds, the dehydrated crust develops and increases, a temperature gradient  
306 is formed in the interior (not exceeding 100 °C), as a result of heat transfer by  
307 conduction from the crust into the core, and the core is cooked. More specifically, starch  
308 granules inside cells undergo hydration by the water surrounding them, causing the  
309 starch swelling (Aguilera et al., 2001), and the middle lamellae between cells becomes  
310 softened and disintegrates, resulting in the so-called mealy texture (Bouchon and  
311 Aguilera, 2001). Oil uptake also occurs during potato frying and according to Aguilera  
312 and Gloria (1997), it is mainly a surface phenomenon and French fries have almost six  
313 times as much oil in the crust than in the inner part.

314 Besides, Bouchon et al. (2001) have studied the oil distribution in fried potato  
315 cylinders of 1 cm diameter and reported that the maximum penetration of oil in the crust  
316 was about 300 µm. In addition, several studies have noted that a small amount of oil is



317 absorbed during frying since the majority of absorption occurs at the end of frying and  
318 on cooling, involving a balance between adhesion and drainage of oil after the removal  
319 of the fried products from the fryer (Costa and Oliveira, 1999; Ufheil and Escher, 1996;  
320 Ziaifar et al., 2008). When the chips or fries are removed from the frying medium, their  
321 temperature immediately starts to decrease. Below 100 °C, water vapour condenses and  
322 the internal pressure drops on the surface, resulting in the creation of a positive pressure  
323 vacuum, which favours the oil placed in the surface to be absorbed (Miranda and  
324 Aguilera, 2006).

### 325 **3.1.2. Chemical and nutritional changes induced by frying**

326 During frying, food products suffer changes in their surface colour as well as in their  
327 aroma profile. At higher temperatures (>120 °C), the Maillard reaction between amino  
328 acids (or free amino groups of proteins and peptides) and reducing sugars occurs, which  
329 is responsible either for the colouring of fried products, changing their colour to golden  
330 yellow and later to brown, or for their aromatization due to the formation of volatile  
331 compounds as secondary products (Miranda and Aguilera, 2006; Moreira et al., 1999).  
332 However, toxic compounds are also formed during the Maillard reaction, namely  
333 acrylamide, hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF), furan, heterocyclic amines, and polycyclic  
334 aromatic hydrocarbons (Anese et al., 2013; Balagiannis et al., 2019; Camire et al., 2009;  
335 Pedreschi et al., 2008; Qi et al., 2018).

336 Acrylamide is classified by the World Health Organization and the International  
337 Agency for Research on Cancer as a Group 2A carcinogen (“probably carcinogenic to  
338 humans”) due to its implication in cancer in rats (Food et al., 2002; IARC, 1994). This  
339 compound has not been detected in unheated or boiled foods (< 5-50 µg/Kg) and  
340 therefore it was considered to be formed during heating at high temperatures (>120 °C),  
341 as result of the Maillard reaction between the amino acid asparagine and reducing

342 sugars (fructose and glucose) found in foods (Capuano and Fogliano, 2011; Miranda  
343 and Aguilera, 2006; Novozymes, 2017; Pedreschi et al., 2008; Powers et al., 2013).  
344 Furan and HMF are also by-products resulting from the Maillard reaction, involving  
345 several precursors, intermediates, and different reactions (Anese et al., 2013).

346 In addition, during frying some thermo labile compounds (such as ascorbic acid and  
347 other vitamins, flavonoids and essential amino acids) are lost by evaporation, leaching  
348 or degradation (Camire et al., 2009). Tian et al. (2016) have reported that frying caused  
349 losses of 83.35% in vitamin C content, 14.08% of total phenolics, 57.06% of total  
350 anthocyanins, 75.66% of total carotenoids and 33.84% of phenolic acids. Furthermore,  
351 prolonged use of oil at high temperature and in the presence of air leads to several  
352 reactions such as hydrolysis, oxidation and polymerization, resulting in the formation of  
353 volatile and non-volatile compounds within the oil, and some of which have been  
354 reported to pose risks to health (Miranda and Aguilera, 2006). The undesirable volatile  
355 products formed include peroxides, monoglycerides, diglycerides, aldehydes, ketones  
356 and carboxylic acids. The undesirable non-volatile compounds include free fatty acids,  
357 formed by the hydrolysis of oil, and trans-fatty acids, formed by hydrogenation (Yee  
358 and Bussell, 2007). The loss of healthy compounds and the formation of unhealthy  
359 ones, which can be absorbed by the product, leads to a reduction of the nutritional value  
360 of fried foods (Ziaifar et al., 2008). Moreover, when starch is gelatinized, it can interact  
361 with polar and non-polar compounds, like fatty acids. The hydrocarbon portion of the  
362 lipid locates within the helical cavity of amylose, forming helical inclusion complexes  
363 (De Pilli et al., 2008), which modify some properties of starch, decreasing its solubility  
364 in water, retarding retrogradation and reducing the viscosity of gelatinized starch (Meng  
365 et al., 2014).

#### 366 **4. Quality of fried potato products**

367 The overall quality of foods is a combination of the sensorial perception of appearance,  
368 texture, taste and consumer acceptability (Miranda and Aguilera, 2006; Yee and  
369 Bussell, 2007). In the specific case of fried products, their quality is a result of the  
370 quality of the tubers used in the manufacture and the manufacturing process applied.  
371 The fried products manufacturing process improves the palatability of foods and some  
372 sensorial properties (such as the range of colours, tastes, aromas and textures) (Capuano  
373 and Fogliano, 2011), but it may also bring about some undesirable effects. It includes (i)  
374 the loss of thermo labile compounds (such as vitamins and essential amino acids),  
375 reducing the nutritional value of heated foods; (ii) the formation of undesired tastes and  
376 off-flavours, reducing the sensorial quality; and (iii) the formation of harmful  
377 compounds with mutagenic, carcinogenic and cytotoxic effects (Decker and Ferruzzi,  
378 2013), as it is the case of acrylamide and hydroxymethylfurfural.

379 Given the large consumption of French fries worldwide, a main challenge is to  
380 reduce the formation of the undesirable characteristics, without compromising the  
381 sensorial qualities. Thus, texture, colour and nutritional composition of fried potato  
382 products are the main properties that should be monitored (Yee and Bussell, 2007).  
383 Table 1 shows the nutritional composition of French fries produced by McDonald's  
384 company (USDA, 2018). French fries exhibit a unique texture composed by two  
385 regions: (i) an external dehydrated, crispy and oily crust and (ii) a humid, cooked and  
386 tender moist core free of oil (Miranda and Aguilera, 2006), while chips are a crispy and  
387 dehydrated product infiltrated by oil (Moreira et al., 1999). Fried potatoes with high-oil  
388 content are associated with an higher incidence of obesity, cholesterol level and high  
389 blood pressure, and thereby fat uptake is a major health concern for the potato  
390 processing industry (Arslan et al., 2018; Yee and Bussell, 2007). For French fries, the  
391 final oil and moisture content is around 15 g/100 g and 38 g/100 g (total weight basis),

392 respectively (Aguilera and Gloria-Hernandez, 2000) and for potato chips the final oil  
393 and moisture content is around 33-38% and 1-2% (weight basis), respectively (Moreira  
394 et al., 1999). In addition, fried potato products are strongly susceptible to acrylamide  
395 formation due to asparagine and reducing sugars content as well as the high  
396 temperatures applied during the frying process. In French fries and chips, acrylamide  
397 formation occurs predominantly at the surface, where the (oil) temperature is high and  
398 the moisture content low (Parker et al., 2012). Regarding the acrylamide levels, the U.S.  
399 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires the limit content in water to be less  
400 than 0.5 ppb (CSPI, 2003). However, starch rich products, like those produced from  
401 potato tubers, have a much higher content of acrylamide (170-3700 ppb) than the level  
402 identified as safe by EPA (Becalski et al., 2003). For this reason, controlling the  
403 acrylamide precursors levels in potato tubers, either during potato cultivar and storage  
404 or applying a pre-treatment, is an essential strategy to prevent acrylamide formation in  
405 potato fried products (Amrein et al., 2003; O'Connor et al., 2001; Singh and Kaur,  
406 2016). On the other hand, the light golden colour and desirable flavours of fried potato  
407 products result from compounds produced by the Maillard reaction. However, excessive  
408 browning and the development of off-flavours have a negative impact on the quality of  
409 fried potatoes, being considered undesired by consumers and associated with burnt  
410 potato fries (Blenkinsop et al., 2010; van Eck, 2007; Yee and Bussell, 2007).

## 411 **5. Effect of processing by emergent technologies on the quality of potato tuber and** 412 **fried potato products**

413 The more restrict legislation and new consumptions habits are leading to the innovation  
414 of alternative or complementary treatments in order to improve the changes that occur  
415 during potato storage and to control potato diseases (Alamar et al., 2017). In addition,  
416 several novel food processing technologies have been developed for food non-thermal

417 pasteurization, as well for structural modification, allowing to reduce heat induced  
418 changes (nutritional and sensorial properties) in product quality (Jaeger et al., 2010).  
419 Irradiation, cold plasma, ultrasounds, pulsed electric fields (PEF), and high pressure  
420 processing (HPP) are non-thermal technologies (Fauster et al., 2018; Huang et al.,  
421 2017), which have already been applied in the treatment of potatoes. Several effects of  
422 these non-thermal emergent methods on potato quality are presented in **Table 3** and  
423 **Table 4**. Furthermore, a brief reference to a novel extraction technique, moderate  
424 electric fields (MEF), will be given later.

### 425 **5.1. Irradiation**

426 The potential application of irradiation in food processing is based mainly in the  
427 inactivation of living cells, as a result of the DNA damage caused by ionizing radiation  
428 (Arvanitoyannis et al., 2009). This non-thermal technology is quite effective for the  
429 extension of shelf life of fresh foods, but it can adversely affect their sensory properties  
430 (Soares et al., 2016). In 1964, it was approved by FDA for the application on potato  
431 tubers in order to inhibit tuber sprouting, using doses between 0.05 and 0.15 kilogray  
432 (kGy) (Andress et al., 1998; Ashley et al., 2004). Soares et al. (2016) have reported a  
433 slower sprouting in potatoes irradiated with 0.10 and 0.15 kGy and a sprouting  
434 inhibition when a dose of 2.00 kGy was applied. In addition, the effect of those gamma  
435 radiation doses on the sensory properties of potato tubers was also studied. It was found  
436 that the flavour of tubers was only slightly affected by irradiation, but potato tubers  
437 irradiated with 2.00 kGy exhibited a less desirable appearance after 35 days of storage.  
438 The authors concluded that 0.15 kGy was the most efficient radiation dose since it did  
439 not change nutritional and sensory properties and increased the shelf life of potato  
440 tubers. Moreover, Rezaee et al. (2013) treated potato tubers with gamma radiation of 50  
441 and 100 Gy at 10<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> day after harvest. The authors have reported that the

442 results obtained depend not only on the dose of radiation used but also on the potato  
443 variety and the day of treatment during potato storage.

444 For instance, the later the treatment was applied after harvesting, the greater radiation  
445 was required to inhibit sprouting. Similar results were obtained by Avdyukhina et al.,  
446 (2018), applying an x-ray treatment of 15, 20 and 30 Gy after 2, 3 and 4 months of  
447 storage, respectively. Irradiation has also shown effects on potato greening, with  
448 reductions between 50 and 80% by applying 0.05 and 0.250 kGy doses. However, in the  
449 literature there are only two studies which were carried out in the late 50's (Gull and  
450 Isenberg, 1958; Schwimmer and Weston, 1958), and, so far, there is no documented  
451 evidence of the commercial application of irradiation for tuber greening control (Tanios  
452 et al., 2018).

453 Other studies have shown that irradiation treatments have also an effect on reducing  
454 sugars content. Rezaee et al. (2013) reported an increase of reducing sugar content in  
455 potato tubers, mainly when the irradiation treatment was applied at a more advanced  
456 storage time or a lower dose of radiation was used. The results obtained by Avdyukhina  
457 et al. (2018) were similar but these authors have also found that the irradiation treatment  
458 at more than 4 months after harvest was not useful since the sugar content exceeded the  
459 concentration in the non-treated tubers. The authors suggested that the increase of  
460 sucrose synthase, invertase and phosphorylase activity was probably the cause for the  
461 increase of reducing sugars content in potato tubers. The effect of irradiation technology  
462 on ascorbic acid content was also evaluated. Rezaee et al. (2013) observed that the loss  
463 of ascorbic acid increased at higher radiation doses and with earlier treatments.

464 Furthermore, the effect of irradiation on degradation of potato pesticides was also  
465 evaluated and Basfar et al. (2012) who found that by applying 1 kGy of irradiation, the  
466 concentration of pirimiphos-methyl residues decreased between 18 and 44.4%.

## 467 5.2. Cold plasma

468 Cold plasma is a novel technology, which uses reactive compounds in plasma to  
469 damage cell membranes, to denature the DNA and, consequently, to destroy or  
470 inactivate microorganisms. As cold plasma is a cold treatment, sensory and functional  
471 properties of foods have the potential to be better maintained (Dey et al., 2016). This  
472 non-thermal method has shown effects on bacterial pathogens present in potato tuber as  
473 well as on PPO and POD activity. Moreau et al. (2007) studied the effect of gliding arc  
474 (glidarc) discharge in the potato pathogen *Erwinia carotovora* subsp. *atroseptica*. The  
475 authors found that the application of this treatment caused changes in the bacterial  
476 membrane, induced the release of bacterial genomic DNA and proteins as well as  
477 protein dimerization and/or aggregation, and resulted in the effective destruction of  
478 *Erwinia* spp. Bußler et al. (2017) have reported that after the application of plasma  
479 processed air for 10 min, the PPO and POD activities were reduced by about 77 and  
480 89%, respectively.

481 Although cold plasma has several benefits, some disadvantages have been also  
482 reported in the literature, namely the negative effect on fatty acids in several food  
483 products (Gavahian et al., 2018a). This technology induces lipid oxidation, when  
484 oxygen is present, due to the presence of reactive oxygen species in plasma, which  
485 adversely affects the sensory and nutritional quality of foods (Barden and Decker, 2016;  
486 Shahidi and Zhong, 2010), and even consumers health (Niki, 2009). Specifically in  
487 potato products, no information was found in the literature. Nevertheless, as fried  
488 potatoes have high lipids content it is possible to hypothesize that cold plasma  
489 technology may increase their lipid oxidation. However, it is only a hypothesis that  
490 should be further investigated.

491 **5.3. Ultrasound**

492 Ultrasound (US) may be used in food technology for non-destructive testing, by  
493 applying low intensities in the 0.1-20 kHz range. However, by applying high-power  
494 ultrasounds in the 20-100 kHz range, several physical, mechanical or chemical  
495 alterations may occur in foods (Mason et al., 2005). First of all, US influences some  
496 physicochemical properties of potato starch, namely disruption of starch granules,  
497 which results in more transparent and less viscous starch pastes (Chung et al., 2002), as  
498 well as changes in the crystal structure and formation of cavities in starch granules (Zhu  
499 et al., 2012). Furthermore, the drying rates of potato tubers are also affected by this  
500 technology.

501 Ozuna et al. (2011) observed that a treatment with ultrasonic power between 0 and  
502  $37 \text{ kW}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$  caused both an improvement of water transport mechanisms, probably due to  
503 the reduction on the boundary layer thickness, or an increase of the drying kinetics  
504 when a higher ultrasonic power was applied, reducing the drying time and the energy  
505 required for the drying process. Similar results were observed by Schössler et al. (2012),  
506 *i.e.*, the water removal was improved by the application of an US treatment at a  
507 frequency of 24 kHz, as well as a reduction in drying time of 10.3%.

508 In addition, the application of US associated with osmotic dehydration has shown  
509 effects on reducing oil uptake in fried potatoes since osmotic dehydration decreases the  
510 initial water content of potato strips and US increases the mass transfer rate  
511 (Dehghannya and Abedpour, 2018; Karizaki et al., 2013). US may also affect browning,  
512 firmness and cell microstructure in potato tubers, and according to Amaral et al. (2015),  
513 a sonication treatment (40 kHz, 200 W) for 5 min inhibited PPO activity in 50% for the  
514 first 4 days of potato storage, and 10 min of treatment damaged the potato cells. The  
515 majority of components and sensory properties of potato tubers were not affected by the



516 treatment and the firmness of the potato strips after frying was found to be more  
517 uniform. In addition, Wambura and Yang (2011) showed the potential of US to remove  
518 lipids from the surface of the potato chips, improving oxidative stability during storage  
519 and eventually shelf life and sensory quality of potato chips.

520 Antunes-Rohling et al. (2018) studied the effect of US (with a frequency of 35 and  
521 130 kHz and an ultrasonic power density of 9.5, 47.6 and 95.2 W/Kg, for 30 min at 30  
522 and 42 °C) as a frying pre-treatment to mitigate the acrylamide formation in fried  
523 potatoes and noted a decrease in the potatoes' moisture gain by applying higher  
524 ultrasonic densities. In addition, the authors noted an increase in the extraction of  
525 reducing sugars between 17 and 52%, probably due to the surface cells degradation and  
526 the chemical breakdown of starch, as well as a reduction in acrylamide content by up to  
527 83% compared with directly fried potatoes.

#### 528 **5.4. Pulsed Electric Fields**

529 The application of pulsed electric field (PEF) treatment in foods is based on the  
530 permeabilization of biological membranes. PEF processing involves the application of  
531 short pulses ( $\mu$ s to ms) of electric fields in the range of 100-300 V/cm to 20-80 kV/cm,  
532 resulting in the disintegration of the cell membrane and in the formation of membrane  
533 pores (temporarily or permanently), retaining or minimally modifying sensorial,  
534 nutritional and health-promoting attributes of food products (Barba et al., 2015; Jaeger  
535 et al., 2010; Puértolas et al., 2016; Puértolas and Barba, 2016; Sánchez-Vega et al.,  
536 2015). However, Ammar et al. (2011) emphasized that the plant tissue structure, cell  
537 size and electrophysical properties of cell fluids and membranes have a high influence  
538 on the PEF damage efficiency. For instance, potato tissue shows a rapid PEF-induced  
539 damage due to the large size of its cells. In addition, the potato peel has also influence  
540 on results of PEF treatment, showing a protective effect against cell lysis and death, and

541 thus peeled potato tubers are more sensitive to electric field application than unpeeled  
542 tubers (Faridnia et al., 2015).

543 On the other hand, Fincan and Dejmek (2003) and Pereira et al. (2009) observed that  
544 the rapid change on the viscoelastic properties of potato tissue is another effect caused  
545 by PEF, as a result of electroporation, cell permeabilization and partial loss of turgor  
546 pressure. Moreover, other studies have proven that electric pulses induce more  
547 metabolic responses in potato tissue, which involve oxygen consuming pathways, a  
548 resealing process accompanied by oxidative stress due to the formation of reactive  
549 oxygen species (ROS), and ATP hydrolysis for the restoration of the charges gradients  
550 across cell membranes. These results were observed a few minutes after the application  
551 of PEF treatment (Galindo et al., 2008).

552 However, Galindo et al. (2009) studied the changes occurring in potato metabolism  
553 24h after the treatment and found changes in the hexose pool, involving probably the  
554 degradation of starch and ascorbic acid, and changes in the amino acid pool.  
555 Furthermore, PEF has also shown to affect enzymatic browning of potato tubers, a  
556 phenomenon that has negative effects on the nutritional and sensory features of fried  
557 potatoes (Queiroz et al., 2008). Indeed, this technology favours enzymatic browning of  
558 cut potato tubers, due to the release of previously entrapped PPO, which will have an  
559 improved contact with oxidizable compounds, namely phenolic compounds (Oey et al.,  
560 2016).

561 In the literature, several studies have reported that diffusion processes (intra- or  
562 extracellular mass transfer) are modified after PEF application (Arevalo et al., 2004;  
563 Janositz et al., 2011; Lindgren, 2006). Researchers have presented a couple of  
564 explanations for this phenomenon, namely the formation of pores in cell membrane, the  
565 cell membrane disintegration as well as the reduction of lignin content of the cell wall,

566 which may be caused by the breaking of inter- and intramolecular bonds between the  
567 cellulose, hemicellulose, and lignin polymers. As a consequence, PEF treated potato  
568 tubers show higher diffusion coefficients (Arevalo et al., 2004) and an enhanced release  
569 of reducing sugars (precursors of the Maillard reaction and acrylamide formation)  
570 (Janositz et al., 2011; Lindgren, 2006).

571 PEF technology has also shown to influence drying processes. According to May and  
572 Perré (2002) and Wang and Brennan (1995), the drying rate is both dependent on the  
573 cell liquid (water) release or tissue structure, density and porosity. Thus, a greater PEF-  
574 induced release of cell liquid and degree of tissue damage are associated with an  
575 increase in drying rate (Janositz et al., 2011; Lebovka et al., 2007). Other studies have  
576 noticed effects on potato texture (Fauster et al., 2018; Ignat et al., 2015). Fauster et al.  
577 (2018) studied, in an industrial scale production environment, the impact of PEF pre-  
578 treatment on potato texture and on process performance characteristics during the  
579 manufacturing of French fries. The researchers observed an increase in cell  
580 permeabilization and the loss of the cell turgor pressure, thus the tissues became softer  
581 and the potato surface smoother. The influence of PEF treatment on the peeling  
582 behaviour of potatoes was also evaluated, but no significant differences were observed.  
583 Ignat et al., (2015) have shown similar results regarding to softening of potato tubers.  
584 Indeed, these results have an important industrial application, the decreasing of the  
585 energy required for PEF treatment (ten-fold lower than for potato blanching) as well as  
586 the energy needed for cutting (35% less). There are already some works protected by  
587 patent, which use PEF to improve cutting, patent number US6821540B2, (Cousin et al.,  
588 2004) and to reduce the energy needed to accomplish appropriate cooking, patent  
589 number WO2016008868A1 (Oord and Roelofs, 2016).

590 Besides improvements in the potato texture, PEF has also provided benefits in  
591 economic aspects, namely by reducing feathering (up to 80%), starch loss (from 7.1 to  
592 5.9 Kg/t of treated potatoes), fat uptake (from 7.5 to 6.8%) and the proportion of broken  
593 sticks (from 11.0 to 6.0%) due to the improvement in elastic properties of potato strips  
594 (Fauster et al., 2018).

595 Regarding fried potato products, Botero-Urbe et al. (2017) reviewed the main effects  
596 of PEF on the texture of French fries, and Kalum and Hendriksen (2016) showed a  
597 potential alternative for reducing acrylamide levels in fried potatoes by applying a PEF  
598 treatment. The authors proposed that PEF pre-processing, followed by the treatment  
599 with enzymes capable of reacting with asparagine (asparaginase) or with reducing  
600 sugars (oxidoreductase), can reduce asparagine and glucose contents in the potato  
601 products before deep frying, as well as acrylamide levels after frying. Indeed, such a  
602 possibility, it was protected by a U.S. patent (US20160100612A1) (Kalum and  
603 Hendriksen, 2016).

604 Moreover, Ignat et al. (2015) also observed an increase in the tubers moisture by  
605 applying 9000 pulses at 0.75 kV/cm or 810 pulses at 2.50 kV/cm electric field, as well a  
606 reduction of oil uptake and an increase in the leaching of reducing sugar, decreasing  
607 browning tendency during frying. Liu et al. (2018) have reported a reduction in drying  
608 and frying time processes when a PEF treatment of 100 pulses at 600 V/cm was applied.  
609 In addition, the researchers noted that during frying, the skin of potato strips became  
610 denser and less oil penetrable. In addition, a reduction of oil content in 38% was  
611 observed in fried potatoes using tubers that were treated by PEF, at 1.5-5.0 kV/cm and  
612 20-40 pulses of 100-400  $\mu$ s (Janositz et al., 2011).

613 Due to the raise of PEF-induced cell membranes permeability, the diffusion of cell  
614 liquid from the core to the surface of potato strips is increased, a greater vapour pressure

615 difference between food moisture and oil is obtained as well as a thicker water vapour  
616 layer, which decreases dehydration on the potato surface and consequently oil uptake  
617 (Janositz et al., 2011; Thanatuksorn et al., 2005). Furthermore, PEF treated potatoes  
618 result in strips with lower roughness, leading to a better oil draining and a decreased  
619 susceptibility to oil uptake (Bouchon and Pyle, 2004).

620 Moreover, physicochemical properties of potato starch undergoes some changes  
621 when a PEF treatment is applied, namely (i) denaturation and damage of potato starch  
622 granules, leading to a rough surface; (ii) aggregation among granules and formation of a  
623 gel-like structure due to the increase of water absorption, starch swelling and granule  
624 size; (iii) loss of crystalline structure; and (iv) reduction of the peak and breakdown  
625 viscosity (Han et al. 2009).

## 626 **5.5. Moderate Electric Fields**

627 Moderate Electric Fields (MEF) are characterized by the application of an alternating  
628 electric current up to 100 V/cm of electric field without pulsation across food products,  
629 with or without the presence of ohmic heating effects. It induces a controlled and  
630 possibly reversible increase in cell permeability (Gavahian et al., 2018b; Sensoy and  
631 Sastry, 2004). MEF have been used as an alternative to the conventional extraction  
632 techniques in the food industry. MEF extraction have several benefits, namely the  
633 reduction of extraction energy and time, and the improvement of extraction yields and  
634 quality (Gavahian et al., 2018b). This extraction technique has been already applied in  
635 potatoes, and it resulted in an increase of the degree of potato tissue damage with the  
636 increase of the applied temperature (Lebovka et al., 2005). Furthermore, Pereira et al.  
637 (2016) found that MEF can be applied for the extraction of anthocyanins and phenolic  
638 compounds from coloured potatoes, with enhanced recovery yields, reduced treatment  
639 time and energy consumption, and no utilization of organic solvents.

640

641 **5.6. High Pressure Processing**

642 High pressure processing (HPP), also known as high hydrostatic pressure or high  
643 isostatic pressure, is an emerging technology in food processing and preservation, which  
644 uses elevated hydrostatic pressure (commercially, up to 600 MPa) for cold  
645 pasteurization, without affecting the sensory quality of foods (Basak and Ramaswamy,  
646 1998; Oey et al., 2016), and is based on two essential principles: (i) Le Chatelier's  
647 Principle and (ii) the isostatic principle (Elamin et al., 2015). Besides its use in food  
648 preservation, this technology has also been studied for several other applications, such  
649 as for the modification of physiological processes, like potato sprouting (Alexandre et  
650 al., 2016; Saraiva and Rodrigues, 2011), to accelerate infusion processes (Sopanangkul  
651 et al., 2002) and for the modification of food biopolymers, such as starch and proteins  
652 (Balasubramaniam et al., 2015).

653 Although potato starch is more baroresistant than other starches, requiring a pressure  
654 about 800-900 MPa to achieve a complete gelatinization (Katopo et al., 2002; Stute et  
655 al., 1996), some researchers have shown that by applying 600 MPa for 2-5 min, the  
656 starch granule is affected, and more drastic conditions (600 MPa for 30 min) induce  
657 starch gelatinization in tubers (Błaszczak et al., 2005; Tribst et al., 2016).

658 Oey et al. (2016) published a review article focused on the effects of HPP on colour,  
659 texture and flavour of fruits and vegetables, the main factors affecting the sensory  
660 quality and consumer acceptance of foods. They reported that this technology has the  
661 ability of preserving nutritional and sensory properties of fruits and vegetables due to its  
662 limited effects on the covalent bonds of compounds related to their colour and flavour.  
663 The effects of HPP on fresh tubers were only evaluated in a few studies. Tribst et al.  
664 (2016) and Oliveira et al. (2015) have investigated the effect of HPP (at 600 MPa

665 applied for 5 and 30 min), respectively on oxidative enzymes and on physical  
666 characteristics of cocoyam, Peruvian carrot and sweet potato. Tribst et al. (2016) found  
667 an increase of PPO and POD activity in sweet potato. However, this increase was  
668 dependent of the food matrix, *i.e.* in sweet potato puree and cubes, PPO activity  
669 increased by up to 468 and 221%, respectively. Considering POD activity, the only  
670 matrix where POD activity increased was in sweet potato puree (~ 20%).

671 On the other hand Oliveira et al. (2015) reported that HPP treatment caused physical  
672 damage in the cellular structure of the tubers, evidenced by the presence of starch  
673 outside the cells, lack of cellular definition, agglomeration of the starch granules and  
674 increase of the granule volume, possibly due to hydration of starch. In addition, water  
675 exudation and an increase in syneresis (up to 12%) were also observed, as well as the  
676 increasing of the drying rate (~30%) and the reduction of the firmness (up to 60%). The  
677 decrease of firmness and stiffness was also observed in other studies, as for instance, by  
678 applying 100 MPa for 5 or 10 min (Saraiva and Rodrigues, 2011), and 400 MPa for 15  
679 min (Eshtiaghi and Knorr, 1993).

680 Furthermore, Sopanangkul et al. (2002) have studied the effect of HPP on the  
681 diffusion coefficient of sucrose in potato cylinders and reported that pressure opened up  
682 the tissue structure, increased the cell permeability and facilitated the diffusion to a  
683 certain extent. Actually, higher pressures (above 400 MPa) also induced starch  
684 gelatinization and hindered diffusion. The maximum value of diffusion coefficient was  
685 8-fold higher than the atmospheric pressure value, and the authors highlighted that  
686 application of appropriate levels of pressure (100 to 400 MPa) can be used to accelerate  
687 mass transfer during ingredient infusion into foods and to reduce processing times.

688 Other studies have shown that HPP could be used as a nonthermal and chemical-free  
689 alternative to control the sprouting of potato tubers. Saraiva and Rodrigues (2011)

690 observed a sprouting inhibition up to 6 weeks at 18 °C after the application of 100 MPa  
691 for 5 and 10 min. Moreover, Alexandre et al. (2016) have studied the effect of short  
692 thermal treatments (60 and 65 °C for 1 min) and low intensity high pressure treatments  
693 (15 and 30 MPa for 10 min) on potato sprouting. The most pronounced inhibitory effect  
694 on potato tuber sprouting was achieved when treatments were sequentially combined.  
695 The induction of PPO activity by pressure and the regulation of sucrose availability due  
696 to the control of the co-factor inorganic pyrophosphate (PPi) concentration are two  
697 possible explanations provided by the authors of both studies for the inhibitory effects  
698 noted on potato sprouting.

## 699 **6. Final remarks**

700 Potato is the second most important crop for human consumption in Europe and fourth  
701 at a global scale, being considered an excellent source of energy, carbohydrates, and  
702 dietary fiber. The preservation of the potato tuber quality is crucial for human  
703 consumption and processing, as well as to avoid economic losses. Potato tuber diseases,  
704 enzymatic discolouration, greening, sprouting and cold sweetening are important  
705 aspects that affect potato tuber quality. Besides, potato cooking is an indispensable  
706 process before consumption and frying is considered the most common technique used  
707 in potato processing. The frying process results in physical, textural, chemical and  
708 nutritional changes, of which some are considered desirable food characteristics like the  
709 typical texture, colour and flavour, and others are undesirable, namely the destruction of  
710 essential amino acids and vitamins, the production of carcinogenic and cytotoxic  
711 compounds (such as acrylamide and hydroxymethylfurfural) and the high oil content.  
712 Given the large consumption of fried potato products worldwide, it is important to  
713 reduce the formation of the undesirable characteristics, without compromising the  
714 sensorial qualities.



715 Several emerging non-thermal technologies have already been applied in the  
716 treatment of potatoes, namely irradiation, cold plasma, ultrasounds, pulsed electric field  
717 and high pressure processing. These novel non-thermal processing techniques have  
718 shown to improve several aspects associated with either the quality of potato tubers and  
719 fried potato products, or even improved their processing, such as time and energy for  
720 potato slicing and cutting. For these reasons, non-thermal technologies are considered  
721 potential alternatives for the potato tubers treatment and as frying pre-treatment to  
722 create improved and healthier fried potato products.

723

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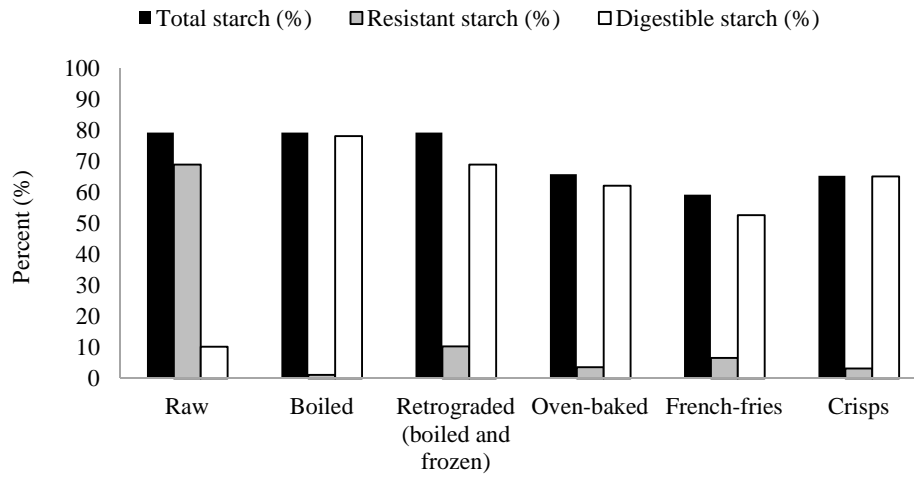
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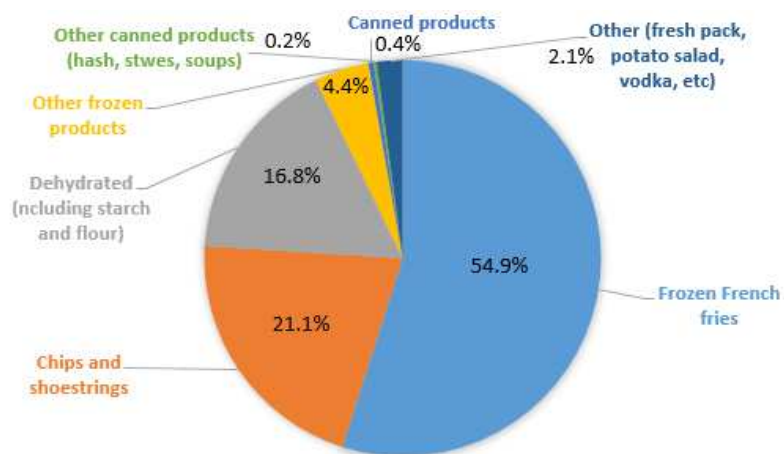
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1186 Figure 1 - Impact of processing on total, resistant and digestible starch in potatoes. Values taken from  
1187 García-Alonso and Goñi (2000).

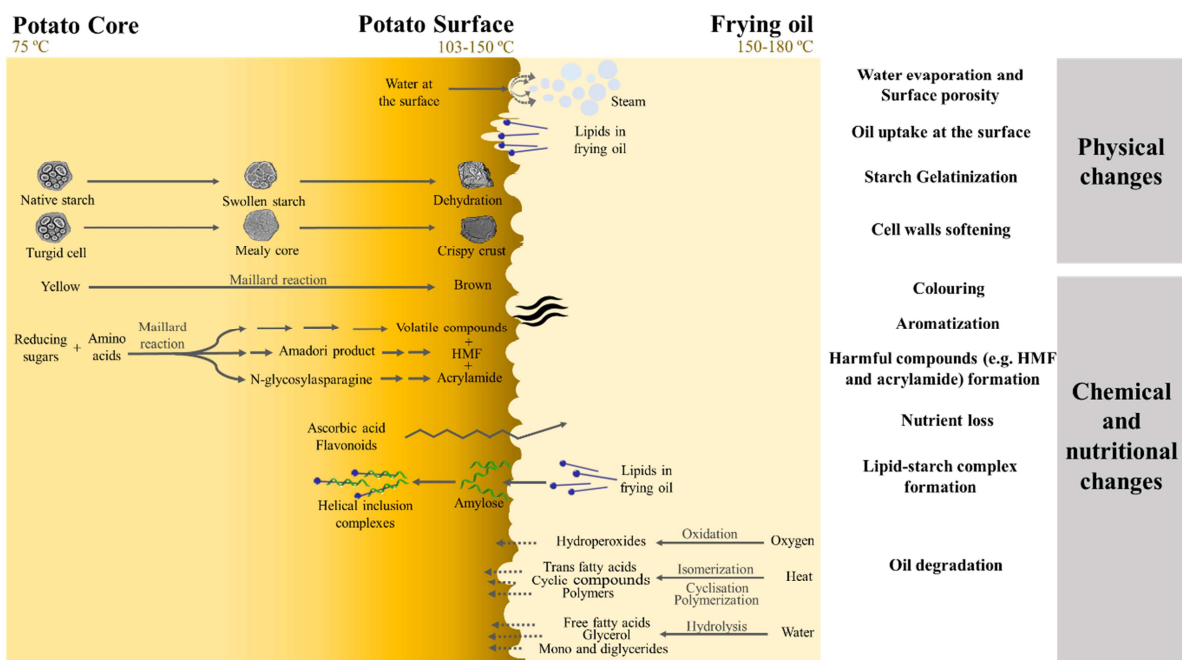
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1190 Figure 2 - Different products and applications of processed potatoes. Values taken from National Potato  
1191 Council (2018).

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1194 Figure 3 - Physical, chemical and nutritional changes induced by potato frying.

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1197 Table 1 - Nutritional composition of raw potato tubers and French fries produced by McDonald's  
 1198 company, per 100g of edible portion. Values taken from USDA and ARS (2018) and USDA (2018),  
 1199 respectively.


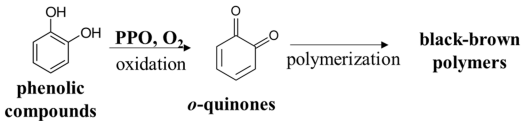

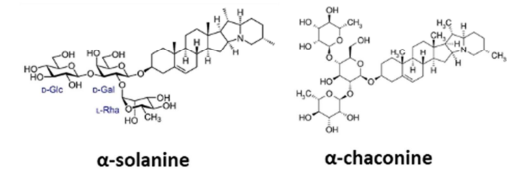
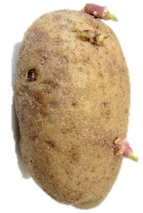
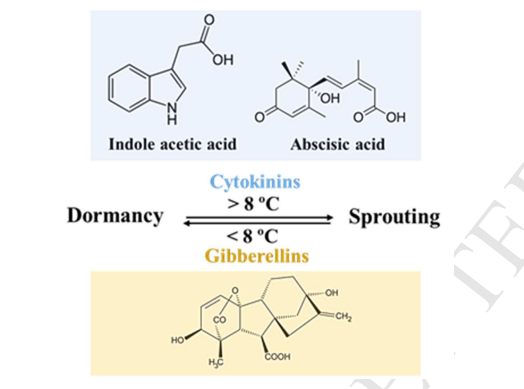
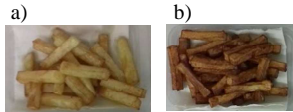
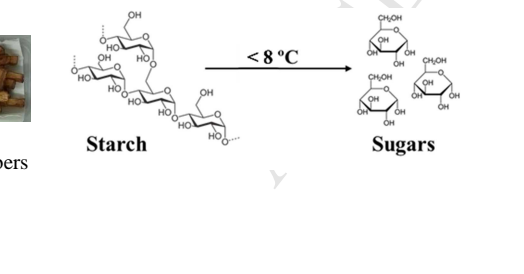
<b>Nutrient</b>	<b>Raw potato tuber (value per 100g)</b>	<b>French fries (value per 100g)</b>
Water (g)	79.25	36.63
Carbohydrates (g)	17.46	323
Sugars, total (g)	0.82	3.41
Fibre, total dietary (g)	2.1	15.47
Protein (g)	2.05	42.58
Lipid (g)	0.09	3.9
Sugars, total (g)	0.82	0.21
<b>Minerals</b>		
Potassium (mg)	425	19
Phosphorus (mg)	57	0.80
Magnesium (mg)	23	37
Calcium (mg)	12	127
Iron (mg)	0.81	596
Sodium (mg)	6	189
Zinc (mg)	0.30	0.51
<b>Vitamins</b>		
Vitamin C, total ascorbic acid (mg)	19.7	5.6
Thiamin (mg)	0.081	0.180
Riboflavin (mg)	0.032	0.037
Niacin (mg)	1.061	3.220
Vitamin B-6 (mg)	0.298	0.380
Folate (µg)	15	1
Vitamin A (IU)	2	0
Vitamin E (α-tocopherol)	0.01	1.38
Vitamin K (µg)	2.0	16.0
<b>Lipids</b>		
Fatty acids, total saturated (g)	0.025	2.271
Fatty acids, total monounsaturated (g)	0.002	7.379
Fatty acids, total polyunsaturated (g)	0.042	4.727
Fatty acids, total trans (g)	0.000	0.064

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Table 2 - Some events affecting the potato tuber quality (potato diseases, enzymatic discolouration, greening, sprouting and cold sweetening), their biological or biochemical causes, and the traditional control strategies applied and novel non-thermal technologies that may be used as alternative treatment.

Events affecting potato tuber quality (Lisińska et al., 2009; Meyhuay, 2001)	Biological/ biochemical causes	Traditional control strategies	Novel non-thermal technologies alternatives
<b>Black dot</b>	The fungus <i>Colletotrichum coccodes</i>	-	-
 1 <b>Silver scurf</b>	The fungus <i>Helminthosporium solani</i>	Dry and cool conditions during potato tuber storage (Fiers et al., 2012)	-
 2 <b>Skin spot</b>	The fungus <i>Polyscytalum pustulans</i>	-	-
 1 <b>Late blight</b>	The oomycete pathogen <i>Phytophthora infestans</i>	Chemical fungicides (CIPC, 2015; Hijmans et al., 2000)	-
 1 <b>Blackleg (stem rot) and soft rot</b>	Gram-negative bacteria, <i>Erwinia carotovora</i> spp. <i>carotovora</i> (Ecc), <i>E. carotovora</i> spp. <i>atroseptica</i> (Eca) and <i>E. chrysanthemi</i> (Ech)	-	Cold plasma (Moreau et al., 2007)
 1 <b>Potato tuber necrotic ringspot</b>	The <i>Potato virus Y</i>	-	-



Enzymatic discoloration	 <p>1</p>	 <p>phenolic compounds <math>\xrightarrow{\text{PPO, O}_2 \text{ oxidation}}</math> o-quinones <math>\xrightarrow{\text{polymerization}}</math> black-brown polymers</p>	<p>Use of citric, acetic, malic and ascorbic acids; Vacuum packaging of cut food; PPO inhibitors (Ali et al., 2015; Buta and Moline, 2001; Rocha et al., 2003; Wang et al., 2011).</p>	<p>Cold Plasma (Bußler et al., 2017); Ultrasound (Amaral et al., 2015).</p>
Greening	 <p>1</p>	<p>Light Amyloplasts <math>\rightarrow</math> Chloroamyloplasts <math>\rightarrow</math> Chlorophyll</p>  <p><math>\alpha</math>-solanine <math>\alpha</math>-chaconine</p>	<p>Minimizing light exposure during potato handling and storage; Low-oxygen storage; Edible oil coatings; Chemical treatments (Nema et al., 2008; Pavlista, 2001; Tanius et al., 2018).</p>	<p>Irradiation (Gull and Isenberg, 1958; Schwimmer and Weston, 1958).</p>
Sprouting	 <p>1</p>	 <p>Indole acetic acid Abscisic acid</p> <p>Dormancy <math>\xrightleftharpoons[\text{Gibberellins}]{\text{Cytokinins} &gt; 8^\circ\text{C}}</math> Sprouting <math>&lt; 8^\circ\text{C}</math></p>	<p>Storage at low temperatures (<math>&lt; 8^\circ\text{C}</math>); Chemical sprouting inhibitors (such as, chlorpropham) (Sorice et al., 2005).</p>	<p>Irradiation (Avdyukhina et al., 2018; Rezaee et al., 2013; Soares et al., 2016); High Pressure Processing (Alexandre et al., 2016; Saraiva and Rodrigues, 2011).</p>
Cold Sweetening	 <p>a) b)</p> <p>Fried potatoes using potato tubers stored at:</p> <p>a) <math>\sim 20^\circ\text{C}</math> b) <math>4^\circ\text{C}</math></p>	 <p>Starch <math>\xrightarrow{&lt; 8^\circ\text{C}}</math> Sugars</p>	<p>Potato storage at <math>8\text{-}10^\circ\text{C}</math> (De Wilde et al., 2005; Halford et al., 2012)</p>	<p>Irradiation (Avdyukhina et al., 2018; Rezaee et al., 2013); Ultrasound (Antunes-Rohling et al., 2018); Pulsed Electric Field (Ignat et al., 2015).</p>

- No information available.

1 - Images taken from Wikipedia, accessed 01.02.2019

2 - Images taken from WikiGardener, accessed 01.02.2019

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Table 3 - Effect of non-thermal technologies on several quality parameters important for potato tuber quality.

Method	Experimental conditions	Evaluated parameters of potato tuber quality										Reference	
		Potato diseases	Greening	Potato Sprouting	Weight loss	Reducing sugar content	Ascorbic acid content	Oxidative browning	Drying process	Texture	Diffusion process		
Irradiation	0.05 kGy dose	-	↓ 62%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Schwimmer and Weston (1958)	
	0.15 kGy dose	-	↓ 67%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	0.50 kGy dose	-	↓ 75%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	0.250 kGy dose	-	↓ 80%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	0.4 kGy dose	-	↓ 50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Gull and Isenberg (1958)	
	50 Gy at 10 <sup>th</sup> , 30 <sup>th</sup> and 50 <sup>th</sup> day after harvest	-	-	Inhibition (earlier treatment, higher inhibition)	↓ 7.6% at 10 <sup>th</sup> day ↓ 9.5% at 30 <sup>th</sup> day ↓ 12.5% at 50 <sup>th</sup> day	↑ 57.1% at 10 <sup>th</sup> day ↑ 40.6% at 50 <sup>th</sup> day	↓	↓ 24.8% at 10 <sup>th</sup> day ↓ 8.5% at 50 <sup>th</sup> day	-	-	-	-	Rezaee et al. (2013)
	100 Gy at 10 <sup>th</sup> , 30 <sup>th</sup> and 50 <sup>th</sup> day after harvest	-	-	Inhibition (earlier treatment, higher inhibition)	↓ 7.6% at 10 <sup>th</sup> day ↓ 9.5% at 30 <sup>th</sup> day ↓ 12.5% at 50 <sup>th</sup> day	↑ 10.2% at 10 <sup>th</sup> day ↑ 28.5% at 50 <sup>th</sup> day	↓	↓ 24.8% at 10 <sup>th</sup> day ↓ 8.5% at 50 <sup>th</sup> day	-	-	-	-	Rezaee et al. (2013)
	0.10 and 0.15 kGy doses	-	-	↓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Soares et al. (2016)
	0.20 kGy dose	-	-	inhibition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Soares et al. (2016)
	X-ray treatment with 15, 20 and 30 Gy after 2, 3 and 4 months of storage, respectively	-	-	inhibition	-	↑	-	-	-	-	-	-	Avdyukhina et al. (2018)
Cold plasma	Pre-drying treatment with plasma processed air for 10 min	-	-	-	-	-	-	↓ 77% of PPO activity ↓ 89% of POD activity	-	-	-	Buñler et al. (2017)	

	Plasma treatment generated by gliding arc discharge	<i>Erwinia</i> spp. inactivation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Moreau et al. (2007)
<b>Ultrasound</b>	Treatment with ultrasonic power of 0-37 kW.m-3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	↑ water transport mechanisms ↑ Drying kinetics	-	Ozuna et al. (2011)
	Sonication treatment of 40kHz, 200 W for 5 min	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	↓ 50% of PPO activity	-	Amaral et al. (2015)
	US at 28-40 kHz	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	↑ water removal ↓ 10.3% drying time	-	Schössler et al. (2012)
	1-500 pulses for 2-500 μs at 0.2-10 kV/cm of electric field (European patent)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	↑ rate of mass transfer	Lindgren (2015)
<b>Pulsed Electric Field</b>	1.5 – 5.0 kV/cm of electric field and 20-40 pulses of 100-400 μs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	↑ water loss during drying	-	Janositz et al. (2011)
	0.75-1.5 kV/cm of electric field and up to 120 pulses of 100 and 300 μs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	↑ 40% of diffusion coefficients	Arevalo et al. (2004)
<b>High Pressure Processing</b>	400 MPa applied for 15 min	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	↑ drying rate	-	Al-Khuseibi et al. (2005)

600 MPa applied for 5 and 30 min	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	↑ 30% of drying rate	↑ water exudation ↑ 12% of syneresis ↓ 60% of firmness Damage in the cellular structure	-	Oliveira et al. (2015)
600 MPa applied for 5 and 30 min	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	↑ 148% - 468% of PPO activity ↑ 20% of POD activity	-	-	Tribst et al. (2016)
400 MPa applied for 15 min	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Changes in tissue structure ↑ cell permeability	↑ mass transfer ↑ 8-fold of diffusion coefficient	Eshtiaghi and Knorr (1993)
100 MPa applied for 5 and 10 min	-	-	Inhibition up to 6 weeks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Saraiva and Rodrigues (2011)
Short thermal treatment (60 and 65 °C for 1 min) + Low intensity HP treatment (15 and 30 MPa for 10 min)	-	-	Inhibition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Alexandre et al. (2016)

- No information available.

Table 4 - Effect of non-thermal technologies, as a frying pre-treatment, on several quality parameters important for the quality of fried potato products.

Method	Experimental conditions	Effects on processing			Effects on parameters related to the quality of fried potato products						Reference
		Frying or cooking process	Cutting process	Changes in cell microstructure	Moisture of potato strips	Texture of potato strips	Asparagine and reducing sugars content in raw potato	Extraction of reducing sugars from raw potato	Oil content of fries	Acrylamide content in fries	
Ultrasound	40kHz, 200 W for 1, 5 and 10 min	-	-	Cell damage with 10 min of treatment	-	More uniform firmness	-	-	-	-	Amaral et al. (2015)
	Pre-frying treatment in water (30 and 42 °C) for 30 min; 35 and 130 kHz of frequency; 9.5, 47.6 and 95.2 W/Kg of ultrasonic power density	-	-	-	↑ ultrasonic power density → ↓ Moisture gain	-	-	↑ 17-52%	-	↓ 83%	Antunes-Rohling et al. (2018)
	US at 28-40 kHz for 15 min + Osmotic dehydration using osmotic solutions with 2-4% NaCl concentration for 180 min	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	↓ 40-50%	-	Dehghannya and Abedpour (2018)
	US at 20 kHz for 10-30 min + Osmotic dehydration using osmotic solutions with 15% salt and 15% salt/50% sugar w/w concentration for 10-90 min	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	↓ 12.5%	-	Karizaki et al. (2013)

<b>Pulsed Electric Fields (PEF)</b>	18.9 kJ/Kg, 9000 pulses at 0.75 kV/cm or 810 pulses at 2.50 kV/cm of electric field	-	-	-	↑	↓ firmness ↓ 35% energy for cutting	-	↑	↓	-	Ignat et al. (2015)
	100 pulses at 600 V/cm of electric field	↓ frying time	-	-	-	-	-	-	↓	-	Liu et al. (2018)
	1.0 kV/cm of electric field	↓ energy for processing	↓ energy for cutting	↑ cell permeabilization ↓ cell turgor pressure	-	↓ firmness ↑ smoothing of surface ↓ feathering	-	-	↓	-	Fauster et al. (2018)
	0.2 – 10 kV/cm of electric field + treatment with asparaginase and oxireductase (U.S. patent number US20160100612A1)	-	-	-	-	-	↓	-	-	↓	Kalum and Hendriksen (2016)
	PEF treatment of 45-65 V/cm of electric field for 3-5 s (U.S. patent)	-	↓ energy for cutting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Cousin et al. (2004)
	PEF treatment of 1-2000000 pulses at 10-180 V/cm of electric field (international patent)	↓ energy for cooking	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Oord and Roelofs (2016)
	PEF treatment of 1.5 – 5.0 kV/cm and 20-40 pulses of 100-400 μs	-	-	-	-	-	↓ ~ 1/3 fructose ↓ ~ 1/2 glucose	↑	↓ 38% oil	-	Janositz et al. (2011)

- No information available.

**Highlights**

- Factors affecting the potato tuber quality for consumption and processing are presented.
- Potato tuber quality is affected by diseases, greening, sprouting, oxidative browning, and cold sweetening.
- Irradiation, cold plasma, ultrasound, PEF and HPP can improve potato tuber quality.
- The textural, chemical and nutritional changes induced by frying are described.
- Ultrasound and PEF (prior to frying) decrease reducing sugars, oil and acrylamide content in fried potatoes.