Management of allergic symptoms

Worldwide, the prevalence of allergic diseases is rising dramatically in both developed and developing countries. In spite of this increase, even in the developed world, treatment options for patients with allergic diseases are far from ideal.1-3

Allergic diseases are caused by hypersensitivity of the immune system to harmful substances in the environment. Major allergic diseases include asthma, food allergies, allergic rhinitis (AR) and atopic dermatitis (AD) or eczema. Worldwide, AR currently affects between 10% and 30% of the population and studies indicate that prevalence rates are increasing. AD affects nowadays 15-30% of children and 2-10% of adults.4 Allergic diseases have a high morbidity, are responsible for a substantial proportion of health service use, and are accompanied by a severely reduced quality of life.5

It is not completely clear what triggers the dramatic increase in incidence of allergies, but many theories postulate the involvement of (Westernized) lifestyle, environment, and (missing) microbes.6,7 Moreover, the World Allergy Organization and clinical studies reveal that a reduced biodiversity and alterations in the composition of the gut and skin microbiota are associated with various inflammatory conditions, including asthma and allergy.8 Thus, a potential approach to manage allergic symptoms could be the administration of specifically selected probiotic strains.

**Strain selection**

Ecologic® ALLERGYCARE is a multispecies probiotic formulation consisting of 6 specifically selected probiotic strains. Probiotic strains can exert health effects at different levels in the gut (see figure 2). The bacterial strains of Ecologic® ALLERGYCARE have been selected to influence the immune system (level 3). The strains have been screened in vitro for their capacity to:

- Modulate production of immunosuppressive cytokines by:
  - induction of IL-10 and IFN-γ
  - reduction of IL-4, IL-5 and IL-13.

Figure 1: Major changes in microbial exposure in the first half of the century are believed to trigger the accelerating increase in allergic diseases.

Figure 2: Probiotic strains can be active on three levels in the gut. The strains in Ecologic® ALLERGYCARE have been proven active at level 3.
The effect of Ecologic® ALLERGYCARE on AD symptoms has been tested in a double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled human trial, performed by Harran University, Turkey9. Forty children between 1-13 years of age suffering from AD received 2x10⁹ CFU Ecologic® ALLERGYCARE or placebo twice daily for eight weeks. Both clinical and mechanistic effects were measured at baseline and at the end of the intervention period. Ecologic® ALLERGYCARE significantly reduced the SCORing Atopic Dermatitis (SCORAD) index.

The effect of Ecologic® ALLERGYCARE on quality of life (QoL) in patients with AR has been tested in a clinical trial performed by Griffith University Australia10. Forty hay fever patients received 2x10⁹ CFU Ecologic® ALLERGYCARE twice daily for eight weeks. Before and after the intervention period, QoL was determined using the rhinitis quality of life questionnaire (RQLQ). During the intervention patients also recorded AR symptoms and medication use. Ecologic® ALLERGYCARE significantly improved QoL in 63% of the patients [meaningful improvement >0.7 decrease in the RQLQ, p=0.005]. The average RQLQ score dropped from 2.83 at baseline to 1.66 at mid-point to 1.38 at week 8 (see figure 4). In line with these findings, a trend towards reduction in AR symptoms and medication use was found.

Figure 3: Changes in the SCORAD-index before and after the intervention.
* Significant decrease, p=0.005.

Figure 4: RQLQ scores during the intervention. * Significant decrease, p=0.005.

Formulation details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indication</th>
<th>Management of allergic symptoms.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colony forming units (CFU)</td>
<td>1 x 10⁹ CFU/gram.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROBIOACT® Technology</td>
<td>Protective and nutritional ingredients that improve the stability of the formulation, GI survival and metabolic activity of the bacteria.</td>
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<td>Recommended daily dosage</td>
<td>2 grams, twice daily.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treatment period</td>
<td>For as long as desired/needed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Storage and stability</td>
<td>2 years stable at room temperature, no refrigeration needed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Available dosage forms</td>
<td>Dry powder which can be supplied as bulk, sachets, capsules or fully packed (with your design).</td>
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Safety and Quality Profile

All probiotic strains have the Qualified Presumption of Safety (QPS) status. Winclove is a NSF International Certified GMP facility for manufacturing dietary supplements and is ISO 22000:2005 certified for the development and production of pre- and probiotics.

Marketing

Medically endorsed under private label on a co-branding basis. Co-branding enables our business partners to use the scientific data in their marketing communication.

Health claims

Diverse approved health claims for vitamin B2 and biotin.

References