

Ready-to-stir BLG ingredient offers patient-friendly solution for medical nutrition

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Arla Foods Ingredients has launched a new ready-to-stir beta-lactoglobulin (BLG) solution to improve convenience and acceptability for patients needing protein-enriched medical nutrition.

Up to 50 per cent of hospital patients suffer from malnutrition, which is associated with longer hospital stays, poor quality of life, increased mortality and higher healthcare costs. Yet motivating patients with reduced appetites to consume sufficient protein through oral nutrition supplements is a challenge. Global surveys have shown that half fail to comply with their medical nutrition plans, with product taste and texture highlighted as opportunities for improvement.

The medical nutrition market is dominated by highly standardised, milky ready-to-drink (RTD) and powder applications. These are typically formulated with neutral pH ingredients, which patients can find heavy and unrefreshing, while juice-style options are limited to RTDs. Patients and healthcare professionals alike are seeking a wider choice of flexible, convenient and appetising formats that can be easily mixed with everyday foods and drinks.

Arla Foods Ingredients' new Lacprodan BLG-100 Acidic whey protein for ready-to-stir powder applications provides 10g of high-quality protein per 100ml serving. Due to its superior solubility, it offers excellent functionality for technically challenging, ready-to-stir powder applications that can be mixed with a spoon as well as shaken. Delivering a great, refreshing taste with no bitterness, low astringency and low viscosity without gelling, it dissolves in just 30 seconds in warm or cold applications without clumping.

Lacprodan BLG-100 Acidic can be used in both nutritionally complete and incomplete applications, including refreshing juice-style and milky options. The flexible powder format enables easier dosage of the recommended daily medical nutrition prescription, with the final volume adjustable by varying the amount of water added.

Offering outstanding purity and a superior amino acid profile, it is high in all nine essential amino acids and rich in leucine, which stimulates muscle protein synthesis, as indicated by scientific studies. This makes it ideal for patients with reduced appetites and supports those at increased risk of losing muscle mass.

Mads Dyrvig, Head of Sales Development, Specialised Nutrition at Arla Foods Ingredients, said: “Too many hospital patients lack the nutrition to support their recovery from illness. Yet the “conventional milky taste and heavy texture of many medical nutrition products can inhibit compliance, with patients often looking for a wider variety of formats. Lacprodan BLG-100 Acidic creates new opportunities for appealing foods and beverages for special medical purposes, enabling nourishing, varied and convenient options for reduced appetites. Delivering pleasant taste and mouthfeel, it offers exceptional functionality and versatility, enabling higher-quality protein and more variety for patients.”