

Chemical, Nutritional and Microbiological Evaluation of Some Egyptian Soft Cheeses

¹*Ghada, Z. A. A., ²*Alia, M. H., ³**Soha, Al-S., ⁴*Magdy, N. A., and ⁵*Mohammed, F. S.,

¹Lecture of Biochemistry, ²Lecture of Food Hygiene, ³Lecture of Nutrition, ⁴Associate Prof of Ecological Sciences, ⁵Prof of Microbiology. *The National Nutrition Institute.

**Suez Canal University.

Abstract

Milk and dairy products is considered the most complete foodstuff that provide human either infants or adults with most of their vital needs. Milk and cheese have high nutritive value due to its high content of protein, fat, minerals especially calcium (Ca^{2+}) & phosphorous, and vitamins. Two hundred samples produced and sold in Egypt during 2001-2003 were collected from allover the country. The cheese samples were subjected to microbiological and chemical analysis. Samples were microbiologically tested for total aerobic bacterial count (TABC), Colifrm, *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), *Staphylococcus aureus*, mould and yeast, salmonella and shigella, and *listeria species*. Protein, fat, carbohydrates, moisture, ash, lactose, Calcium (Ca), phosphorous (P) and Ca/P were evaluated. The analysis showed that total aerobic bacterial count did not exceed $1.4 \times 10^5 \pm 1.7 \times 10^5$ cells/gm, which is close to what allowed by the Standard Egyptian Guidelines (2001) and 47.5 % of the tested cheese are free from coliform bacteria and *Escherichia coli*. Ninety-eight and half percent, 97 %, 97 % and 91.5 % of the tested cheese (kareish, feta, thalaga, double cream respectively), either made in plant or home or farmers' cheese sample have zero *Staphylococcus aureus* count or mould and yeast; or salmonella and shigella, or *listeria species* respectively, i. e. free from them. Double cream cheese has the lowest protein content (7.79 ± 0.78 gm%) while kareish cheese has the highest protein content (19.99 ± 1.32 gm%), but for fat content the opposite is true, double cream cheese have the highest fat content (24.56 ± 1.78 gm%) while kareish cheese have the lowest fat content (3.87 ± 0.97 gm %). Feta cheese has high ash content while kareish cheese has the highest moisture content with the lowest ash content (68.97 ± 1.86 & 1.81 ± 0.47 gm% respectively). Lactose content varies widely from 1.50 ± 0.26 (double cream cheese) to 3.25 ± 0.50 (feta cheese). Kareish cheese has higher content of calcium and phosphorous (641.1 ± 49.21 mg%, 431.18 ± 37.21 mg% respectively) than the remaining types of cheese. Calcium & phosphorous content of kareish cheese is almost the double content of the double cream cheese. Feta cheese has higher Ca/P (1.65 ± 0.19) while thalaga and double cream has lower Ca/P (1.34 ± 0.13 & 1.37 ± 0.20). Each 100 gm of soft cheese can provide children (1-8 y) & adult (9- \geq 50 y) from 39.78% & 24.48 % to 128.22 % & 64.11% of their Ca Dietary Reference Intake and this from double cream cheese and kareish cheese respectively.

Introduction

Milk and dairy products represent the most popular foodstuff that provide human with most of their vital needs. In developing countries milk and dairy products industry represent a powerful economic income. In Egypt this industry represent 35%. Milk and cheese have high nutritive value due to its high content of protein, fat, minerals especially calcium

(Ca^{2+}), phosphorous, and vitamins (Badawi, 1996; and Food composition tables, 1998). Cheese is made from milk through clotting using renin or through souring of the milk (Miller *et al.*, 1999). The used milk is either raw or pasteurized. Cheeses are made either in large planning that is well equipped or in small planning or in farmers' home or in unlicensed factories. The last three places

especially the unlicensed one is a disaster. Manufacturing cheese in these places make them more labile to contamination and any fault during manufacture may lead to series hazards (Al-Ashmawy *et al.*, 1994). Microorganisms may gain access to cheese during process; handling and distribution since milk provide a high nutritive, favorable media for the growth and multiplication of such organisms. Many food poisoning outbreaks may be due to using milk from diseased animals with infection of bacterial origin or manufacturing in contaminated places or from the workers themselves. Ingestion of certain microorganism can be detrimental to human health (UNEP, 1992). Bacteria that most frequently cause mastitis can be divided into two large groups based on the source of the bacteria: contagious pathogens as *Staphylococcus aureus* and environmental pathogens as *coliform bacteria* and *environmental streptococci species*. Milk and dairy products can provide us with a considerable amount of the recommended dietary intake of calcium. Calcium plays an important role in teeth building and many diseases as cardiovascular, osteoporosis and hypertension. Calcium from dairy foods had a large effect on systolic blood pressure. It reduces it in hypertensive not normotensive by 2 mmHg for every two cups of milk, ≈ 730 mg Ca, consumed per day. No association was observed between non-dairy Ca intake and blood pressure (Ackley *et al.*, 1983; Reed *et al.*, 1985; and Cappuccino *et al.*, 1995). Osteoporosis is increasing and spreading fast especially in women and it represent a major public health (Riggs and Melton, 1995; and Looker *et al.*, 1997).

Aim of the Work

The aim of this study was to evaluate the nutritional, chemical and microbiological quality of different soft cheeses produced and sold in Egypt during 2001-2003 to determine the amount of total aerobic bacterial count (TABC), Coliform, *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), *Staphylococcus aureus*, mould and yeast, salmonella and shigella, and *listeria species* and to evaluate protein, fat, carbohydrates, moisture, ash,

lactose, Calcium (Ca), phosphorous (P) and Ca/P. The microbiological and chemical contents were reviewed with WHO and Egyptian standards guidelines to see if it fit for human consumption.

Materials and Methods

Sampling

Two hundred samples produced and sold in Egypt during 2001- 2003 were collected from all over the country. The cheese samples were subjected to microbiological and chemical analysis.

Microbiological Analysis

Samples were microbiologically tested for total aerobic bacterial count (TABC), Coliform, *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), *Staphylococcus aureus*, mould and yeast, salmonella and shigella, and *listeria species*. They were investigated according to ICMSF, 1996; James and Natalie (2002) and Ahmed and Carolyn (2003).

Chemical Analysis

Protein, fat, carbohydrates, moisture, ash and lactose were determined according to AOAC (1990). Calcium (Ca) was measured in the ash using atomic absorption, Unicam 929 (AOAC, 1981). Phosphorous (P) was estimated colorimetrically in the ash according to (AOAC, 1981) and Ca/P was calculated.

Results and Discussion

Plants construction affect microbial contamination, so it is important that clean air and water are available and the used equipments and the contact surfaces are always clean and do not react with the products. The plants' soil can be source of contamination if proper and effective sanitation are not present. Each processing facility, equipments, raw materials and products should go daily through microbial analysis. Also the workers in this field should be carefully chosen with a good care of them and ensure that they apply health rules (Marriott, 1999).

Data of table (1) showed total aerobic bacterial count of some soft Egyptian

cheese. Forty Nine percent (49 %, (98/200)) of the tested cheese, either made in plant (81/100) or home or farmers' made (17/100), have zero total aerobic bacterial count. The remaining tested cheese samples (102/200, 51%) either made in plant (19/100) or home or farmers' made (83/100) having total aerobic bacterial counts range from 42.33 ± 7.51 to $1.4 \times 10^5 \pm 1.7 \times 10^5$ cells/gm which is close to what allowed by the Standard Egyptian Guidelines (2001) and than the maximum limit proposed by Ottogalli et al. (1985). They proposed a maximum limit of 10^4 to 10^5 cells/gm. From 60% (thalaga) to Ninety percent (kareish & Feta) of the tested plant made cheese were free of aerobic bacteria and from 5% (thalaga) to 20% (kareish & double cream) of the street made cheese are free of aerobic bacteria. Our results for kareish cheese are in disagreements with Badawe, (1994) who found that TABC rage from 10^7 to 10^9 cells/gm.

The public health importance of coliform bacteria is that it is implicated in gastrointestinal illness as gastroenteritis, epidemic diarrhea in children and cases of food poisoning (Quinto and Cepeda, 1997). Coliform testing may be used to determine the effectiveness of cheese milk and to monitor post pasteurization contamination of cheese milk (Chappel and Bigalke, 1987). Data of table (2) showed total Coliform count of some soft Egyptian cheese. From 70% (thalaga & double cream) to 90% (kareish) of the tested plant made cheese were free of coliform bacteria and from 10% (kareish & thalaga) to 20% (double cream) of the street made cheese are free of coliform bacteria. From 40% (kareish) to 75% (thalaga) of the tested street made cheese have high coliform bacterial count (from $1.5 \times 10^7 \pm 1.5 \times 10^7$ to $7 \times 10^7 \pm 1 \times 10^7$ cells/gm respectively) which is much higher than allowed by the Standard Egyptian Guidelines (2001). The cheese made in street, farmers' home or in unlicensed factories is not safe for human consumption. Contamination of cheese with coliform gives indication of bad hygienic conditions during production, handling and distribution and the possible presence of

enteric pathogens (ICMSF, 1996). Our results are in agreement with Coveney *et al.* (1994) where they found that the incidence of coliforms and faecal coliforms was higher in soft, semi-soft and semi-hard cheeses than in hard types.

The public health importance of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) is that it is implicated in gastrointestinal illness as severe cholera-like syndrome, gastroenteritis, epidemic diarrhea and cases of food poisoning (Quinto and Cepeda, 1997). Data of table (3) showed total *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) count of some soft Egyptian cheese. The results reveal that *Escherichia coli* was isolated from 51.5% (105/200) of soft cheeses tested, but *E. coli* O157:H7 was not detected. This result is in agreements with Ansay and Kaspar (1997). Forty-seven and half percent (47.5 %, 95/200) of the tested cheese, either made in plant (77/100) or home or farmers' made (18/100), have zero *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) count or free from it. The remaining tested cheese samples (105/200, 42.5%) either made in plant (23/100) or home or farmers' made (82/100) having total *Escherichia coli* counts range from 16.47 ± 3.97 to $7.2 \times 10^4 \pm 6.5 \times 10^4$ cells/gm which is higher than allowed by the Standard Egyptian Guidelines (2001). It allows *Escherichia coli* counts up to 10 cells/gm. From 70% (thalaga & double cream) to 90% (kareish) of the tested plant made cheese were free of *Escherichia coli* bacteria and from 10% (kareish & thalaga) to 20% (double cream) of the street made cheese are free of *Escherichia coli* bacteria. From 40% (kareish) to 75% (thalaga) of the tested street made cheese have high *Escherichia coli* bacterial count (range from $7.2 \times 10^4 \pm 6.5 \times 10^4$ to $4.8 \times 10^4 \pm 4.3 \times 10^4$ cells/gm respectively) which is much higher than allowed by the Standard Egyptian Guidelines (2001) which stated that *E. coli* don't exceed 10 cells/gm. It is worthily to note that presence of *Escherichia coli* in milk and milk products is an indication of direct or indirect faecal contamination. The contamination may be through contaminated hands and /or milk in which the organisms can survive well in improperly heat-treated milk and some

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strains can survive pasteurization (Morgan, 1978). Our results are not in contrast to Quinto and Cepeda (1997) who found toxigenic *E. coli* of bovine origin and other types of *E. coli* strains in soft cheeses made from raw or pasteurized cow's milk and stated that the toxigenic *E. coli* can pass to the milk destined to make cheese, and survive and that could make soft cheese to be considered as a possible vehicle of infection. The cheese made in street, farmers' home or in unlicensed factories is not safe for human consumption.

The presence of *Staphylococcus aureus* in cheese usually indicates contamination of milk from diseased udder or external surface of the dairy animals, or from contaminated, unclean hands of the dairy workers or from their sneezing and coughing of them. *Staphylococcus aureus* may be the main cause of several food intoxication outbreaks for their production of heat stable enterotoxins (ICMSF, 1996). Data of table (4) reveal total *Staphylococcus aureus* count of some soft Egyptian cheese. Ninety-eight and half percent (98.5 %, (197/200)) of the tested cheese, either made in plant (100/100) or home or farmers' made (3/100), have zero *Staphylococcus aureus* count or free from it. The remaining tested cheese samples (1.5%, (3/200)) made in plant having total *Staphylococcus aureus* counts range from 160-185 cells/gm. *Staphylococcus aureus* was not isolated from any soft cheese made in plant. Our results indicate that *Staphylococcus aureus* is isolated from 1.5 % of the tested cheeses, which is lower than recorded by Araujo *et al.* (2002) who isolated *Staphylococcus aureus* from 20% of samples or recorded by De Luca *et al.* (1997) who they isolated *Staphylococcus aureus* from 8.3 % of tested soft Brazilian cheese but their count was 2699 CFU/gm. They suggested that the soft cheese might represent a health risk for the consumers and that soft cheese may act as an important vehicle of transmission for well-established pathogens.

Yeasts and moulds counts in cheese are used as an index of the proper sanitation quality. Defects in these unripened soft cheese such as rancidity, softness and

colour defects arise mainly from contamination by yeast and mould. Moreover, some species constitutes a public health hazard due to production of mycotoxins (Rippon, 1982). Table (5) show total yeasts and moulds count of some soft Egyptian cheese. Feta and double cream cheeses are free from salmonellas and shigellas. Ninety-seven (97 %, (194/200)) of the tested cheese, either made in plant (97/100) or home or farmers' made (97/100), were free from yeasts and moulds. The remaining tested cheese samples (3%, (6/200)) either made in plant (2/100) or home or farmers' made (4/100) having yeasts and moulds counts range from 110-200 cells/gm which is higher than allowed by the Standard Egyptian Guidelines (2001). It allows yeasts and moulds counts up to 100 cells/gm. Our results agree to somewhat with Coveney *et al.* (1994) who found that yeasts were found mainly in unpasteurized varieties, especially in the category of soft cheeses and moulds were isolated from non-mould-ripened cheeses, as well as from mould-ripened varieties.

An imported Irish soft unpasteurized cows' milk cheese was the reason for an outbreak of Salmonella dublin infection that occurred in England and Wales. Salmonella dublin was isolated from these cheeses and these cheeses were considered as the vehicle of infection (Maguire *et al.*, 1992). Also an outbreak of Salmonella enterica serotype Typhimurium (*S. typhimurium*) infection occurred in France due to presence of Salmonella typhimurium in unpasteurized soft cheese, and they considered this soft cheese as an effective vehicle of Salmonella typhimurium transmission (De Valk *et al.*, 2000). Table (6) show total salmonellas and shigellas count of some soft Egyptian cheese. Feta cheeses are free from salmonellas and shigellas. Ninety-seven (97 %, 194/200) of the tested cheese, either made in plant (97/100) or home or farmers' made (97/100), were free from salmonellas and shigellas. The remaining tested cheese samples (6/200, 3%) either made in plant (3/100) or home or farmers' made (3/100) having salmonellas and shigellas counts

range from 5-8 cells/gm. Our results for kareish cheese are in agreements with Badawe, (1996) who detected salmonellas and shigellas in 5 % of the tested samples. Our results for kareish cheese are in disagreements with Abo-Elkhier *et al.*, (1985) and El-kholy *et al.*, (1994) who could not detect salmonellas and shigellas in the tested samples. Our results are in contrast with Coveney *et al.*, (1994), where they didn't detect any salmonellas and shigellas after direct enrichment of Irish farmhouse soft cheeses.

Listeria species especially *Listeria monocytogenes* has been recognized as bacteria that produce severe illness in animals and humans. Several authors reported the importance of *Listeria monocytogenes* as contaminant in foods ready to eat like the soft cheeses (Copes *et al.*, 2000). *Listeria monocytogenes*, are known to be frequently involved in outbreaks of foodborne listeriosis and sporadic cases of the disease all over the world (Hofer *et al.*, 1998). They noticed higher incidence of *Listeria monocytogenes* in the homemade Minas Frescal cheeses (a Brazilian soft white cheese, eaten fresh). Considering the importance of the presence or absence of *Listeria* species in soft cheeses, the 200 samples were analyzed to detect the presence or absence of it. Of the 200 samples, 183 (91.5 %) were free of *Listeria*, the remaining 17 samples (8.5 %) have listeria count range from 5-20 cells/gm (Table 7). Ten samples (20 %) of the home or farmers' made Kareish cheese tested having *Listeria* count range from 10-20 cell/gm. Loncarevic (1995) noticed that cheeses made from raw milk were more frequently contaminated with *L. monocytogenes* than cheeses made from heat-treated milk. Our results are in agreements with Loncarevic (1995), Pinto & Reali (1996), Hofer *et al.* (1998); and Copes *et al.*, (2000), and disagree with Coveney *et al.*, (1994), where they didn't detect any *Listeria* species or *Listeria monocytogenes* after direct enrichment of Irish farmhouse cheeses.

Data of table (8) show the chemical composition of some soft Egyptian cheese. Double cream cheese has the lowest protein

content (7.79 ± 0.78 gm%) while kareish cheese has the highest protein content (19.99 ± 1.32 gm%), but for fat content the opposite is true, double cream cheese have the highest fat content (24.56 ± 1.78 gm%) while kareish cheese have the lowest fat content (3.87 ± 0.97 gm%). Feta cheese has high ash content while kareish cheese has the highest moisture content with the lowest ash content (68.97 ± 1.86 & 1.81 ± 0.47 gm% respectively). Data of table (3) show that the chemical composition of Feta and Thalaga cheese has relatively comparable concentration of protein, fat, ash and moisture. Our results for feta cheese fat & ash differs from that of food composition tables, FCT (Gordan & Margaret, 2002, 13.62 ± 1.31 vs. $20.2-21.43$; and 7.24 ± 1.79 vs. $1.5-3.571$ gm% respectively). Feta' fat is less by $\approx 32.57\%$ than FCT, while feta' ash is higher by $\approx 382\%$ than FCT. Also our results agree and disagree to somewhat with Park, 1990, who evaluated concentration profiles of basic nutrients (moisture, fat, protein, and ash) of plain soft caprine cheeses. His mean percentage results of: moisture is (59.8), fat is (22.5), protein is (18.9), and ash is (1.74). Our results for: moisture agree with Park except for kareish cheese; fat strongly disagree except for double cream cheese; protein disagree except for kareish cheese; ash disagree with all types of cheese. Our results are in accordance with the Egyptian Standard guidelines (1991).

The disaccharide lactose is naturally present as a component of foods in milk and dairy products. In the gastrointestinal tract, lactose is hydrolysed by the enzyme beta-galactosidase (lactase) into glucose and galactose, which are absorbed (Sieber *et al.*, 1997; De Vrese *et al.*, 1998; and Szilagy, 2004). In most people lactase activity decreases at the age of approximately 2 to 6 years of age. After this Lactose in dairy products is mal-digested by up to 70% to 75% of the world's population and many people may therefore suffer symptoms reminiscent of irritable bowel syndrome as bloating, flatulence, abdominal pain and diarrhea due to the lactose reaching the large intestine. This phenomenon is called lactose intolerance. It

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is generally recommended that these people abandon the consumption of milk and dairy products. However, most lactose-intolerant people are able to digest small amounts of milk (approximately 200 ml). They can also consume cheese without or with only low lactose content, only present in 10% of soft cheese, (Sieber *et al.*, 1997; De Vrese *et al.*, 1998; and Szilagyi, 2004). As a result, most research to date has concentrated on ways of improving lactose tolerance to enhance dairy as a source of nutrition. In view of an exponential growth in the understanding of intestinal microfloral host interactions and the expanding therapeutical potential of probiotics, a reassessment of the role of lactose as a potential prebiotic in lactase nonpersistent subjects is required (Sieber *et al.*, 1997; De Vrese *et al.*, 1998; and Szilagyi, 2004).

Data of table (8) reveal that lactose content of some soft Egyptian cheese varies widely from 1.50 ± 0.26 gm % (double cream cheese) to 3.25 ± 0.50 gm % (feta cheese).

Protein content of kareish cheese is significantly higher than the remaining types of cheese ($P \leq 2.0 \times 10^{-20}$ – 8.0×10^{-31} , table 11). Protein content of kareish cheese is more than the double content of the double cream cheese. Fat content of kareish cheese is significantly lower than the remaining types of cheese ($P \leq 3 \times 10^{-26}$ – 8.0×10^{-35} , table 11).

Calcium plays an important role in teeth building and many diseases as cardiovascular, osteoporosis and hypertension. Calcium from dairy foods had a large effect on systolic blood pressure. Dairy calcium reduces it in hypertensive not normotensive. Systolic blood pressure is reduced by 2 mmHg for every two cups of milk, 730 mg Ca, consumed per day. No association was observed between non-dairy Ca intake and blood pressure (Ackley *et al.*, 1983; Reed *et al.*, 1985; and Cappuccino *et al.*, 1995). Osteoporosis is a major public health problem (Riggs and Melton, 1995; and Looker *et al.*, 1997). The cause(s) of osteoporosis is multifactorial involving both genetic and environmental factors (Hopper *et al.*, 1998). Accumulating scientific evidence indicates that a

sufficient intake of calcium throughout life protects against osteoporosis by achieving genetically programmed peak bone mass reached by 30 years of age or earlier and reducing age-related bone loss (IOM, 1997). The FDA, 1993, has stated that a lifetime of “adequate calcium intake is important for maintenance of bone health and may reduce risk of osteoporosis particularly for individuals at greatest risk”. Calcium can be obtained from foods naturally rich in calcium such as dairy foods, from calcium-fortified foods and beverages, from supplements or from a combination of these. Recognition of calcium's many health benefits, along with Egyptian' low calcium intake, has led to interest in how best to meet calcium needs. Foods are the preferred source of calcium. Milk and other dairy foods are the major source of calcium in Egypt. In addition, these foods provide substantial amounts of other essential nutrients. Consequently, intake of dairy foods improves the overall nutritional quality of the diet. Other foods such as some green leafy vegetables, legumes and cereals provide calcium, but generally in lower amounts per serving than do dairy foods. Also, some components such as phytates in cereals and oxalates in spinach reduce the bioavailability of calcium. Calcium-fortified foods and calcium supplements are an option for individuals who cannot meet their calcium needs from foods naturally containing this mineral. However, their intake cannot correct poor dietary patterns of food selection, which underlie Egyptian' low calcium intake (Miller *et al.*, 2001). Recommended Dietary Allowances, RDA, 1989; Dietary Reference Intake, 1997; and IOM, 1997, of calcium intake for children (1-8 y) is 500-800 mg/day, (9-18 y) is 1300 mg/day; for adults (19-50 y) is 1000 mg/day and for older (> 50 y), it is 1200 mg/day. It is difficult to obtain such amount without consuming dairy products (NIH, 1994; and AMA, 1997). Data of table (10) show calcium and phosphorus (mg%) content, and Ca/p of some soft Egyptian cheese. Kareish cheese has higher content of calcium and phosphorous (641.1 ± 49.21 , 431.18 ± 37.21 mg% respectively) than the

remaining types of cheese. Calcium & phosphorous content of kareish cheese is almost the double content of the double cream cheese. Feta cheese has higher Ca/P (1.65±0.19) while thalaga and double cream has lower Ca/P and almost the same (1.34±0.13 & 1.37±0.20).

Calcium & phosphorous content of kareish cheese is significantly higher than the remaining types of cheese ($P \leq 8.65 \times 10^{-8}$ -- 5.68×10^{-24} for Ca, 2.76×10^{-10} -- 4.44×10^{-19} for P, table 11). Ca/P of feta cheese is significantly higher than the remaining types of cheese ($P \leq 0.0049$ -- 4.6×10^{-7}). No significant difference was found between Ca/P of thalaga and double cream cheese.

Table (12) shows % contribution of Ca from soft cheese. Each 100 gm of kareish cheese can provide children (1-8 y) with 80.14-128.22 % of their Ca needs while for adults the % differ with age. It provides them from 49.32% (9-18 y) to 64.11% (19-50 y). Thalaga and double cream is the least provider compared with kareish cheese, yet they provide a considerable amounts (24.48-36.73% of adults needs and 39.78-73.45 % of children needs). Feta cheese provide children from 67.69-108.31% of their needs while it provide adults from 41.66-54.16% of their needs.

Table (1): Total Aerobic Bacterial Count (TABC) of Some Soft Egyptian Cheese

		Cells/ gm															
		0.0			$\leq 10^2$				$>10^2 - \leq 3 \times 10^3$				$>3 \times 10^3$				
		no S	no S	% S	no S	% S	Mean	Range	no S	% S	Mean	Range	no S	% S	Mean	Range	
1	Kareish	a	20	18	90	0	0			2	10	300 ± 141.42	200 - 400	0	0		
		b	50	10	20	15	30	70.87 ± 15.46	45-95	5	10	1310 ± 1019.4	350 - 2750	20	40	1.1X10 ⁵ ± 1.3X10 ⁵	7500 - 5X10 ⁵
2	Feta	30	27	90	3	10	45.0 ± 15.0	30-60	0	0			0	0			
3	Thalaga	a	20	12	60	6	30	58.33 ± 16.93	35-80	2	10	635 ± 360.62	380 - 890	0	0		
		b	20	1	5	2	10	92.5 ± 3.54	90-95	4	10	2252.5 ± 418.36	1800 - 2700	13	65	1.2X10 ⁵ ± 1.6X10 ⁵	4800 - 4.9X10 ⁵
4	Double Cream	a	30	24	80	3	10	42.33 ± 7.51	35-50	3	10	765.67 ± 318.8	470 - 1100	0	0		
		b	30	6	20	3	10	83.67 ± 12.66	70-95	0	0			21	70	1.4X10 ⁵ ± 1.7X10 ⁵	8000 - 6.7X10 ⁵
		200	98	49	32	16			16	8			54	27			

a: Plant

b: Home or Farmers' made

no S: Number of Samples

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Table (2): Total Coliform Count of Some Soft Egyptian Cheese

		Cells/ gm															
		0.0			$\leq 10^2$				$>10^2 - < 3 \times 10^3$				$> 3 \times 10^3$				
		no S	no S	% S	no S	% S	Mean	Range	no S	% S	Mean	Range	no S	% S	Mean	Range	
1	Kareish	a	20	18	90	2	10	42.5 ± 3.54	40-45	0	0			0	0		
		b	50	10	20	10	20	70.5 ± 14.38	50-95	10	20	1525 ± 808.68	300 - 2780	20	40	1.5X10 ⁷ ± 1.5X10 ⁷	3700 - 7X10 ⁷
2	Feta	30	24	80	6	20	48.0 ± 14.83	40-70	0	0			0	0			
3	Thalaga	a	20	14	70	4	20	57.5 ± 13.23	45-75	2	10	500 ± 282.8	300 - 700	0	0		
		b	20	2	10	1	5	95		2	10	2250 ± 353.6	2000 - 2500	15	75	7X10 ⁷ ± 1X10 ⁷	5000 - 4X10 ⁷
4	Douple Cream	a	30	21	70	3	10	38.33 ± 7.64	30-45	3	10	733.3 ± 251.7	500 - 1000	3	10	3.9X10 ⁷ ± 5.2X10 ⁷	7800 - 9.8X10 ⁷
		b	30	6	20	3	10	83.33 ± 12.85	70-95	3	10	2466.7 ± 450.9	2000 - 2900	18	60	1X10 ⁷ ± 2X10 ⁷	4800 - 7X10 ⁷
		200	95	47.5	29	14.5			20	10			56	28			

a: Plant

b: Home or Farmers' made

no S: Number of Samples

Table (3): Total *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) Count of Some Soft Egyptian Cheese

		Cells/ gm															
		0.0			$\leq 10^2$				$>10^2 - < 3 \times 10^3$				$> 3 \times 10^3$				
		no S	no S	% S	no S	% S	Mean	Range	no S	% S	Mean	Range	no S	% S	Mean	Range	
1	Kareish	a	20	18	90	2	10	25.0 ± 7.07	20-30	0	0			0	0		
		b	50	10	20	10	20	46.6 ± 9.87	30-60	10	20	680 ± 261.25	350 - 1000	20	40	7.2X10 ⁴ ± 6.5X10 ⁴	6500 - 2.2X10 ⁵
2	Feta	30	24	80	6	20	16.17 ± 3.97	10-21	0	0	0		0	0			
3	Thalaga	a	20	14	70	4	20	37.0 ± 6.78	30-45	2	10	300 ± 141.42	200 - 400	0	0		
		b	20	2	10	1	5	50		2	10	1200 ± 424.26	900 - 1500	15	75	4.8X10 ⁴ ± 4.3X10 ⁴	5400 - 1.7X10 ⁵
4	Douple Cream	a	30	21	70	3	10	38.33 ± 7.64	30-45	3	10	570.0 ± 141.07	420 - 700	3	10	5.5X10 ⁴ ± 4.1X10 ⁴	9500 - 9.1X10 ⁴
		b	30	6	20	3	10	56.67 ± 15.28	40-70	3	10	1587 ± 454.5	1100 - 2000	18	60	6.6X10 ⁴ ± 6.4X10 ⁴	6500 - 2.2X10 ⁵
		200	95	47.5	29	14.5			20	10			56	28			

a: Plant

b: Home or Farmers' made

no S: Number of Samples

Table (4): Total *Staphylococcus aureus* Count of Some Soft Egyptian Cheese

		Cells/gm							
		0.0			$>10^2 - \leq 3 \times 10^3$				
		no S	no S	% S	no S	% S	Mean	Range	
1	Kareish	a	20	20	100	0	0		
		b	50	49	98	1	2	185	
2	Feta	30	30	100	0	0			
3	Thalaga	a	20	20	100	0	0		
		b	20	19	95	1	5	175±35.36	110-150
4	Douple Cream	a	30	30	100	0	0		
		b	30	29	96.7	1	3.3	160	
		200	197	98.5	3	1.5			

a: Plant b: Home or Farmers' made no S: Number of Samples

Table (5): Total yeasts and moulds Count of Some Soft Egyptian Cheese

		Cells/gm							
		0.0			$>10^2 - \leq 3 \times 10^3$				
		no S	no S	% S	no S	% S	Mean	Range	
1	Kareish	a	20	19	95	1	5	110	
		b	50	49	98	1	2	175	
2	Feta	30	30	100	0	0			
3	Thalaga	a	20	19	95	1	5	110	
		b	20	18	90	2	10	175±35.36	150-200
4	Douple Cream	a	30	30	100	0	0		
		b	30	29	96.7	1	3.3	160	
		200	194	97	6	3			

A: Plant b: Home or Farmers' made no S: Number of Samples

Table (6): Total Salmonellas and Shigellas Count of Some Soft Egyptian Cheese

		Cells/gm							
		0.0			$\leq 10^2$				
		no S	no S	% S	no S	% S	Mean	Range	
1	Kareish	a	20	19	95	1	5	5	
		b	50	49	98	1	2	8	
2	Feta	30	30	100	0	0			
3	Thalaga	a	20	19	95	1	5	5	
		b	20	19	95	1	5	8	
4	Douple Cream	a	30	29	96.7	1	3.3	5	
		b	30	29	96.7	1	3.3	7	
		200	194	97	6	3			

A: Plant b: Home or Farmers' made no S: Number of Samples

Chemical, Nutritional and Microbiological Evaluation.....

Table (7): Total Listeria species Count of Some Soft Egyptian Cheese

		Cells/gm							
		0.0			≤ 10 ²				
		No S	no S	% S	no S	% S	Mean	Range	
1	Kareish	a	20	19	95	1	5	10	
		b	50	40	80	10	20	13.8±3.12	10-20
2	Feta	30	30	100	0	0			
3	Thalaga	a	20	19	95	1	5	10	
		b	20	18	90	2	10	7.5±3.45	5-10
4	Double Cream	a	30	29	96.7	1	3.3	10	
		b	30	28	93.3	2	6.7	10.0±7.07	5-15
		200	183	91.5	17	8.5			

a: Plant

b: Home or Farmers' made

no S: Number of Samples

Table (8): Chemical Composition (gm/100 gm) of Some Soft Egyptian Cheese

			Protein	Fat	Ash	Moisture	Carbo- hydrate	Lactose	
1	Kareish	70	M	19.99±1.32	3.87±0.97	1.81±0.47	68.97±1.86	5.37±0.44	2.00±0.33
			R	17.70-22.5	2.20-5.78	1.00-2.80	64.78-71.70	4.55-6.03	1.56-2.65
2	Feta	30	M	11.12±0.81	13.62±1.31	6.42±0.65	61.60±2.64	7.24±1.79	3.25±0.50
			R	9.90-12.70	11.90-15.50	5.20-7.32	57.0-64.8	4.40-11.30	2.10-4.10
		F	14.27-15.6	20.2-21.43	5.71-6.2	55.0-56.5	1.5-3.571		
3	Thalaga	40	M	12.81±1.16	14.96±1.23	5.05±0.63	62.25±1.82	4.93±0.58	1.79±0.21
			R	10.80-15.6	11.90-16.95	3.95-6.25	58.17-66.02	3.85-5.89	1.56-2.12
4	Double Cream	60	M	7.79±0.78	24.56±1.78	3.91±0.49	59.64±1.80	4.10±0.61	1.50±0.26
			R	6.69-9.30	21.9-28.54	3.0-4.90	56.65-62.01	3.0-5.20	1.05-1.90

M: (Mean±SD);

R: Range;

F: Gordan & Margaret (2002)

Table (9): P values for the comparison between double cream, feta, kareish and thalaga soft cheese

	Protein	Fat	Ash	Moisture	Carbohydrate	Lactose
D vs. F	8.0X10 ¹⁶	2.0X10 ²³	2.2X10 ¹⁶	4.93X10 ¹⁶	1.02X10 ¹⁵	1.68X10 ¹⁶
D vs. K	8.0X10 ³¹	8.0X10 ³⁵	1.7X10 ¹⁶	9.37X10 ¹¹	4.34X10 ⁹	4.12X10 ⁶
D vs. TH	2.0X10 ⁵	1.0X10 ²¹	1.8X10 ⁷	3.52X10 ¹⁶	7.74X10 ⁵	0.0004
TH vs. K	2.0X10 ²⁰	6.0X10 ²⁹	1.5X10 ²⁰	5.36X10 ¹⁴	0.011	0.019
TH vs. F	5.0X10 ⁶	0.0018	5.2X10 ⁸	NS	4.62X10 ¹⁵	1.46X10 ¹⁴
K vs. F	1.0X10 ²⁵	3.0X10 ²⁶	1.2X10 ²⁵	1.99X10 ¹²	9.72X10 ¹⁵	2.3X10 ¹¹

D: Double Cream

F: Feta

K: Kareish

TH: Thalaga

NS: non-significant

Table (10): Calcium and Phosphorus (mg%) content, and Ca/p of some soft Egyptian cheese

				Ca (mg%)	P (mg%)	Ca/P
1	Kareish	70	M	641.1±49.21	431.18±37.21	1.49±0.14
			R	565.0-728.0	364.0-497.0	1.24-1.80
2	Feta	30	M	541.55±46.17	330.29±38.08	1.65±0.19
			R	470.0-612.0	276.0-400.0	1.33-2.07
		F	500	342.86	1.46	
3	Thalaga	40	M	367.25±37.34	275.45±26.23	1.34±0.13
			R	307.0-441.0	235.0-314.0	1.14-1.65
4	Double Cream	60	M	318.2±38.55	235.6±36.92	1.37±0.20
			R	257.0-391.0	179.0-286.0	1.08-1.83

M: (Mean±SD);

R: Range;

F: Gordan & Margaret (2002)

Table (11): P values for the comparison between double cream, feta, kareish and thalaga soft cheese

	Ca	P	Ca/P
D vs. F	5.19X10 ¹⁹	1.2X10 ⁹	5.66X10 ⁵
D vs. K	5.68X10 ²⁴	4.44X10 ¹⁹	0.034
D vs. TH	0.0002	0.0003	NS
TH vs. K	1.22X10 ²¹	7.93X10 ¹⁸	0.001
TH vs. F	1.07X10 ¹⁵	5.12X10 ⁶	4.6X10 ⁷
K vs. F	8.65X10 ⁸	2.76X10 ¹⁰	0.0049

D: Double Cream

F: Feta

K: Kareish

TH: Thalaga

NS: non-significant

Table (12): % Contribution of Ca from soft cheese.

	Age	1-8 y	9-18y	19-50 y	> 50 y
	Ca (mg/day)	Dietary Reference Intake, 1997			
		500-800	1300	1000	1200
1	Kareish	80.14-128.22	49.32	64.11	53.43
2	Feta	67.69-108.31	41.66	54.16	45.13
3	Thalaga	45.91-73.45	28.25	36.73	30.6
4	Double cream	39.78-63.64	24.48	31.82	26.52

Recommendation

Since plants construction affect microbial contamination and overall wholesomeness of the products so it is important that clean air and water are available and the used equipments and the contact surfaces are always clean and do not react the products and keep proper and effective sanitation. Each processing facility, equipments, raw materials and products should go daily through microbial analysis. Also the workers in this field should be carefully chosen with a good care of them and ensure that they apply health rules.

Soft cheeses might represent a health risk for the consumers and considered as a possible vehicle of infection or vehicle of transmission for well-established pathogens so the cheese made in street, farmers' home or in unlicensed factories is not safe for human consumption.

The dairy animals especially the udder must be checked and the infected animals or the herd must be isolated. More and more of proper inspection must be done on street markets, supermarkets, stores, plants, unlicensed factories and farmers' animal, milk & dairy products.

Applying more strict roles especially for those who jeopardize people health.

Considering the adverse health and economic effects of low calcium intakes, strategies are needed to optimize calcium intake. First step is to understand why consuming foods containing calcium is the best way to meet calcium needs.

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تقييم كيميائي، غذائي و ميكروبيولوجي لبغض أنواع الجبن المصري الطري

¹*غادة، ز. ع. سليمان، ²*علياء م. هاشم، ³*سهال الس.، ⁴*مجدى، ن. عزمى، ⁵*محمد،
ف. صديق

¹ قسم الكيمياء الحيوية، ² قسم صحة طعام، ³ قسم تغذية، ⁴ قسم علوم بيئية، ⁵ قسم ميكروبيولوجي
المعهد القومي للتغذية، * جامعة قناة السويس

يُعتبر الحليب ومنتجات الألبان من أكثر المواد الغذائية المثالية التامة التي تُروِّد الإنسان أما أطفال أو البالغون بأغلب احتياجاتهم الحيوية. الحليب وكذلك الجبن له قيمة مغذية عالية بسبب محتواها العالي للبروتين، الدهون، المعادن خصوصاً الكالسيوم (Ca^{2+}) والفوسفور (P)، وكذلك الفيتامينات. تم جمع مائتا عينة من الجبن المنتج و المباع في مصر (3 أنواع) خلال أعوام 2001-2003 من جميع أنحاء البلاد. تم أخضاع عينات الجبن إلى التحليل المجهرى والكيميائى. العينات اختبرت مجهرياً للعد الجرثومي الهوائي الكلي (TABC)، كوليفورم، إشيريشيا كولاي (إي. كولاي)، البكتيريا العنقودية الذهبية (ستافيلوكوكوس أورييس)، فطر وخميرة، سالمونيلا وشيجيلا، وأنواع اللستيريا. تم تقدير البروتين، الدهون، الكربوهيدرات، الرطوبة، الرماد، اللاكتوز، الكالسيوم (Ca)، الفوسفور (P)، نسبة الكالسيوم للفوسفور (Ca/P). أوضح التحليل بأن العد الجرثومي الهوائي الكلي لم يتجاوز $10 \times 1.4 \pm 10 \times 1.7$ خلية/جم، وهو قريب من الحد الذي سمحت به الارشادات القياسية المصرية (2001) كما وجد أن 47.5% من العينات التي تم تحليلها خالية من بكتيريا الكوليفورم وإشيريشيا كولاي. وجد أن ثمانية وتسعون ونصفاً بالمائة، 97%، 97% و 91.5% من العينات التي تم تحليلها (سواء تم صنعها في المصنع أو البيت أو بيوت الفلاحين) خالية من البكتيريا العنقودية الذهبية (ستافيلوكوكوس أورييس) أو فطر وخميرة؛ أو سالمونيلا وشيجيلا، أو أنواع اللستيريا على التوالي. وجد من التحليل أن محتوى جبن القشطة من البروتين منخفض (7.79 ± 0.78 جم%) بينما تحتوي الجبنة القريش على تركيز أعلى من البروتين (19.99 ± 1.32 جم%)، و لكن بالنسبة لمحتوى الدسم، فإن النقيض هو الصحيح حيث وجد أن محتوى جبن قشطة (الدوبل كريم) من الدسم مرتفع (24.56 ± 1.78 جم%) بينما محتوى جبن القريش من الدسم أقل (3.87 ± 0.97 جم%). جبن الفيتا له محتوى رمادي عالي بينما تحتوي جبن القريش على أعلى مستوى من الرطوبة وأقل محتوى رمادي (68.97 ± 1.86 و 1.81 ± 0.47 جم% على التوالي). يتفاوت محتوى اللاكتوز على نحو واسع من 1.50 ± 0.26 (جبن قشطة) إلى 3.25 ± 0.50 (جبن فيتا). محتوى الجبن القريش من الكالسيوم و الفسفور (641.1 ± 49.21 و 431.18 ± 37.21 مجم % على التوالي) أعلى من باقي الأنواع. تحتوي الجبن القريش على ضعف محتوى جبن القشطة من الكالسيوم و الفسفور. نسبة Ca/P في الفيتا (1.65 ± 0.19) مرتفعة بينما وجد أن الجبنة الثلجة و القشطة تكون هذه النسبة منخفضة و متقاربة (1.34 ± 0.13، 1.37 ± 0.20). كل 100 جرام من الجبن الطري تمد الأطفال (1-8 سنوات)، البالغين (9-50 سنة) من 39.78% (أطفال)، 24.48% (بالغين) إلى 128.22% (أطفال)، 64.11% (بالغين) من احتياجاتهم من الكالسيوم وذلك من الجبن القشطة و الجبن القريش على التوالي.