Taste Test Preference is Significant for ProHeal™

Background: According to a systematic review, higher health care costs are associated with undernutrition and disease related malnutrition in older adults living in either the community or institutional settings. The authors concluded that ensuring adequate protein and energy intake via oral nutritional supplements would be efficient and beneficial for reducing costs and the burden of illness in our aging society.

Objective: To determine which oral protein nutritional supplement would be better accepted for utilization within a facility based on taste preference.

Methods: The blind taste test comparison occurred on 11/8/16 in a dining room of a post-acute care setting using a sample of convenience that included 20 residents and 5 staff members. The residents were from assisted living, long-term care and rehabilitation. All participants were informed of the taste trial for the 2 cherry flavored products (ProHeal™ and ProStat SF®). No food allergies were reported. The facility’s staff conducted the trial and no manufacturer representative was present during the taste test. The samples were unlabeled and the identities of the products were known only to the testers. The subjects reported their preference based on taste after sampling both products.

Results: Staff reported preference (n=5): Prostat = 1 (20%); ProHeal = 4 (80%). Residents reported preference (n=20): Prostat = 5 (25%); ProHeal = 14 (70%); no preference = 1 (5%). Statistical analysis using one sample t-test between the percents shows a statistically significant (p=.031) difference in test preference in favor of ProHeal. Cumulative staff and residents (n=25): Prostat = 6 (24%); ProHeal = 18 (72%); no preference = 1 (4%). Statistical analysis using one sample t-test between the percents shows a statistically significant (p=.010) difference in test preference in favor of ProHeal.

Conclusion: An independent taste test conducted on November 8, 2016 revealed better acceptance for ProHeal™ Liquid Protein Supplement as the staff and resident participants preferred the taste of ProHeal™ over the leading brand at a statistically significant level.

References:

This product has not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.