Online Supplementary Document

Topical emollient therapy with sunflower seed oil alters the skin microbiota of young children with severe acute malnutrition in Bangladesh: a randomised, controlled study

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Appendix S1. Supplementary Methods

Study population. All children in the study received SAM routine standard-of-care, which includes rehydration, nutrition and antibiotics (1). Oil massage was performed by trained nurses, who washed their hands with soap and water prior to oil application and performed gentle massage with bare hands. Oil was applied starting from the hands, then from front to the back of the body, followed by the legs and finally the buttock area. The buttock area was massaged outwards to inwards to prevent spreading of enteric bacteria from close to the anal area.

Sample collection. Skin samples were obtained by swabbing a 2x2 cm area of the skin with a sterile swab moistened with sterile sample buffer (0.15 M NaCl, 0.1% Tween 20). Samples of collection buffer, as well as empty swabs were retained as negative controls. All samples were frozen immediately at -80°C, and later shipped to Stanford University on dry ice for storage and subsequent analysis.

16S rRNA gene amplicon sequencing. DNA was extracted from ~200 mg of stool using the QIAGEN DNeasy PowerSoil HTP 96 Kit (Cat #12955-4) following the manufacturer's instructions, including a 2 x 10-minute bead-beating step using the Retsch 96 Well Plate Shaker at speed 20. DNA from skin swabs was isolated using the QIAamp BiOstic Bacteremia DNA Kit (Cat#: 12240-50) according to the manufacturer's protocol, including a 15 min incubation at 70°C followed by bead beating with a MPBio FastPrep-24TM 5G Homogenizer (Cat#: SKU

116005500) for 60s at 6m/s. Empty collection tubes, unused swabs, as well as collection buffer were extracted and amplified in the same way to serve as negative controls.

The V4 region of the bacterial 16S rRNA gene was amplified by PCR using barcoded Illumina forward primer 515F (5'-GTGCCAGCAGCCGCGGTAA-3') with an error-correcting barcode and reverse primer 806R (5'-GGACTACCAGGGTATCTAAT-3') (2). Amplicons were purified using the Qiagen UltraClean 96 PCR Cleanup kit (Cat#: 12596-4) and quantified using the Quant-iTTM dsDNA Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Cat#: Q33120) and pooled in equimolar concentrations. The amplicon pool was then concentrated using a DNA Clean & ConcentratorTM column (Zymo Research, Cat# D4031) and sequenced with a 2x250nt protocol on two lanes of a HiSeq 2500, using a HiSeq Rapid SBS sequencing kit version 2. A total of 391,682,822 high quality reads were generated from the 232 stool samples and 859 skin swabs (~324,570 reads/sample (sd 33,160 reads)). Fastq files were demultiplexed with the bcl2fastq v2.20 (Illumina).

Data processing and ecological statistics. Raw sequencing reads were demultiplexed using the QIIME command split_libraries_fastq.py (QIIME version 1.9.1) and then quality trimmed using the DADA2 pipeline (dada2 version 1.1.1) in R (R version 3.2.4) (3). Briefly the first ten nucleotides were trimmed from the left side and all reads were quality filtered with settings maxN=0, maxEE=2, truncQ=11. Following quality trimming, amplicon sequence variants (ASVs) were inferred using the DADA2 pipeline which resulted in 32.299 ASVs identified in 1214 samples (including negative controls). Taxonomy was assigned to each ASV using the IDTAXA (4) classifier and the SILVA 16S rRNA database [SILVA SSU r132 (March 2018)], and a phylogenetic tree was built from the ASVs using the QIIME2 function q2-fragment-insertion (5). The ASV table, patient sample data, taxonomy assignments, phylogenetic tree, and ASV sequences were then bundled into phyloseq objects for further plotting and statistical analysis (phyloseq version 1.24.2) (6). The decontam package was used separately on skin and stool samples to remove contaminants based on prevalence in negative controls versus samples (7). Mitochondria sequences were removed from the dataset.

Sparse discriminant analysis from the treeDa package (version 0.0.4) (8), which uses information from the phylogenetic tree, was used to identify taxa that differentiated between treatment groups. Only ASVs present in at least 25% of participants as well as sample days 6-10

were included in the analysis per body site, resulting in 1305 taxa for the volar forearm, 1307 taxa for the elbow crease, 1080 taxa for the shin, and 1310 taxa for the forehead. After cross validation, samples from the volar forearm were differentiated by 16 predictors, which corresponded to 59 leaves on the tree; samples from the elbow crease were differentiated by 22 predictors, which corresponded to 174 leaves on the tree; samples from the shin were differentiated by 29 predictors, which corresponded to 201 leaves on the tree; and samples from the forehead were differentiated by 22 predictors, which corresponded to 147 leaves on the tree.

Product description of refined sunflower seed oil.

We used cold pressed linoleic acid-rich (48-74%), low oleic acid (14-39%) containing SSO donated from a commercial supplier (Cargill Refined Oils, Europe) (see Table below for a full specification of the SSO). The oil was stored at -20°C in aliquots, defrosted and allowed to reach room temperature before use. After defrosting, the oil was maintained at room temperature for up to 7 days after which it was discarded and replaced with fresh oil.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION*							
		Min	Max	Reference method †			
Sensory:							
Taste	-	bland		Cargill internal method			
Appearance at room	-	clear		Cargill internal method			
temperature							
Chemical:							
Free Fatty Acid, as oleic	%	-	0.10	EN-ISO 660:2009			
Peroxide Value, at bottling	mq/kg	-	2.0	ISO 3960:2007			
Moisture Content	%	-	0.10	ISO 8534:2007			
Colour Lovibond 5.25"	Red	-	2.0	ISO 15305:1998			
Fatty Acid Composition:			EN-ISO 5509	2000 & EN-ISO 5508:1995			
C16:0	%	5.0	7.6				
C18:0	%	2.7	6.5				
C18:1 (total)	%	14.0	39.4				
C18:2 (total)	%	48.3	74.0				
C18:3 (total)	%	-	0.5				
Trans fatty acids (total)	%	-	2.0				

* Analyses are performed by refineries/ suppliers before reception of the oils in the bottling plant

[†] Cargill reserves the right to use internal analytical method that is in compliance with the International Reference Method

Supplementary References

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Supplementary Tables

Table S1. Baseline characteristics and antibiotic treatment of study participants. 20 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were randomized into either the emollient treatment group or the control group. There were no statistical differences in baseline characteristics or in use of antibiotics (t-test for age, TEWL; Wilcoxon test for WLZ, days of gentamicin, days of amoxicillin, days of ampicillin, chi2-test for sex, delivery mode, breastfeeding). WLZ = weight-for-length z score, TEWL = trans-epidermal water loss, C-section = cesarian section.

	Emollient (n=10)	Control (n=10)
Male sex, n (%)	7 (70%)	7 (70%)
Age range, months	2.3-18.0	2.3-13.2
Age, months, mean (± sd)	8.1 (± 4.9)	7.8 (± 3.5)
WLZ at admission, mean (± sd)	-3.4 (± 0.34)	-3.5 (± 0.52)
TEWL at admission, mean (± sd)	12.6 (± 3.2)	13.9 (± 4.3)
Days of gentamicin after admission, mean (± sd)	8.1 (± 0.74)	7.8 (± 0.79)
Days of amoxicillin after admission, mean (± sd)	5.5 (± 0.76)	5.25 (± 1.39)
Days of ampicillin after admission, mean (± sd)	3.5 (± 1.3)	3.7 (± 0.82)
Delivery mode, C-section, n (%)	3 (30%)	1 (10%)
Breastfeeding at admission, n (%)	6 (60%)	9 (90%)
Exclusively breastfeeding at admission, n (%)	5 (50%)	7 (70%)

Table S2. Results of PERMANOVA (Adonis) for the impact of body site, subject ID, age, and sex on skin microbiome structure in Bangladeshi children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) at baseline. See Figure 1, panel C.

Model	adonis(ps_	adonis(ps_bray ~ age_m + sex + Body_Site + Subject_ID , data = sampledf, permutations = 1000)								
	Df	SumsOfSqs	MeanSqs	F.Model	R ²	adjusted P value				
Subject ID	17	10.3206	0.60709	5.9374	0.52675	0.004 **				
Body Site	3	1.7823	0.59411	5.8104	0.09097	0.004 **				
Age (month)	1	1.1638	1.16376	11.3815	0.05940	0.004 **				
Sex	1	0.6005	0.60045	5.8724	0.03065	0.004 **				
Residuals	56	5.7260	0.10225	0.29224						
Total	78	19.5931	1.00000							

Abbreviations: Df = degrees of freedom; SumsOfSqs = sequential sums of squares; MeanSqs = mean squares; F.Model = F statistics; $R^2 = partial R$ -squared.

Table S3. Results of linear mixed effect models for Shannon diversity index and association of bacterial skin community diversity with study group in Bangladeshi children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) undergoing topical emollient therapy.

	lmer(Shannon ~ study_group + Sample_Day + Body_Site + (1 Subject_ID), data							
Model	= df)							
Random effects:								
Groups	Name	Variance	Std.Dev.					
Subject ID	Intercept	0.09007	0.3001					
Residual		0.30897	0.5559					
Fixed effects:								
	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	P value				
(Intercept)	3.736725	0.108190	34.538					
Emollient	0 198371	0 139581	1 421	0.172				
group	0.170371	0.157501	1.721	0.172				
Sample Day	-0.037178	0.006061	-6.134	<0.001***				
Volar Forearm	-0.018875	0.053743	-0.351	0.726				
Elbow Crease	-0.030304	0.053741	-0.564	0.573				
Shin	-0.437851	0.053741	-8.147	<0.001***				
AIC: 1515.783	1	1	L	1				

Abbreviations: Std.Dev. = standard deviation; Std. Error = standard error; AIC = Akaike information criterion.

Table S4. Results of PERMANOVA (Adonis) for the association of skin microbiota structure with study group in Bangladeshi children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) undergoing topical emollient therapy.

Model	adonis(ps_bray ~ study_group + Sample_Day + Body_Site + sex + age_m , data = sampledf, permutations = 1000, strata=sampledf\$Subject_ID)								
	Df	SumsOfSqs	MeanSqs	F.Model	R ²	adjusted P value			
Study Group	1	3.806	3.8064	17.0852	0.01757	0.005 **			
Sample Day	1	5.232	5.2318	23.4831	0.02415	0.005 **			
Body Site	3	6.464	2.1548	9.6717	0.02983	0.005 **			
Sex	1	5.544	5.5444	24.8863	0.02559	0.005 **			
Age (months)	1	6.259	6.2589	28.0933	0.02889	0.005 **			
Residuals	850	189.371	0.2228	0.87398					
Total	857	216.677	1.00000						

Abbreviations: Df = degrees of freedom; SumsOfSqs = sequential sums of squares; MeanSqs = mean squares; F.Model = F statistics; $R^2 = partial R$ -squared.

Table S5. Results of linear regression for the relationship of Shannon diversity index of the gut microbiota of Bangladeshi children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) at baseline against age in months. See Figure S10, panel B.

Model	lm(mean ~ age months, data = df)							
Coefficients:								
	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	P value				
Intercept	0.92709	0.25274	3.668					
Age months	0.05653	0.02827	2.000	0.061				
Residual standard	error: 0.5095 on 1	8 degrees of freedo	m					
Multiple R-square	d: 0.1818							
Adjusted R-square	ed: 0.1363							
F-statistic: 3.999 o	on 1 and 18 DF							
P value: 0.061								

Abbreviations: Std. Error = standard error, DF= degrees of freedom.

Table S6. Results of linear mixed effect models for the association between study group and Shannon diversity index for gut bacterial communities in Bangladeshi children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) undergoing topical emollient therapy.

Model	Imer(Shannon ~ study_group + Sample_Day + age_m + nr antibiotics taken + (1 Subject ID), data = df)									
Random effects:										
Groups	Name	Variance	Std.Dev.							
Subject ID	(Intercept)	0.0770	0.2775							
Residual		0.1573	0.3966							
Fixed effects:		11								
	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	P value						
(Intercept)	0.659011	0.175389	3.757							
Emollient	0.044377	0.135679	0.327	0.748						
Sample Day	0.011204	0.007962	1.407	0.161						
Age (months)	0.091388	0.016858	5.421	< 0.001***						
	0.284553	0 136722	-2 081	0.054						

Abbreviations: Std.Dev. = standard deviation; Std. Error = standard error; Nr. of ABX = Number of different antibiotics; AIC = Akaike information criterion.

Table S7. Results of PERMANOVA (Adonis) for the association between gut microbiota structure and study group in Bangladeshi children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) undergoing topical emollient therapy.

Model:	adonis(ps data = sa	adonis(ps_bray ~ study_group + Sample_Day + age_m + sex + days_of_abx, data = sampledf, permutations = 1000, strata=sampledf\$Subject_ID)							
	Df	SumsOfSqs	MeanSqs	F.Model	R ²	adjusted P value			
Study Group	1	1.116	1.1158	5.8599	0.02192	0.060			
Sample Day	1	0.487	0.4865	2.5552	0.00956	0.045			
Age (months)	1	5.234	5.2339	27.4883	0.10282	0.045			
Sex	1	1.035	1.0346	5.4336	0.02033	1.000			
Nr. of ABX	1	1.251	1.2508	6.7361	0.02457	1.000			
Residuals	225	41.780	0.1857	0.82080					
Total	230	50.902	1.00000						

Abbreviations: Df = degrees of freedom, SumsOfSqs = sequential sums of squares, MeanSqs = mean squares, F.Model = F statistics, $R^2 = partial R$ -squared, Nr. of ABX = Number of different antibiotics.



Figure S1. Antibiotic administration during the study time. All study participants received antibiotics after the first sample collection of day 0. Everybody received ampicillin (pink) for the first 3.6 (+/- 1.05) days, followed by amoxicillin (dark blue) for another 5.4 (+/-1.09) days. Additionally, participants received gentamicin (bright green) for the first 7.95 (+/-0.76) days of the study. A few participants received single doses of azithromycin (orange squares) or a short course of cefixime (purple), ceftriaxone (turquoise), pivmecillinam (dark green) or ciprofloxacin (red).







Figure S3. Correlation of Shannon diversity index of the skin microbiota at four body sites with participant age in months. Skin swabs were collected from the forehead (sebaceous habitat), shin (dry habitat), volar forearm (dry habitat) and elbow crease (moist habitat) from 20 Bangladeshi children with SAM of ages 2-18 months, upon admission to Dhaka Hospital. Bacterial DNA was extracted and the 16S rRNA gene was amplified and sequenced. DADA2 was used to identify amplicon sequence variants (ASVs). Mean Shannon diversity index was calculated for each skin site and each subject at the time of enrollment. Linear regression was applied against age in months using the Im function in the stats package in R. Grey shaded area represents the 95% CI. Blue dots = control group, yellow dots = emollient group.



Figure S4. Bray-Curtis dissimilarity between pairs of skin sites within the same child. The Wilcoxon test was performed and the p.adjust function in the stats package (version 3.6.1) was used to adjust for multiple comparisons using the Bonferroni method.







С

Emollient T	herapy		Control			
Highest common phylogeny	Nr. Of Member taxa	LDA Coefficient	Highest common phylogeny	Nr. Of Member taxa	LDA Coefficient	
Moraxellaceae (f)	2	163	Micrococcus (g)	1	-139	
Thermomicrobiales (o)	3	156	Rhodobacteraceae (f)	1	-74	
Veillonella (g)	2	151	Stenotrophomonas (g)	4	-10	
Bacteria (d)	18	139	Acinetobacter (g)	3	-2	
Pseudomonadaceae (f)	1	102				
Micrococcaceae (f)	1	47				
Firmicutes (p)	5	30				
Dietzia (g)	5	6				
Neisseria (g)	2	3				
Rhodobacteraceae (f)	7	2				

Figure S5. Tree-based sparse discriminant analysis of skin microbiota at the volar forearm. Sparse discriminant analysis from the treeDa package (version 0.0.4) was used to identify taxa present in at least 25% of participants on days 6-10 (1305 taxa) that discriminated between treatment groups. After cross-validation 16 predictors were chosen, which corresponded to 59 leaves on the tree. A) Scores of multiple time point samples from days 6-10 per participant and treatment group on the discriminating axis. B) Taxa loadings on the discriminant analysis results per study group, ordered by highest discriminant coefficient (d = domain, p = phylum, o = order, c = class, f = family, g = genus).





Emollient T	herapy		Control		
Highest common phylogeny	Nr. Of Member taxa	LDA Coefficient	Highest common phylogeny	Nr. Of Member taxa	LDA Coefficient
Perlucidibaca (g)	1	756	Cruoricaptor (g)	1	-123
Lactococcus (g)	1	549	Rhodobacteraceae (f)	1	-29.9
Bacteria (d)	8	105	Enterobacteriaceae (f)	1	-20.7
Corynebacterium (g)	2	99.9	Stenotrophomonas (g)	4	-7.02
Clostridiales (o)	4	92.9	Enhydrobacter (g)	1	-2.6
Bacteria (d)	25	57			
Pseudomonas (g)	4	42			
Sphingomonadaceae (f)	1	30.5			
Staphylococcus (g)	1	25.4			
Acinetobacter (g)	2	22.9			
Dietzia (g)	4	21.3			
Sphingomonadaceae (f)	3	14.5			
Proteobacteria (c)	11	4.19			
Bacteroidales (o)	73	1.01			
Rhodobacteraceae (f)	4	1.01			
Actinobacteria (c)	22	0.61			

Figure S6. Tree-based sparse discriminant analysis of skin microbiota at the elbow crease. Sparse discriminant analysis from the treeDa package (version 0.0.4) was used to identify taxa present in at least 25% of participants on days 6-10 (1307 taxa) that discriminated between treatment groups. After cross-validation 22 predictors were chosen, which corresponded to 174 leaves on the tree. A) Scores of multiple time point samples from days 6-10 per participant and treatment group on the discriminating axis. B) Taxa loadings on the discriminating axis, colored by Family and plotted along the phylogenetic tree. C) Table with sparse discriminant analysis results per study group, ordered by highest discriminant coefficient (d = domain, p = phylum, o = order, c = class, f = family, g = genus).



Emollient Therapy			Control			
Highest common phylogeny	Nr. Of Member taxa	LDA Coefficient	Highest common phylogeny	Nr. Of Member taxa	LDA Coefficient	
Moraxellaceae (f)	3	989	Micrococcus (g)	1	-180	
Thermomicrobiales (o)	3	573	Nubsella (g)	1	-92	
Endobacter (g)	1	517	Acinetobacter (g)	1	-16.4	
Pseudomonadaceae (f)	1	335	Lactobacillus (g)	1	-9.33	
Malassezia (g)	1	184	Acinetobacter (g)	3	-2.98	
NA	8	90	Veillonella (g)	1	-1.54	
Corynebacteriaceae (f)	3	82	Dermacoccaceae (g)	2	-0.55	
Pseudomonadaceae (f)	1	33.5	Enterobacteriaceae (f)	8	-0.05	
Pseudomonas (g)	4	31.9				
Malassezia (g)	1	19				
Neisseria (g)	1	16.2				
Sphingomonadaceae (f)	44	16				
Pseudomonadaceae (f)	8	9.89				
Prevotella 9 (g)	1	5.24				
Acinetobacter (g)	1	4.96				
Staphylococcus (g)	1	3.53				
Bacteroidales (g)	64	1.25				
Corynebacteriaceae (f)	1	1.22				
Actinobacteria (c)	21	0.91				
Micrococcales (o)	14	0.15				
Acinetobacter (g)	1	0.09				

Figure S7. Tree-based sparse discriminant analysis of skin microbiota at the shin. Sparse discriminant analysis from the treeDa package (version 0.0.4) was used to identify taxa present in at least 25% of participants on days 6-10 (1080 taxa) that discriminated between treatment groups. After cross-validation 29 predictors were chosen, which corresponded to 201 leaves on the tree. A) Scores of multiple time point samples from days 6-10 per participant and treatment group on the discriminating axis. B) Taxa loadings on the discriminating axis, colored by Family and plotted along the phylogenetic tree. C) Table with sparse discriminant analysis results per study group, ordered by highest discriminant coefficient (d = domain, p = phylum, o = order, c = class, f = family, g = genus).





Emollient Therany			Control			
Highest common phylogeny	Nr. Of Member ASVs	Coefficient	Highest common phylogeny	Nr. Of Member ASVs	Coefficient	
Rhizobiaceae (f)	2	283	Stenotrophomonas (g)	4	-6.89	
Methylobacterium (g)	6	223	Enhydrobacter (g)	1	-1.71	
Weissella (g)	1	220	Acinetobacter (g)	4	-0.04	
Rhodobacteraceae (f)	1	125				
Microccocaceae (f)	1	95.4				
Dietzia (g)	5	54.6				
Porphyromonas (g)	1	50.6				
Veillonellaceae (f)	6	48.6				
Acinetobacter (g)	2	40.8				
Veillonella (g)	3	24				
Rhodobacteraceae (f)	1	16.9				
Microccocaceae (f)	10	7.1				
Veillonellaceae (f)	1	5.09				
Prevotellaceae (f)	54	1.89				
Actinobacteria (c)	28	0.57				
Acinetobacter (g)	1	1.23				
Actinobacteria (c)	3	1.23				
Streptococcus (g)	9	0.09				
Streptococcus (g)	3	0.02				

Figure S8. Tree-based sparse discriminant analysis of skin microbiota at the forehead. Sparse discriminant analysis from the treeDa package (version 0.0.4) was used to identify differential taxa present in at least 25% of participants on days 6-10 (1310 taxa) that discriminated between treatment groups. After cross-validation 22 predictors were chosen, which corresponded to 147 leaves on the tree. A) Scores of multiple time point samples from days 6-10 per participant and treatment group on the discriminating axis. B) Taxa loadings on the discriminating axis, colored by Family and plotted along the phylogenetic tree. C) Table with sparse discriminant analysis results per study group, ordered by highest discriminant coefficient (d = domain, p = phylum, o = order, c = class, f = family, g = genus).











Figure S9. ASVs with significant differences in abundance between baseline and the second half of the study within each treatment group. The mean relative abundance of ASVs identified by LDA as discriminating between the treatment groups, at baseline (green bars) and at days 6-10 (blue bars) was calculated per subject, skin site (A, volar forearm; B, elbow crease; C, shin; D, forehead) and study group. The means were compared using the Wilcoxon test. ($P < 0.01^{**}$, $P < 0.05^{*}$). *P* values shown here were not corrected for multiple comparisons. ASVs are presented by skin site and study group.

D



Age in months

Family



Figure S10. Baseline structure and diversity of the gut microbiota in Bangladeshi children with SAM. Bacterial DNA was extracted from one or two baseline fecal samples of 20 Bangladeshi children with SAM at the time of enrollment. The V4 region of the 16S rRNA gene was amplified, sequenced and sequence variants were inferred using DADA2. Sample counts were transformed into relative abundances and agglomerated at the taxonomic level of Family. A) Structure of the gut microbiota by child, sorted by age in months. Color coded by phylum: shades of blue = Actinobacteria, shades of green = Bacteroidetes, shades of yellow = Firmicutes, shades of red = Proteobacteria, purple: Epsilonbacteraeota, dark blue: Fusobacteria, grey: ASVs with low abundance or without taxonomic assignment. B) Mean Shannon diversity index was calculated across the two baseline samples per subject and displayed with standard deviation. Linear regression was performed using the lm function in the stats package in R on Shannon diversity index versus subject age in months. Grey shaded area represents the 95% confidence interval.