# A randomised, controlled, double-blind, parallel group, multi-country study to investigate the effects of an infant formula containing partially hydrolysed proteins on growth, safety, and tolerance in healthy term infants

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To investigate the effects of a partially hydrolysed protein based infant formula (pHPformula) in healthy term infants until 17 weeks of age on growth, blood parameters, safety, and gastro intestinal tolerance compared to standard infant formula....

Ethical reviewApproved WMOStatusRecruitment stoppedHealth condition typeOther conditionStudy typeInterventional

# Summary

#### ID

NL-OMON45527

**Source** 

**ToetsingOnline** 

**Brief title** 

**TENUTO** 

#### Condition

Other condition

#### **Synonym**

Weight gain

#### **Health condition**

Growth, Weight gain

#### **Research involving**

Human

### **Sponsors and support**

**Primary sponsor:** Nutricia Research

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Nutricia Research BV

#### Intervention

**Keyword:** growth, healthy infants, infant formula, weight gain

#### **Outcome measures**

#### **Primary outcome**

The primary outcome parameter in this study is weight gain in grams per day

from baseline until 17 weeks of age.

#### **Secondary outcome**

Gain from baseline until 17 weeks of age of

- \* Recumbent length (mm/day)
- \* Head circumference (mm/day)
- \* Mid-upper arm circumference (mm/day)

Z-scores of anthropometric parameters at 17 weeks of age:

- \* Weight-for-age
- \* Weight-for-length
- \* Length-for-age
- \* Body Mass Index (BMI)-for-age
- \* Head circumference-for-age
- \* Mid-upper arm circumference-for-age as of 13 weeks of age
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Blood parameters assessed at 17 weeks of age:

\* Albumin

\* Serum mineral markers: calcium, phosphorus, iron and magnesium

\* Blood Urea Nitrogen

These parameters will only be measured in blood of infants, whose parents gave additional

consent to draw blood.

Safety parameters from baseline until 17 weeks of age as measured by:

\* Number, type and severity of (Serious) Adverse events and possible relatedness to study

product

\* Use of (co-)medication

Gastrointestinal tolerance parameters from baseline until 17 weeks of age including:

- \* Occurrence and severity of gastrointestinal symptoms:
- regurgitation (return of the milk into the mouth without force)
- vomiting (return of the milk into the mouth with force)
- \* Stool frequency
- \* Stool consistency
- \* Occurrence of diarrhoea
- \* Occurrence of constipation

# **Study description**

#### **Background summary**

It is universally accepted that the optimal nutrition for a newborn infant is breast milk. Consequently,

exclusive breastfeeding is the preferred mode of feeding for all term new born infants and the World

Health Organisation therefore recommends exclusive breastfeeding for at least 6 months. Breast milk

provides a complete supply of nutrients to support growth and development in early life. Breast milk

contains bioactive components that beneficially affect intestinal health, gut microbial colonization and immune maturation.

When a mother is unable to breastfeed her infant, or chooses not to breastfeed, an infant formula

following the composition of mature breast milk is recognized as the best alternative. Research to

improve the quality of infant milk formulas is aimed at mimicking the composition of breast milk, but

above all at achieving the functional effects that are observed in breastfed infants. One of the

important functional effects of breast milk is prevention of allergies.

Breastfeeding is considered to be

one of the main pillars in allergy prevention. Consequently in the last decades, to get as close as

possible to this functional benefit of breast milk, development of infant nutrition to prevent allergies has

been a major field of interest with an important role for hydrolysed proteins. In a (partially) hydrolysed protein formula, the cow\*s milk protein is

enzymatically hydrolysed (fragmented) with the goal to

reduce protein size and as such allergenicity of the proteins.

Current international evidence-based guidelines, recommend formula with such partially hydrolysed

proteins for infants at risk of allergy, defined by family history, for the first 4-6 months if breastfeeding is

insufficient or not possible. It is considered a good option for these infants, because the small milk

protein fragments are more likely to be recognized as harmless by the immune system.

However, recently this preventive effect on developing allergies has been challenged in a meta-analysis. This indicates that the effect of partially

hydrolysed formula on the development of allergic disease needs better understanding on intervention period, target population and outcome parameter to determine whether the modest effects of hydrolysed formula on the incidence of allergic manifestations can be confirmed.

Apart from the fact that it is necessary to gain more insight in the effect of hydrolysed proteins on

allergy risk reduction, it is also necessary to ensure healthy growth and nutritional value. In particular

because large variations exist in the composition of hydrolysed formula in the source of macro-nutrients

and (protein) levels. In addition, hydrolysed formula may impact the food intake compared to intact

formula possibly due to sensory taste and the large amount of free amino acid of which some may

influence satiety. So far, studies demonstrated no evidence for long-term effect on growth or body

composition of hydrolysed formulas in healthy infants without family allergic history. On the

other hand, the GINI study gives indication of a slower BMI development in healthy infants with family

allergic history who received extensively hydrolysed casein formula during first year of life compared to

infants on extensively and partially hydrolysed whey based formula, cows\* milk formula or breast milk.

Whether hydrolysed formulas in the Nutricia portfolio have an effect on growth, either with extensively

hydrolysed or partially hydrolysed proteins, was studied for example by comparing different levels of

hydrolysed proteins (Giraffe: internal report) and by investigating the effect of adding synbiotics to

extensively hydrolysed proteins. Both studies indicated that the products were safe, well tolerated

and support an adequate growth in infants fed (extensively) hydrolysed formula compared to the WHO

growth standards. However, a head-to-head comparison of the effect of partially hydrolysed proteins

versus intact proteins and breastfeeding on growth and safety parameters was not performed.

The primary aim of this study therefore is to evaluate the safety and nutritional adequacy of a hydrolysed protein formula compared to an intact protein formula and to breastfeeding as a reference on growth

#### Study objective

To investigate the effects of a partially hydrolysed protein based infant formula (pHP

formula) in healthy term infants until 17 weeks of age on growth, blood parameters, safety,

and gastro intestinal tolerance compared to standard infant formula.

#### Primary:

The primary objective of this study is to investigate equivalence of weight gain per day from baseline until the age of 17 weeks in infants receiving partially hydrolysed proteins (test

product) compared to infants receiving intact proteins (control product).

#### Secondary:

The secondary objectives of this study are:

- To investigate equivalence of weight gain per day in infants receiving formula containing
- partially hydrolysed proteins compared to infants receiving breast milk from baseline until the
- age of 17 weeks;
- -To investigate equivalence of other growth parameters (recumbent length, head circumference, mid upper arm circumference) in infants receiving formula containing partially
- hydrolysed proteins compared to infants receiving formula containing intact proteins or infants
- receiving breast milk from baseline until the age of 17 weeks;
- To investigate equivalence of other growth z-scores parameters (weight-forage, weight-for length, length-for-age, BMI-for-age,head circumference-for-age, mid upper arm circumference) in infants receiving formula containing partially hydrolysed proteins compared to infants
- receiving formula containing intact proteins or infants receiving breast milk at the age of 17 weeks;
- To investigate the effect on blood parameters in infants receiving formula containing partially
- hydrolysed proteins compared to infants receiving formula containing intact proteins or infants
- receiving breast milk at the age of 17 weeks;
- To assess the effect on safety in infants receiving partially hydrolysed proteins compared to
- infants receiving formula containing intact proteins or infants receiving breast milk from
- baseline until the age of 17 weeks;
- To assess the effect on gastrointestinal tolerance in infants receiving formula containing
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partially hydrolysed proteins compared to infants receiving formula containing intact proteins or

infants receiving breast milk from baseline until the age of 17 weeks.

#### Study design

This is a randomised, controlled, double blind, parallel group, multi-country, Phase IIb study.

The study consists of 2 infant formula arms i.e.:

- Test product: Partially hydrolysed 100 percent whey protein based infant formula

containing scGOS/lcFOS.

-Control product: Intact cow\*s milk protein based infant formula (whey:casein ratio of

60:40) containing scGOS/lcFOS.

In addition, a breastfeeding arm is added to be used as a reference arm.

#### Intervention

After parent(s)/legal guardian(s) have agreed to and signed informed consent, infants may enrol in the study. Infants, whose mother has the intention to breastfeed her infant until the infants\* age of 17 weeks, may be enrolled in the breastfeeding reference arm. Infants, whose mother has the intention to exclusively formula feed her infant as of 14 days of age at the latest, may be randomised to one of the infant formula arms. Infants will enrol in the study as soon as they pass the eligibility check.

At a maximum age of 14 days all infants will have a screening/randomisation visit (Visit 1), followed by four follow up visits when the infant is 4 (Visit 2), 8 (Visit 3), 13 (Visit 4) and 17 weeks of age (Visit 5). At the infants\* age of 19 weeks the Investigator performs a phone call (PC) to parents of all participating infants to follow up e.g. on safety and outstanding issues, adverse events or transition to commercial product.

During the seven days before Visit 2, 3, 4 and 5, parent(s)/caretaker(s) of all infants are requested to fill out an eDiary on daily basis. The eDiary collects data on the intake of study products or breastfeeding, the infants\* defecation pattern and aspects of gastro intestinal tolerance. Parent(s)/legal guardian(s) or caretaker(s) will receive automatic reminders from the eDiary system to fill out the diary.

Infants eligible for the infant formula arms

As soon as an infant is exclusively formula fed the screening/randomisation visit (Visit 1) takes place. At that time point, the infant will have a maximum age of 14 days. After eligibility assessment, eligible infants will be randomised in a double-blinded manner to receive either the test product or the

control product until the age of 17 weeks. This means that the infant receives the test or control product for a minimum duration of 15 weeks to a maximum duration of 17 weeks, depending on the age at randomisation. At Visit 1, the Investigator collects also baseline data

on demographics, medical and social information, and anthropometrics. In addition, the Investigator provides the study product, gives instructions to the parents on how to use the eDiary and plans the next study visit.

At each of the following visits, the Investigator collects data on anthropometrics, study product intake, compliance with the study protocol, information on (Serious) Adverse Events, and information of use of medication and nutritional supplements. To support collection of data for the eCRF on intake of study product, the Investigator may use the data filled out by the parents in the eDiary the week before each study visit as a tool for the discussion. Likewise, data on gastro intestinal tolerance in the eDiary may be used to support the assessment of e.g. adverse events related to gastro intestinal tolerance during the visits.

At visit 5, in addition to follow-up assessments the Investigator will draw a venous blood sample (1.4mL) for assessment of plasma proteins and mineral status parameters, of infants whose parent(s)/legal guardian(s) provide informed consent for a blood sample on a voluntary base.

Infants eligible for the breastfeeding reference arm

As soon as parents or legal guardian(s) give informed consent, infants will have an eligibility assessment and enrol, if meeting the in- and exclusion criteria, in the study. The maximum age at enrolment is 14 days of age. These infants follow the same visit schedule and study assessments as the randomised infants as described above, including completion of the eDiaries and blood sampling (if separate informed consent for taking a blood sample is given). In case parents/ caretakers cannot use eDiaries, data will be collected via paper diaries.

#### Study burden and risks

Time spent 4/5 extra hospital visits.

#### Risk of infant formula

Infants who participate in one of the Infant Formula groups receive an infant formula that is already on the market for more than 10 years. Therefore no major risks or disadvantages are expected for participants compared to infants who do not participate in this study. A general risk is that these formulas contain proteins derived from cow\*s milk. These proteins can cause allergic reactions in infants who have a cow\*s milk, soy oil or fish oil allergy. For infants who appear to have a cow\*s milk, soy or fish allergy, participation will be reassessed by the doctor. Both types of formula contain lactose and are therefore not suitable for infants with lactose intolerance.

Infants might have softer stools due to the non-digestible fibres in these formulas compared to breastfed infants or other commercially available infant formula.

Risk of blood sample

After consent, a blood sample of infant can be collected, this will be done by appropriately trained and experienced staff. Prior to the collection of the blood sample, numbing cream may be applied to reduce discomfort. The procedure may be slightly painful to the infant and may cause bruising at the site of the needle puncture. In rare cases, an infection may occur at the puncture site after blood collection.

## **Contacts**

#### **Public**

Nutricia Research

Uppsalalaan 12 Utrecht 3584 CT NL **Scientific** 

Nutricia Research

Uppsalalaan 12 Utrecht 3584 CT NL

# **Trial sites**

#### **Listed location countries**

**Netherlands** 

# **Eligibility criteria**

#### Age

Children (2-11 years)

#### Inclusion criteria

- 1. Healthy term infants (gestational age \* 37 weeks + 0 days and \* 41 weeks + 6 days);
- Infants\* age at enrolment \* 14 days;
- 3. Birth weight within normal range for gestational age and sex (10th to 90th percentile according
- to the WHO Child Growth Standards \* or local growth standards if available);
- 4. Head circumference at inclusion within normal range for age and sex (within 2 SD curves according to WHO Child Growth Standards \* or local growth standards if available);
- 5. Infant formula arms: infants who are exclusively formula fed by time of randomisation with

maximum infants\* age of 14 days (infants of mothers who choose not to breastfeed or mothers

who cease breastfeeding for any reason before the infant is 14 days of age); OR

Breastfeeding reference arm: infants who are exclusively breastfed and whose mothers are intending to exclusively breastfeed their infant at least until the infant is 17 weeks of age; 6. Written informed consent from parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) aged \* 18 years.

#### **Exclusion criteria**

Infants of pregnant women/mothers:

- 1. who are currently participating or will participate in any other (clinical) study involving investigational or marketed products during pregnancy and/or lactation;
- 2. known to have a significant medical condition (including during pregnancy) that might interfere

with the study or known to affect intra-uterine growth (e.g. placenta previa, pre-eclampsia, eclampsia, gestational diabetes requiring insulin or oral medication), as per investigator\*s clinical judgement;

Infants of parents:

- 3. who are incapable to comply with study protocol or Investigator's uncertainty about the willingness or ability of the parents to comply with the protocol requirements; Infants:
- 4. who have to be fed with a special diet other than standard (non-hydrolysed) cow\*s milk based

infant formula

5. known to have current or previous illnesses/conditions which could interfere with the study or

its outcome parameters, such as gastrointestinal malformations, congenital metabolic disorders, immune deficiency or major surgery, as per investigator\*s clinical judgement; 6. with any history of, or current participation in any other study involving investigational or marketed products.

# Study design

## **Design**

Study phase: 2

Study type: Interventional

Intervention model: Other

Allocation: Randomized controlled trial

Masking: Double blinded (masking used)

Control: Active

Primary purpose: Treatment

#### Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Recruitment stopped

Start date (anticipated): 01-04-2017

Enrollment: 12

Type: Anticipated

## **Ethics review**

Approved WMO

Date: 01-09-2017

Application type: First submission

Review commission: BEBO: Stichting Beoordeling Ethiek Bio-Medisch Onderzoek

(Assen)

# **Study registrations**

# Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

# Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

ID

No registrations found.

# In other registers

Register

ClinicalTrials.gov NCT03062761 CCMO NL61257.056.17