

COMMITTEE ON TOXICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Enquiring About Tolerance (EAT) Study- A randomized trial of the early introduction of allergenic foods in breastfed infants (reserved business)

Introduction

1. There is currently a lack of agreement among the scientific community about the best time to introduce allergenic foods into the infant diet in order to minimise the risk of subsequent development of allergic disease, including food allergy. Whilst it is widely accepted that breastfeeding is best for infant nutrition, it is currently unclear what the optimum time is for introducing allergenic food into the infant diet to reduce the risk of food allergy. Some recent studies, such as the Learning Early About Peanut Allergy Study (LEAP) suggest that early consumption of allergenic foods might be an effective way to prevent food allergy.
2. The FSA together with the MRC commissioned King's College London to conduct a randomized controlled intervention trial to assess the impact of early introduction of allergenic foods into the infant weaning diet, alongside continued breastfeeding on the number of children developing food allergies and other allergic diseases by 3 years of age.
3. The intention to treat analysis of the EAT study will be included in the systematic review conducted by Imperial Consultants of the published scientific literature on the timing of introduction of allergenic foods to the infant diet (Review B) which is scheduled to be discussed at a future COT meeting.
4. Members are asked to comment on the submitted manuscript, attached as Annex A. Dr Michael Perkin (Co-Principal Investigator for the EAT Study) will give a presentation to the Committee on the study methodology and main findings at this meeting. This manuscript will be discussed as reserved business and will only be made publicly available once the manuscript has been published in the peer review literature.
5. Members are invited to consider the following questions and to raise any other matters that arise from this draft manuscript.
 - a) Do Members have any comments on the quality and robustness of the design, methodology and interpretation of the EAT study?

- b) Do Members consider that the study population is representative of the general population? Could these findings be relevant to a high risk population?
- c) Do Members agree with the conclusions drawn by the study authors?

Note: The committee were provided with a pre-publication copy of the primary manuscript by King's College London (Annex 1). The final report of the EAT study will be made available on the FSA website once published.

**Secretariat
January 2016**

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Annex 1 is a pre-publication copy of the manuscript that has been sent to the New England Journal of Medicine.

Note: The Committee were provided with a pre-publication copy of the work of the EAT study team. This was received in confidence and will not be released when this paper becomes publicly available. As indicated, above the work has been submitted for publication following peer review.