

Effect of a lactose-free milk formula supplemented with bifidobacteria and streptococci on the recovery from acute diarrhoea Chinese Source

Mao, Meng

Yu, Tao

Xiong, Ying

Wang, Zhiling

Liu, Hanmin

Gotteland, Martin

Brunser, Oscar

Probiotics have been proposed for the management and prevention of acute diarrhoea in infants. A double-blind, randomised, placebo controlled study was carried out in 224 Chinese infants 6 to 36 months of age with severe acute diarrhoea and free from moderate or severe malnutrition. After oral or parenteral rehydration, they were allocated to one of three groups: a lactose-free formula (Control); the same formula but with viable 10^8 CFU *B. lactis* Bb12 and 5×10^7 CFU *St. thermophilus* TH4 per gram of powder and, the same formula with the same microorganisms, but with 10^9 CFU/g and 5×10^8 CFU, respectively. Anthropometric parameters, duration of the diarrhoea and rotavirus shedding were evaluated. Eighty seven percent of the episodes were associated with rotavirus infection. The duration of the diarrhoea was not influenced by the intake of probiotics. However, a decrease of rotavirus shedding was observed in infants fed the formula with 10^9 Bb12/g, a finding of probable epidemiological importan