

Price MR (1940). Effects of a supplement of vitamin B (adsorbate) on the growth of infants. *BMJ* 2:80-82.

Key passages

EFFECTS OF A SUPPLEMENT OF VITAMIN B (ADSORBATE) ON THE GROWTH OF INFANTS

BY

MARGARET R. PRICE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.C.H.

Clinical Investigation

The clinical observations reported here were undertaken in order to determine the effect of vitamin B₁

supplements given to young children of London mothers attending with their babies at the child welfare clinic of the Royal Free Hospital. In view of the numerous environmental factors which can affect the progress of infants under widely differing home circumstances it was decided to take the infants without any form of selection. To this end alternate babies seen were given the vitamin supplement, the others being observed as controls. All on bottle-feeding received A and D supplements and all anaemic infants were given iron. The extra vitamin B₁ given was 100 international units (300 γ) daily in the form of a tablet of kaolin adsorbate from a natural source which had been standardized by the electrocardiographic method ("pulvis vitamin B₁," *B.P. Addendum*). This dose was chosen as one which would fully cover the children's requirements, estimated by Knott (1936), of 20 I.U. per kilogramme. The tablet was crushed to powder and added to one feed.

The babies were observed over periods of from three to six months. They were weighed and their sitting height recorded, the criteria being the average weight increase per month and the height increase over four months. Random selection of the infants gave the following distribution among the experimental and control groups: experimental—boys 30, girls 20; control—boys 26, girls 25.

