

by the use of clinical tests, physical examination and medical/family history, those patients in need of nutritional supplementation with the products of the present invention.

The embodiments of the present invention may, of course, be carried out in other ways than those set forth herein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. The present embodiments are, therefore, to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive and that all changes and equivalents also come within the description of the present invention.

We claim:

1. An elemental liquid nutritional product comprising:

- a) a protein system which comprises;
 - i) from about 40 w/w % to about 90 w/w % of soy protein hydrolysate,
 - ii) from about 10 w/w % to about 60 w/w % of partially hydrolyzed caseinate in which: a) the fraction of the caseinate having a molecular weight greater than 10,000 daltons but less than 25,000 daltons, is at least 26 w/w % of the total caseinate present and is no greater than about 55 w/w % of the total caseinate present and b) the fraction of the caseinate having a molecular weight of less than 14,000 daltons, is less than about 20 w/w % of the total caseinate present, and,
 - iii) optionally, from about 0 w/w % to about 10 w/w % of arginine;
- b) at least one lipid, wherein the at least one lipid comprises a structured lipid formed from marine oil and medium chain triglyceride oil, and;
- c) at least one carbohydrate.

2. The elemental liquid nutritional product according to claim 1 in which:

- a) the protein system provides from about 10% to about 25% of the total calories of the product;
- b) the at least one lipid provides from about 20% to about 35% of the total calories of the product, and;
- c) the at least one carbohydrate provides from about 50% to about 70% of the total calories of the product.

3. The liquid nutritional product of claim 2 further including at least one additional nutrient selected from the group consisting of Vitamin A, Vitamin B₁, Vitamin B₂, Vitamin B₆, Vitamin B₁₂, Vitamin C, Vitamin D, Vitamin E, Vitamin K, Biotin, Carnitine, Taurine, Folic Acid, Pantothenic Acid, Niacin, Choline, trace minerals and ultra trace minerals.

4. The elemental liquid nutritional product according to claim 1 in which:

- a) the fraction of the partially hydrolyzed caseinate having a molecular weight greater than 10,000 daltons but less than 25,000 daltons, is at least 26 w/w % of the total caseinate present and is no more than about 48% w/w % of the total caseinate present and b) the fraction of the caseinate having a molecular weight of less than 14,000 daltons is less than about 15 w/w % of the total caseinate present.

5. The elemental liquid nutritional product according to claim 1 in which the at least one carbohydrate includes a sufficient quantity of a palatability enhancer selected from the group consisting of sucrose, fructose, glucose and high fructose corn syrup and said product has a caloric density between 0.60 kcal/ml and 1.10 kcal/ml.

6. The elemental liquid nutritional product according to claim 5 in which the palatability enhancer is sucrose and is present in a sufficient amount to provide at least 19% of the total calories of the product.

7. The liquid nutritional product of claim 5 wherein the at least one carbohydrate comprises from about 35–45 w/w % sucrose based upon total carbohydrate content.

8. The elemental liquid nutritional product according to claim 1 in which said at least one lipid further comprises a blend of oils sufficient to provide all essential fatty acids.

9. The elemental liquid nutritional product according to claim 1 in which at least about 50 w/w % of the soy protein hydrolysate has a molecular weight of less than 1,000 daltons.

10. The elemental liquid nutritional product according to claim 9 in which at least about 80–90 w/w % of said soy protein hydrolysate has a molecular weight of less than 5,000 daltons.

11. The elemental liquid nutritional product according to claim 9 in which: a) the fraction of the caseinate having a molecular weight greater than 10,000 daltons but less than 25,000 daltons, is at least 26 w/w % of the total caseinate present and is no greater than about 39 w/w % of the total caseinate present, and b) the fraction of the caseinate having a molecular weight of less than 14,000 daltons is less than about 10 w/w % of the total caseinate present.

12. The elemental liquid nutritional product according to claim 1 in which said at least one lipid is a blend, which includes based upon total lipid content, from about 30 w/w % to about 75 w/w % of a structured lipid formed from marine oil and medium chain triglyceride oil, and from about 25 w/w % to about 70 w/w % of non-structured lipids selected to provide a source of essential fatty acids and energy.

13. The liquid nutritional product of claim 1 wherein the at least one carbohydrate comprises from about 0 w/w % to about 10 w/w % of a fructooligosaccharide.

14. The elemental liquid nutritional product according to claim 1 in which:

- a) the protein system provides from about 18 to about 25% of the total calories of the product,
- b) the at least one lipid provides from about 20% to about 30% of the total calories of the product, and;
- c) the at least one carbohydrate provides from about 50% to about 60% of the total calories of the product.

15. A method for providing nutrition to a patient comprising enterally administering a liquid nutritional product according to claim 1.

16. A method for providing nutrition to a patient having a malabsorption condition comprising enterally feeding said patient with a liquid nutritional product according to claim 1.

17. An elemental liquid nutritional product which comprises:

- a) a protein system providing from about 18 to about 25% of the total calories of the product, in which said protein system comprises;
 - i) from about 40 w/w % to about 90 w/w % soy protein hydrolysate,
 - ii) from about 10 w/w % to about 60 w/w % of partially hydrolyzed caseinate in which: a) the fraction of the caseinate having a molecular weight greater than 10,000 daltons and less than 25,000 daltons is at least about 26 w/w % of the total caseinate present and is no more than about 39 w/w % of the total caseinate present, and b) the fraction of the caseinate present having a molecular weight of less than 14,000 daltons is less than about 10 w/w %, of the total caseinate present.
 - iii) optionally, from about 0 w/w % to about 10 w/w % of arginine;
- b) a lipid system which provides from about 20% to about 30% of the total calories of the product, in which the