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Protein digestibility and DIAAS values: *in vitro* method using the harmonized INFOGEST protocol validated towards *in vivo* data

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Dietary protein quality evaluation by FAO



Ileal digestibility

- 1. Further determine true ileal digestibility of protein and amino acids in a wider range of foods and determine the ileal digestible tryptophan content of human milk.
- 2. Develop non-invasive accurate methods to determine or predict true ileal dietary protein and amino acid digestibility in humans based on identified biomarkers.
- 3. Validate the use of animal model data (including providing more robust inter-species prediction equations for true ileal amino acid digestibility) to quantify ileal digestibility in humans, including relating digestibility to functional outcomes.
- 4. Determine more fully the role of the small intestinal and colonic microflora on ileal amino acid digestibility values.
- 5. Develop new bioavailability assays such as the reactive lysine assay, for other amino acids.
- 6. Develop and validate *in vitro* methods for predicting amino acid digestibility and bioavailability in humans.

DIAAS % = 100 x *lowest value* [*"Digestible IAA reference ratio"* for a given amino acid scoring pattern].

Note that the main difference between DIAAS and PDCAAS is that true ileal amino acid digestibility for the dietary indispensable amino acids is used rather than a single faecal crude protein digestibility value.

Validation of *in vitro* results with *in vivo* data



 \rightarrow in vitro protein hydrolysis proved to be a good approximation to the *in vivo* situation

O Determination of *in vitro* digestibility



Size exclusion chromatography (SEC)



- \rightarrow SEC shows size distribution in samples
- \rightarrow Cut-off set up at 40min ~ 1000 Da

Precipitation with 80 % MeOH



\rightarrow Precipitation separates absorbable from non-absorbable components

V The different analytical endpoints



Digestible indispensable amino acid score (DIAAS)



mg amino acid per g reference protein (DIAA_{reference})

Recommended amino acid scoring patterns for infants, children and older children, adolescents and adults

Age Group	His	lle	Leu	Lys	SAA	AAA	Thr	Trp	Val
	scoring pattern mg/g protein requirement								
Infant (birth to 6 months) ¹	21	55	96	69	33	94	44	17	55
Child (6 months to 3 year) ²	20	32	66	57	27	52	31	8.5	43
Older child, adolescent, adult ³	16	30	61	48	23	41	25	6.6	40

 $^{\scriptscriptstyle 1}$ Infant is based on the gross amino acid content of human milk from Table 4.

 $^{\scriptscriptstyle 2}$ Child group is from the 6 month (0.5 y) values from Table 3.

 $^{\scriptscriptstyle 3}$ Older child, adolescent, adult group is from the 3-10 y values from Table 3.

FAO: Dietary protein quality evaluation in human nutrition (ISBN 978-92-5-107417-6)

DIAAS: Digestible indispenable amino acid score

$$DIAAS = \frac{DIAA_{measured}}{DIAA_{reference}} \times 100$$

*lowest DIAAS is reported as limiting amino acid

Proteos in vitro versus in vivo digestibility



- \rightarrow In general the three methods give similiar results
- \rightarrow in vitro values seem to be slightly higher than in vivo

Individual amino acids digestibility Q



60 40 20



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Proteos *in vitro* versus *in vivo* digestibility all substrates



Digestibility in vitro - in vivo (Bland-Altman)

 \rightarrow The two methods are in agreement

 \rightarrow bias: 0.7 %

Proteos in vitro versus in vivo DIAAS



Proteos in vitro versus in vivo DIAAS



- \rightarrow Good correlation *in vivo* DIAAS versus *in vitro* DIAAS
- \rightarrow bias: 5.3 %

Conclusions

- → These *in vitro* conditions provide a good estimate of the *in vivo* situation for total digestibility, digestibility of individual amino acids and DIAAS
- → The adapted INFOGEST *in vitro* digestion protocol is suitable for measuring digestibility of food
- → This protocol was only tested with seven different protein sources so far. In the future the method has to be validated with more protein sources







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