MEASUREMENT OF INFANT FORMULA POWDERS USING THE SCOOP METHOD

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Infant formula is safe alternative to breast feeding when prepared according to the manufacturers' recommendations. The most common and economical method of purchasing infant formula by caregivers is in the powdered form in cans, whereby the scoop provided in the can is used to measure out the infant formula powder. Previous studies have shown inaccuracies in the reconstitution of infant formula by mothers (Bennett and Gibson 1990) and trained personnel (Thompson et al. 1985). This study looked at whether it is possible to accurately measure out infant powders using the scoops provided.

Thirty tertiary educated subjects measured out the amount of infant formula powder required for one 240 ml bottle, using the scoops provided and following the instructions on the can. The powder was weighed and the percentage of the manufacturers' stated scoop capacity was calculated for each of the six infant formula brands examined (see table).

	Similac	S-26	Nan	Lactogen	Enfalac	Karitane
Mean*	100	124	110	101	102	106
Range	88-111	108-138	102-120	95-108	95-111	97-113

*Percentage (%) Manufacturers' Stated Scoop Capacity

Brand S-26 had the highest mean of 124% of the manufacturers' stated scoop capacity. It can be concluded that while some infant formula brands can be measured out accurately using the scoop provided, the size of the scoop from S-26 cans appears to require re-appraisal. We are currently examining possible causes for the apparent error in scoop delivery of S-26.

BENNETT, J. and GIBSON,R.A. (1990). Aust. J. Nutr.Dietetics 47: 27.
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