

**Publication:** Telegraph.co.uk

**Date:** 4 April 2008

**Circulation:** N/A

# Telegraph.co.uk

## Breastmilk sugar may cure salmonella

Last Updated: 3:15pm BST 04/04/2008

Natural sugars in breast milk and some fruits and vegetables could be an effective treatment for salmonella and other food poisoning bugs, scientists will hear today.

The sugars, the ingredient of a prebiotic powder supplement, Bimuno, may lower the chance of bacteria damaging the gut during a food poisoning episode.

Scientists at a meeting in Edinburgh today of the Society for General Microbiology will be told that prebiotics may be an alternative to antibiotics.

The carbohydrates they contain, formed from galacto-oligosaccharides, are known to improve gastrointestinal health in breast-fed infants.

They can be found in bananas, berries, asparagus, garlic and wholegrains and are added as a supplement to yoghurts. It is believed they work by stimulating natural gut bacteria to multiply, enabling them to fight off invading germs.

A study by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) has shown that animals treated with a prebiotic mixture made with the sugars had fewer gut salmonella bacteria.

Prebiotics cannot be digested and remain in the gut and help to feed the beneficial bacteria.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2008/04/02/nbirth402.xml>