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Zinc Deficiency and Supplementation Related to Metabolic Diseases

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Zinc, the most ubiquitous trace element, is present throughout all biologic systems, where it has abundant, varied functions. More than 100 enzymes require zinc to perform catalytic functions. It participates in all major biochemical pathways, and it plays multiple roles in the perpetuation of genetic material, i.e., DNA transcription, RNA translation, and cellular division. Given the diverse array of zinc-dependent biological functions, it is not surprising that the zinc status of an individual influences multiple metabolic functions i.e., growth, immune competence, and neuro-behavioral development. Although zinc deficiency is one of the most common nutrient deficiencies worldwide, the broad range of physiological signs of zinc deficiency make it difficult to identify. Nevertheless, the likelihood of zinc deficiency in a population can be assessed by reviewing the adequacy of zinc in the food supply and the rate of stunting in preschool children.

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Editors-in-Chief

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