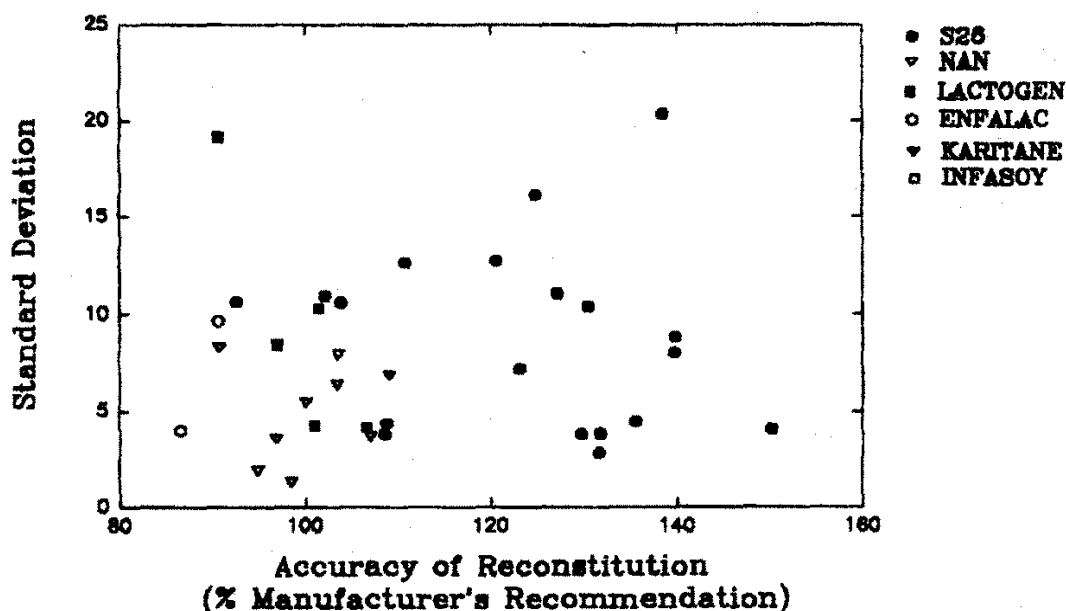


CONSISTENCY OF RECONSTITUTED INFANT FORMULA POWDERS PREPARATION BY ADELAIDE CAREGIVERS

A.L. VLADCOFF, D.J. PALMER and R.A. GIBSON

Although a wide range of variability in the accuracy of infant formula reconstitution has been reported (Bennett and Gibson 1988), the day to day variation of reconstitution by caregivers is unknown. A study involving 35 subjects was undertaken to determine the consistence of infant formula reconstitution by sampling prepared infant formula for five consecutive days. The standard deviation of the values was generally less than 15% of the means indicating that mothers tended to prepare mixtures consistently. There was a wide distribution of mean concentration, but the variability was not related to the accuracy of reconstitution (see figure). The greatest deviation from manufacturers' recommendations was found among mothers using S-26 powder (mean 123.7% of manufacturers' recommendation, range 92.6 - 150.2%).

Mean Concentration vs Standard Deviation



We conclude that mothers tend to reconstitute powdered formula in a consistent way and the large error in accuracy seen in one brand (S-26) is due to the formula delivery system rather than any inherent inability on the part of mothers.

BENNETT, J. and GIBSON, R.A. (1988). *Breastfeeding Review* 13: 59.

Department of Paediatrics, Flinders Medical Centre, Bedford Park, S.A. 5042