

Table 1

Randomised trials of non-absorbable disaccharides versus placebo or no intervention
in treatment of patients with hepatic encephalopathy

	Study Design	No of patients randomised		HE Type		No of	
		Experimental	control	intervention	No. of patients without improvement	/total	dropouts /total
		Experimental	Control	Experimental	Control		
Elkington 1969 ¹	Crossover	7		Chronic	Lactulose/Sorbitol	Lactulose & Not	
sorbitol reported to equally effective, but numerical data not available. described							
Simmons 1970 ²	Parallel	26		Acute & Chronic			
	Lactulose/Glucose			4/14	5/12	3/14	2/12
Rodgers 1973 ³	Crossover	6		Chronic	Lactulose/Sorbitol	Lactulose & 3	
sorbitol reported to equally effective, but numerical data not available.							
Germain 1973 ⁴	Parallel	18		Chronic	Lactulose/Saccharose	4/9	3/9
None							

¹Elkington S et al. *New England Journal of Medicine* 1969;281:408-12.

²Simmons F et al. *Gastroenterology* 1970;59:827-32.

³Rodgers J et al. *Am J Gastroenterol* 1973;60:459-65.

⁴Germain L et al. *Arch Fr Mol App Dig* 1973;62:293-302.