

Non-dairy substitute helps allergic people enjoy ice cream

United Press International

PLANO — Physicians seeking an ice cream substitute for allergic children who are allergic to milk products have begun national distribution of a dessert they discovered at a wedding reception in New York.

Dr. I. Richard Toranto, a plastic surgeon in the Dallas suburb of Plano, came across the product almost by accident, said in an interview.

He was in New York to attend a cousin's wedding. The cholesterol-free, non-dairy dessert was served at the reception. Toranto looked and tasted like ice cream, Toranto said, but he knew it couldn't be real ice cream because the main course had been meat — the meal was

kosher, and Jewish dietary law forbids serving meat and dairy products at the same meal.

He found the original manufacturer, a kosher caterer in Brooklyn, making the dessert in a batch freezer and selling it only for catered events, mainly Jewish.

It appeared ideal for his youngest son, Jason, who has a severe milk allergy, Toranto said.

"He was a continually upset 5-year-old because he couldn't have ice cream with other children," the doctor said. "He would cry rather than go to birthday parties where they served ice cream."

Toranto says the product, which they named Parvelle Dairy Free, has the flavor of premium ice cream and a compara-

ble price but half the calories.

The label describes the ingredients, in descending order of quantity, as a pasteurized blend of water, sugar, corn syrup solids, plus hydrogenated and partially hydrogenated vegetable oils (coconut and soybean), soy protein, modified vegetable gums, modified cellulose gums, salt, dipotassium phosphate, polysorbate 60, carageenan, sorbitan monostearate, vanilla and artificial, certified food color.

"I located the gent who made it and brought about 50 pounds of it home, packed in dry ice, for Jason," Toranto said.

A friend and colleague, spinal surgeon Ralph Rashbaum, was invited to dinner, along with his family. Rashbaum's daughter, Dana, also has lactose

intolerance, meaning milk products make her sick.

"When we served the new product, Dana got upset because she thought it was ice cream," Toranto said, "but she was delighted when she found she could eat it."

"Getting to watch a child eat something she could never have before gave us a great feeling. Ralph and I concluded there must be a huge number of other kids like ours. At that point we decided to make it commercially available."

Toranto and Rashbaum contracted to distribute the product nationally through R&R Enterprises — except in Texas and Oklahoma. In those states retailers and other dairy product distributors are supplied by Foremost-McKesson of San

Francisco under contract with R&R.

Toranto said Ron John, a Dallas executive with the Salt Lake City-based Skaggs Alpha Beta grocery chain, first got it into stores outside of New York.

"The product is a success because of John's advice, support and commitment," Toranto said. "He tasted it, thought there was a market for it and said he would buy it if we made it."

Toranto said the product is now in stores in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas and soon will be available in New England, the southeastern states and California.

The current line includes vanilla with real beans, chocolate, strawberry with real berries,

cookies and cream with real cookie parts, chocolate chip with chips, and coffee flavor with real Kona coffee.

Toranto said statistics show 5 percent to 10 percent of the American population has milk allergies.

"The New England Journal of Medicine says 80 percent of all people have lactose intoler-

ance to some degree, with 30 percent so severe that they must avoid all lactose products," he said.

"Besides that, one in four Americans must reduce cholesterol intake. A 1 percent cholesterol reduction means heart attack risk is reduced by 2 percent, and ice cream tops the offender list."

Aggie blood drive gearing up — again

By SUZY FISK

Reporter

Aggies can once again give a part of themselves by giving a pint of blood to the Wadley Blood Center.

Holly Armor, Wadley's head nurse, says the center hopes to collect a normal range of 2,200 to 2,500 pints between April 16 and April 19.

Aggies can give blood in the Memorial Student Center Monday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. They can also give in the lobby of the Commons Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. For Aggies on the northside of campus, two mobile vans will be operating — one in front of the Blocker Building and the other next to the Fish Pond Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

When the last pint has been collected and it's time to pack up and go home, private planes

will be waiting to take the important cargo back to Dallas, home of the Wadley Central Blood Bank. Next, the blood is fractionated into five components, the red blood cells, the white blood cells, cryo, plasma and platelets. These components are then distributed to the 53 north central area hospitals in Texas, says Ellen Brandon, a registered nurse with Wadley.

After 26 years of service at Texas A&M, Wadley Blood Center keeps the procedure of blood withdrawal going. When a person gives blood for the first time he will be "typed" and then his blood pressure, temperature and iron level will be checked. The person is also required to fill out a questionnaire on his medical history. Six questions are repeated to check for discrepancies. This is done to make sure the donor is suitable to give blood.

One pint is the amount of blood taken out for any person

over 110 pounds. No one under 110 pounds is allowed to give blood because it can cause faintness and nausea.

Dana LeMoine, a junior

chemical engineering major from Spring, says her sisters started giving blood every 8 weeks and talked her into also giving blood. LeMoine then realized she had the second rarest

blood type, B negative.

"I believe it's important to give a part of myself to those I can help, especially when I can help someone else who needs a rare type like mine."

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