

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A nutritional supplement for enteral administration to preterm infants, comprising:
a lipid component, wherein the lipid component comprises at least about 0.64% arachidonic acid and at least about 0.32% docosahexaenoic acid, wherein the arachidonic acid and the docosahexaenoic acid are provided in aqueous emulsified form and wherein the nutritional supplement is delivered in a small volume dose between about 0.7 ml and 1.3 ml.
2. The nutritional supplement of claim 1, wherein the lipid component comprises at least about 1% docosahexaenoic acid.
3. The nutritional supplement of claim 1, wherein the lipid component comprises at least about 2% docosahexaenoic acid.
4. The nutritional supplement of claim 1, wherein the nutritional supplement is formulated to deliver at least about 50 mg/kg/day of docosahexaenoic acid.
5. The nutritional supplement of claim 1, wherein the nutritional supplement is formulated to deliver at least about 60 mg/kg/day of docosahexaenoic acid.
6. The nutritional supplement ~~fortifier~~ of claim 1, further comprising a protein component.
7. The nutritional supplement of claim 1, further comprising a carbohydrate component.
8. The nutritional supplement of claim 1, further comprising a vitamin and mineral component.
9. The nutritional supplement of claim 1, further comprising at least one probiotic.
10. The nutritional supplement of claim 1, further comprising at least one prebiotic.
11. A fortifier for oral administration to preterm infants, comprising:
a lipid component, wherein the lipid component comprises at least about 0.64% arachidonic acid and at least about 0.32% docosahexaenoic acid, wherein the arachidonic acid and the docosahexaenoic acid are provided in aqueous emulsified form and wherein the fortifier is delivered in a small volume dose between about 0.7 ml and 1.3 ml.

12. The fortifier of claim 11, wherein the lipid component comprises at least about 1% docosahexaenoic acid.
13. The fortifier of claim 11, wherein the lipid component comprises at least about 2% docosahexaenoic acid.
14. The fortifier of claim 11, wherein the fortifier is formulated to deliver at least-about 50 mg/kg/day of docosahexaenoic acid.
15. A method for providing nutritional support to a preterm infant receiving parenteral nutrition, the method comprising:
 - enterally administering to the infant a nutritional composition comprising a lipid component, wherein the lipid component comprises at least about 0.64% arachidonic acid and at least about 0.32% docosahexaenoic acid, wherein the arachidonic acid and the docosahexaenoic acid are provided in aqueous emulsified form and wherein the nutritional composition is delivered in a small volume dose between about 0.7 ml and 1.3 ml.
16. The method of claim 15~~16~~, wherein the lipid component comprises at least about 1% docosahexaenoic acid.
17. The method of claim 15~~16~~, wherein the lipid component comprises at least about 2% docosahexaenoic acid.
18. The method of claim 15~~16~~, wherein the nutritional composition is administered to the infant in an amount sufficient to deliver at least about 50 mg/kg/day of docosahexaenoic acid.
19. The method of claim 15~~16~~, wherein the nutritional composition is administered to the infant in an amount sufficient to deliver at least about 60 mg/kg/day of docosahexaenoic acid.
20. The method of claim 15~~16~~, wherein the nutritional composition is administered to the infant in an amount sufficient to deliver at least about 40 mg/kg/day of arachidonic acid.