

Response to Letter to the editor - Palm oil and beta-palmitate in infant formula

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We thank the editors for the opportunity to reply to the letter from Prof. Koo (1) who has challenged some of the conclusions in our position paper on the use of palm oil (PO) in infant formula (2). We recognise the work of Prof. Koo on the effects of PO on early bone metabolism and note his concerns, however when we considered other studies identified in our literature review we do not feel the evidence against its use is conclusive and note that longer term impacts on bone were not apparent. Whilst we do not feel the evidence is sufficient to recommend against use in formula, we do strongly recommend and support the need for further research on the possible long-term health effects of PO/POL/SN-2-palmitate based infant formulas in well-designed RCTs.

References

1. Koo W. Palm oil and beta-palmitate in infant formula. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr* 2019;in press (this issue)
2. Bronsky J, Campoy C, Embleton N, et al. Palm oil and beta-palmitate in infant formula: a position paper by the European Society for Paediatric, gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (ESPGHAN) Committee on Nutrition. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr* 2019;68:742-60.