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(54) Title: METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR REDUCING THE INCIDENCE OF NECROTIZING ENTEROCOLITIS

(57) Abstract

Enteral formulas that contain long–chain polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs), e.g. arachidonic acid (AA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) essentially free of cholesterol, and a process for making such enteral compositions are described. More particularly, the invention relates to methods for reducing the incidence of necrotizing enterocolitis by administering compositions which provide n–6 and n–3 long chain PUFAs; phospholipids and/or choline. Compositions from egg yolk lipids are presently preferred as they contain n–6 and n–3 long chain PUFAs and are predominantly in a phosphtidylcholine form. This is believed to provide a synergistic effect. Also disclosed is a process of making such a composition that provides improved organoleptic and stability properties.