Author’s response to reviews

Title: Safety of a new extensively hydrolysed formula in children with cow’s milk protein allergy: a double blind crossover study

Authors:

Susanne SWJ Terheggen-Lagro (s.terheggen@wkz.azu.nl)
Ilse IMSL Khouw (imsl.khouw@fdf.nl)
Anne A Schaafsma (a.schaafsma@fdf.nl)
Erik EAK Wauters (s.terheggen@wkz.azu.nl)

Version: 2 Date: 11 Oct 2002

Dear Sir,
Below you will find in detail the changes we have made in our article ‘Safety of a new extensively hydrolysed formula in children with cow’s milk protein allergy: a double blind cross-over study’, based on the reviewers reports and the editor.

Authors details have been adapted as requested by the editor: forename-surname. The address of the fourth author is completed as remarked by reviewer Wahn. Page numbers are present now as remarked by reviewer Wahn. Abstract is structured as requested by the editor. Format of affiliations has been changed as requested by the editor. Authors are linked to their affiliations by superscript numbers. For the corresponding author the complete address is provided. As requested by reviewer Wahn, the passage about allergic asthma (Background section) has been removed. As a consequence the references have been adapted. Information on the oral food challenges are completely lacking (reviewer Wahn): during the study period the children were only 'challenged' by the test and reference formula. It was known that all children included responded immediately to ingestion with small amounts of cow's milk as mentioned in the section Methods. Original text has not been changed.

Time between challenge and start of the study (reviewer Wahn): ... at the time of inclusion.' is added to the Methods section. As requested by both reviewers, more information is provided about de Skin Prick Test (SPT) in the Methods section. Which product has been used as an 'elementary formula'? (reviewer Wahn): home-made by the hospital. Text has been changed into: ‘... with an elementary formula, home-made and prescribed by the Wilhelmina Children's Hospital ...’

Explanation of organoleptic test (reviewer Wahn): Text has been changed into 'Organoleptic tests (taste, smell and outer appearance) by independent inspectors showed ....'

Figure 3: in first instance, figure 1 included both panel A and B of the molecular weight distributions. However, during uploading it was not possible to send it as one file. For that reason 'figure 3' was introduced. Legend for figure 3 has now been added to the manuscript as well as references in the text. Sections Competing interests and Author's contributions have been added.

Other small changes in the text:
Addition of registration mark to Frisolac Allergycare and Nutramigen
Abbreviation 'kd' has been changed into 'kDa'.
Best regards,
Anne Schaafsma