

Nutrition Discussion Forum

Dietary risk factors for the emergence of type 1 diabetes-related autoantibodies in 2½-year-old Swedish children – Comments by Boucher

The findings reported by Wahlberg *et al.* (2006) on the association of infant feeding habits with the risk of development of diabetes-related autoantibodies in young children in Sweden are interesting and of potential importance for efforts to curb the rising incidence rates of type 1 diabetes in childhood and young adults in the Western world. However, other nutritional or environmental factors of relevance may be confounding the findings in any such study examining less than the full range of possible factors. Many possible factors may well be unrecognised at present but vitamin D supplementation in infancy or during pregnancy is a factor that has been reported to be associated with reduced risk for type 1 diabetes in childhood and in young adults (Anonymous, 1999; Stene *et al.* 2000; Hyponen *et al.* 2002). It would, therefore, be very helpful to know whether the authors (Wahlberg *et al.* 2006) have data on cod liver oil or vitamin supplement usage in their study and, if so, whether inclusion of this factor in the analyses affects the findings, so that the potential benefits of various alterations in infant feeding habits can be assessed.

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