

Claims

1. Use of a composition in the manufacture of a medicament for stimulating the development of a healthy intestinal flora and/or decreasing the occurrence of intestinal pathogens in infants delivered via caesarean section within 3 months of birth, wherein the composition is not human milk and wherein the composition comprises:

(a) 0.5 to 75 g of non-digestible oligosaccharides per 100 g dry weight of the composition, wherein the non-digestible oligosaccharides comprise galacto-oligosaccharides having at least 50% of its saccharide units of the galacto-oligosaccharides as galactose units, and

(b) at least one *Bifidobacterium* selected from the group consisting of *B. Longum*, *B. Breve*, *B. infantis*, *B. catenulatum*, *B. pseudocatenulatum*, *B. adolescentis*, *B. animalis*, *B. gallicum*, *B. lactis* and *B. Bifidum*.

2. Use according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises at least one non-digestible oligosaccharide selected from the group consisting of galactooligosaccharides, non-digestible dextrans, xylo-oligosaccharides, arabino-oligosaccharides, gluco-oligosaccharides, chito-oligosaccharides, fuco-oligosaccharides, manno-oligosaccharides, isomalto-oligosaccharide, fructo-oligosaccharides, arabino-galactooligosaccharides, glucomanno-oligosaccharides and galactomanno-oligosaccharides.

3. Use according to claim 2, wherein the gluco-oligosaccharides comprise gentio-oligosaccharides and/or cyclodextrins.

4. Use according to claim 2, wherein the fructo-oligosaccharides comprise inulins.

5. Use according to any one of claims 1 - 4, wherein the composition comprises galacto-oligosaccharides and/or fructo-oligosaccharides.

6. Use to any one of claims 1 - 5, wherein the composition comprises a lipid component, a protein component and a carbohydrate component, wherein said lipid component provides 5 to 50% of the total calories, said protein component provides 5 to

50% of the total calories, said carbohydrate component provides 15 to 90% of the total calories.

7. Use to any one of claims 1 - 6, wherein the composition comprises at least *B. Longum* and/or *B. Breve*.

5 8. Use according to any one of claims 1 - 7, wherein the composition comprises at least two Bifidobacteria selected from the group consisting of *B. Longum*, *B. Breve*, *B. infantis*, *B. catenulatum*, *B. pseudocatenulatum*, *B. adolescentis*, *B. animalis*, *B. gallicum*, *B. lactis* and *B. Bifidum*.

10 9. Use according to any one of claims 1 - 8, wherein the composition comprises long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids and/or nucleotides.

10. Use according to any one of claims 1 - 9, wherein the composition is administered to the infant within one week after birth, preferably within 100 hours after birth.

15 11. Use of a composition in the manufacture of a medicament for treating and/or preventing atopic dermatitis in an infant delivered by caesarean section, wherein the composition comprises:

(a) intact and/or hydrolyzed protein; and

20 (b) 0.5 to 75 g of a non-digestible neutral oligosaccharide per 100 g dry weight of the composition, wherein the non-digestible neutral oligosaccharide consists of galacto-oligosaccharides, and, optionally, non-digestible dextrans, xylo-oligosaccharides, arabino-oligosaccharides, gluco-oligosaccharides, chito-oligosaccharides, fuco-oligosaccharides, manno-oligosaccharides, isomalto-oligosaccharides, fructo-oligosaccharides, arabinogalacto-oligosaccharides, glucomanno-oligosaccharides and/or galactomanno-oligosaccharides,

25 wherein at least 50% of the saccharide units of the galacto-oligosaccharide are galactose units.

12. The use according to claim 11, wherein the composition comprises:

(i) a lipid component that provides 5 to 50% of total calories of the composition;
(ii) a protein component that provides 5 to 50% of total calories of the composition; and
(iii) a carbohydrate component that provides 15 to 90% of the total calories of the composition.

13. The use according to claim 11, wherein the composition comprises long chain polyunsaturated fatty acid and/or a nucleotide.

10 14. The use according to claim 11, wherein the composition further comprises 10^2 to 10^{13} colony forming units of lactic acid-producing bacteria per gram dry weight of the composition.

15 15. The use according to claim 11, wherein the composition promotes the development of healthy intestinal flora and/or decreases the occurrence of intestinal pathogens in said infant.

16. The use according to claim 11, wherein the composition is an infant formula.