



**Supplementary Information for**

**Direct measurement of stool consistency by texture analyzer and calculation of reference value in Belgian general population**

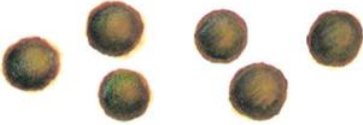




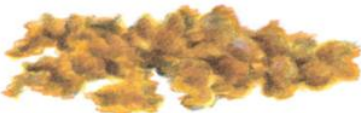

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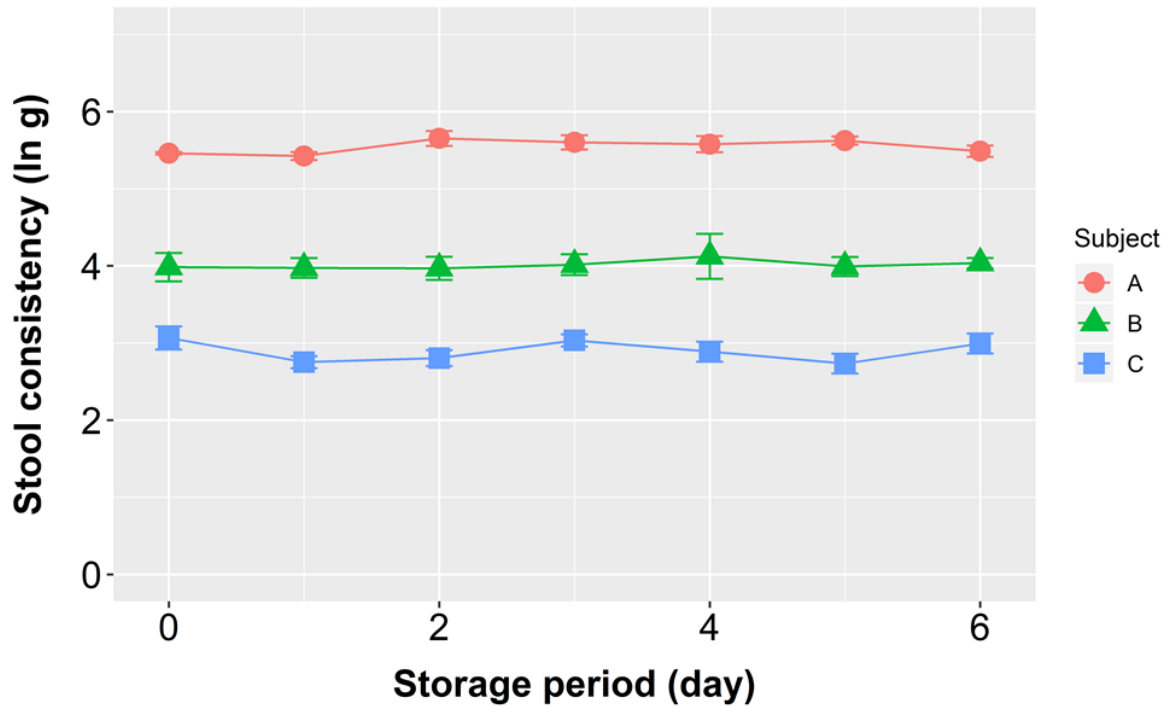


**Figure S1.** Distribution of consistency values of stool samples from healthy Belgian adults. Histogram of log-transformed stool consistency values (ln g/probe). Values of 252 stool samples collected from 40 subjects were measured by texture analyzer.

# THE BRISTOL STOOL FORM SCALE

<i>Type 1</i>		Separate hard lumps, like nuts (hard to pass)
<i>Type 2</i>		Sausage-shaped but lumpy
<i>Type 3</i>		Like a sausage but with cracks on its surface
<i>Type 4</i>		Like a sausage or snake, smooth and soft
<i>Type 5</i>		Soft blobs with clear-cut edges (passed easily)
<i>Type 6</i>		Fluffy pieces with ragged edges, a mushy stool
<i>Type 7</i>		Watery, no solid pieces ENTIRELY LIQUID

**Figure S2.** The Bristol Stool Form Scale. Reproduced by kind permission of Dr. KW Heaton, Reader in Medicine at the University of Bristol. ©2000 Produced by Norgine Pharmaceuticals Limited.



**Figure S3.** Change of stool consistency during refrigerator storage. Stool specimens were collected from 3 subjects (A, B, C) and their consistency (ln g) was repeatedly measured by texture analyzer just after defecation (day 0) and during refrigerator storage for 6 days.

**Table S1.** Agreement of stool type classification between raters and its relations with stool symptoms.

**A. Straining**

Stool type classified by subjects	Stool type classified by expert (actual classification)		
	Hard/lumpy	Normal	Loose/watery
Hard/lumpy	33.3% (5/15)	36.8% (7/19)	–
Normal	16.7% (1/6)	16.2% (28/173)	0.0% (0/6)
Loose/watery	–	4.0% (1/25)	12.5% (1/8)

**B. Incompleteness**

Stool type classified by subjects	Stool type classified by expert (actual classification)		
	Hard/lumpy	Normal	Loose/watery
Hard/lumpy	40.0% (6/15)	42.1% (8/19)	–
Normal	66.7% (4/6)	31.8% (55/173)	16.7% (1/6)
Loose/watery	–	20.0% (5/25)	25.0% (2/8)

Cells shading denotes classification by subjects that agree with classification by expert. Frequencies of sensation of (A) straining and (B) incompleteness during/after defecation are shown. –, not applicable.