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Minitablets may be an acceptable alternative to liquid in infants and young children

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Acceptability of minitablets in children is important to those working in pharmaceutical development to ensure medicines meet the needs of patients. Previous work showed that tablets are superior to alternative oral formulations in children aged 1-4 years¹. Klingmann et al provide evidence that multiple minitablets (up to 400) are accepted by children aged 2-5 years. The study is limited by ethical requirements to include only children who are (i) able to swallow and (ii) are compliant and willing to accept the study procedures both of which may introduce bias in study outcomes. Reluctance to use solid dosage forms is often attributed to risks associated with choking yet no deglutition issues were detected with minitablets in a total of 372 participants. Taste is not an issue for placebo minitablets which may not be valid for a commercial product. Future work should focus on the acceptability of commercial minitablets with the associated hurdles associated with a real paediatric population and a real drug product.

1. Van Riet-Nales, D.A., De Neef, B.J., Schobben, A.F.A.M., Ferreira, J.A., Egberts, T.C.G., Rademaker, C.M.A. Acceptability of different oral formulations in infants and preschool children (2013) *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, 98 (9), pp. 725-731.