

Letter: Liver fat in adult survivors of childhood severe acute malnutrition is associated with rates of growth during and after nutritional rehabilitation

The authors would like to thank Dr. Briend for his thoughtful [commentary](#) and his perspectives. We would also like to add some points of clarification to the discourse.

We agree that the recommendation to treat SAM children in community-based programs using ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF) is unlikely to result in rates of weight gain as high as those that occurred in our hospital setting. Additionally, it was not our intention to extrapolate the findings from this study to children treated in community settings. Our data, amongst others, suggest that high rates of rehabilitation weight gain in children with SAM may be a marker of high-risk for NCDs in later life and is of possible public health significance to adult survivors of SAM who were treated in hospital setting similar to ours.

Our findings underscore the need to further investigate the association between weight gain during nutritional rehabilitation and a wider metabolic profile in the survivors of SAM who were rehabilitated in hospital. Additionally, our study is a prompt for similar investigations later in life of children treated for SAM in the community with current protocols.

--Debbie Thompson