

The impact of parental guidance on early exposure to a variety of fruit and vegetables on infants liking and consumption

Submission date 31/05/2011	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol <input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results <input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data
Registration date 31/05/2011	Overall study status Completed	
Last Edited 17/03/2016	Condition category Nutritional, Metabolic, Endocrine	

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims?

TASTE is an investigation of the impact of evidence-based guidance provided to parents on the introduction of vegetables during the transition to solid foods. Research has shown that children in the UK are not eating enough vegetables and fruit. The main predictor of the foods children eat is how much they like them. Research investigating methods of increasing childrens vegetable acceptance highlights the importance of repeated exposure i.e. repeatedly offering small amounts of a particular vegetable to taste. Evidence suggests that this leads to greater acceptance of vegetables in younger infants. In addition, early introduction of fruit and vegetables during weaning has been associated with greater intake later in childhood. Variety is also important in increasing infants acceptance of new tastes, and research has shown that daily changes in the vegetables offered to infants leads to immediate increases in preference and intake and to greater acceptance of new foods generally.

Who can participate?

Mothers are being recruited during pregnancy at the University College London Hospital antenatal clinics and after birth through London-based GP practices and online forums. All mothers taking part in the study will live in the London area.

What does the study involve?

Participants will fill in an initial questionnaire about their pregnancy and a home visit will be arranged just before they are ready to start introducing solids. Parents in the control group will receive usual care, whilst parents in the intervention group will be given guidance and an information leaflet providing advice on:

- The importance of introducing single vegetables as the first complimentary foods
- The beneficial effects of offering a wide variety of fruit and vegetables and offering something different every day
- The techniques of exposure feeding with repeated tiny tastes
- The need for persistence when a baby initially rejects a food
- Understanding babies facial reactions to food

In consultation with mothers, 5 vegetables will be selected as the first weaning foods to be

offered. Parents will be asked to offer the foods on rotation for 15 days, so each vegetable is tried 3 times in total. Parents will be asked to record their progress in a diary. In the following weeks, mothers will be advised to continue to offer a wide variety of different tastes to their infants, but to broaden the selection to include fruit purees such as apple, banana, or pear etc. All participants will be visited at home on 3 occasions. Child food intake and preferences, infant temperament, infant eating behaviour, maternal feeding practices and food neophobia (fussiness) will be measured using questionnaires. Infants subsequent intake and liking of an unfamiliar vegetable will also be measured in follow up taste tests.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
The study does not pose any risk to the participants involved.

Where is the study run from?
University College London

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
From March 2010 until early 2013.

Who is funding the study?
The European Commission. The TASTE study is part of a large European Union funded project entitled HabEat.

Who is the main contact?
Dr Lucy Cooke
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Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
10077

Study information

Scientific Title

The impact of parental guidance on early exposure to a variety of fruit and vegetables on infants liking and consumption: a randomised controlled trial

Acronym

Trial of Advice on Starting Taste Exposure (TASTE)

Study objectives

UK children eat too few fruits and vegetables and preferences for vegetables are low. Since food preferences influence intake, it is important to develop interventions to increase liking for vegetables. Research suggests infants introduced to the taste of vegetables early during the weaning process, like and consume more of them both in the short and longer term.

In addition, experimental studies indicate offering a variety of vegetables is especially effective. The experience of tasting many different flavours leads to greater acceptance of unfamiliar foods and may reduce pickiness. The present study is an randomised controlled trial (RCT) comparing a homebased intervention comprising guidance on introducing a variety of vegetables in the first weeks of weaning with usual care.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Central London REC1, 04/10/2010, ref: 10/H0718/54

Study design

Randomised; Interventional; Design type: Not specified

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Quality of life

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Topic: Reproductive Health and Childbirth, Generic Health Relevance and Cross Cutting Themes; Subtopic: Reproductive Health and Childbirth (all Subtopics), Generic Health Relevance (all Subtopics); Disease: Reproductive Health & Childbirth, Paediatrics

Interventions

Control group: Usual care

TASTE group: Participants in the intervention group will receive an information leaflet and verbal advice on introducing a variety of single vegetables with daily changes, during the early stages of complimentary food introduction. Home visits and telephone interviews for both groups will take place on three occasions throughout the study period, during which psychometric measures including; maternal feeding practices, infant eating behaviours, food intake and preferences will be taken.

Intervention Type

Other

Phase

Not Applicable

Primary outcome(s)

Novel vegetable intake (gms); Timepoint(s): 1 and 6 months post-intervention

Key secondary outcome(s)

1. General vegetable variety evaluated using questionnaires; Timepoint(s): 1 and 6 months post-intervention
2. Liking of novel vegetable (observer rated); Timepoint(s): 1 and 6 months post-intervention
3. Neophobia evaluated using questionnaires; Timepoint(s): 6 months post-intervention

Completion date

31/12/2012

Eligibility**Key inclusion criteria**

1. Singleton pregnancy in 3rd trimester
2. Over 18 years old at time of recruitment
3. Speak, read and write English fluently; Target Gender: Female; Upper Age Limit 40 no age limit or unit specified ; Lower Age Limit 28 no age limit or unit specified

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit

18 years

Sex

Female

Key exclusion criteria

1. Infant feeding problems
2. Infant health problems
3. Premature birth (<37 weeks)
4. Maternal mental health problems

Date of first enrolment

28/02/2011

Date of final enrolment

14/04/2012

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre**Health Behaviour Research Centre**

University College London

Gower Street

London

United Kingdom

WC1E 6BT

Sponsor information

Organisation

University College London (UK)

ROR

<https://ror.org/02jx3x895>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Government

Funder Name

European Commission (Belgium)

Alternative Name(s)

European Union, Comisión Europea, Europäische Kommission, EU-Kommissionen, Euroopa Komisjoni, EC, EU

Funding Body Type

Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype

National government

Location

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Available on request

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	results	01/07/2015		Yes	No
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes