

Stearidonic acid as a 'pro-eicosapentaenoic acid'.

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Abstract

PURPOSE OF REVIEW: ω -3 Fatty acids continue to be promoted as cardioprotective, generating an increased demand for these nutrients. Ocean-based supplies are limited, and so land-based sources are being sought. Stearidonic acid-fortified soybean oil may help to meet this demand.

RECENT FINDINGS: Stearidonic acid has been shown in animal and human studies to be more effective than its precursor, α -linolenic acid, in enriching membranes with eicosapentaenoic acid. Hence, stearidonic acid can serve as a 'pro-eicosapentaenoic acid'.

SUMMARY: Stearidonic acid-fortified soybean oil may be able to help close the gap between actual and recommended intakes of ω -3 fatty acids in an environmentally friendly manner.