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A high performance direct transmethylation method for total fatty acids assessment in biological and foodstuff samples

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1. Introduction

In the recent years analysis of lipids have gained much attention as it was demonstrated that specific fatty acids (FA) may exert an important role in the prevention of human diseases [1]. Conjugated linoleic acid isomers (CLA), mainly found in dairy products are described as a potent anticarcinogenic agent [2]. Polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) have been associated to prevention of sudden cardiac death and arrhythmia [3], participation in development of newborn's nervous system [4] and positive effects on depression or Alzheimer's disease [5, 6]. FA compounds are routinely analyzed by gas liquid chromatography as methyl esters after

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