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Growth of Infants with Cow's Milk Allergy Fed Chicken-Based Formula

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Abstract

Background: The recommended formulas for treatments of cow's milk allergy (CMA) in infants are hydrolyzed protein-based and amino acid-based formulas. However, they are not always affordable. Furthermore, some patients are still allergic to these formulas. Therefore, chicken-based formula has been innovated and used as an alternative formula to treat CMA in these infants.

Objective: To assess the growth of infants with CMA who consumed chicken-based formula compared to normal infants.

Material and Method: A prospective study was performed in 34 infants aged 3 to 24 months diagnosed as CMA at Siriraj Hospital. All subjects consumed the chicken-based formula for at least three months. The growth parameters were recorded.

Results: Manifestations occurred in dermatological (78.6%), respiratory (67.9%), and gastrointestinal (53.6%) systems. Mean (\pm SD) chicken-based formula intake was 77 (\pm 39.6) kcal/kg/d. Weight gains are higher (35.7%), equal (10.8%), and lower (53.5%) than those of normal infants. In addition, length gains were higher (38%), equal (5%), and lower (57%) than those of normal infants. However, the difference of weight and length in chicken-based fed, cow's milk-allergic infants, and normal infants were not statistically significant ($p = 0.141$, $p = 0.192$). None of these infants had severe complications.

Conclusion: Growth parameters of infants fed with chicken-based formula are not different from those of normal infants.

Keywords: Growth, Infant, Milk allergy, Synthetic diet, Thailand

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