**Discussion**

Decades ago, immunology researchers began investigating the possible health benefits to humans that could be achieved by the consumption of products from hyperimmunized lactating cows and laying hens.\(^1\) Agricultural scientists soon discovered that they could simultaneously immunize a single laying hen against multiple human germs. The resulting avian immunoglobulins, known as IgY, are transferred to the egg yolk, paralleling the way human immunoglobulins (IgG) are passed to the placenta. From this discovery, a new functional food was born: the “hyperimmune egg.” IG 26 DF is the result of special hyperimmune egg harvesting and processing techniques that result in a polyvalent, immunoglobulin-rich, dried hyperimmune egg food product that can be consumed as a dietary supplement.

**IgY Immunoglobulins and Passive Immunity**

Hyperimmune egg provides a concentrated source of environmentally specific IgY antibodies and immune-supporting cofactors that can confer passive immunity to the human being who consumes it.\(^1\) There are over 100 patents associated with the production of hyperimmune egg and its use in animals and humans, and it is a self-affirmed GRAS (generally recognized as safe) product—a designation that affirms safe consumption. Furthermore, hyperimmune egg and IgY have been studied extensively.*

**Oral Health**

In a study of healthy volunteers, the use of an oral rinse containing an aqueous IgY solution increased the presence of active antibodies in saliva.\(^7\) Moreover, in vitro, animal, and human research support the benefits of custom IgY solutions, IgY-supplemented diets, and IgY-containing pastes that are designed for use in the dental plaque environment and to promote gingival health.*\(^8,9\)

**Intestinal Health**

IgY stability through the orogastrointestinal tract and its safety profile are well-documented.\(^8\) In vitro, animal, and human studies provide evidence that supplemental IgY from hyperimmune egg imparts passive immunity in the intestinal tract.\(^1,2,4,10-13\) Providing the body with an increased supply of immunoglobulins also helps maintain a healthy balance of bacteria in the intestine. Supporting passive immunity and promoting microbiome balance lead to better overall health due to the link between gut health and systemic health. Furthermore, researchers postulate that by supporting passive immunity in the gut, immune overactivation might be reduced.*\(^1\)

**Immunoregulatory Factors**

Hyperimmune egg not only provides IgY immunoglobulins, but it also contains bioactive immunoregulatory factors. These immunoregulatory factors act directly on gastrointestinal surfaces where they may influence effector cells and also circulate systemically where they act as intercellular communicators. As intercellular communicators, they are responsible for the regulation of a variety of immune, hormonal, and metabolic pathways that have widespread systemic effects.\(^1\)

Preliminary studies suggest that these immunoregulatory factors in IG 26 DF benefit cytokine modulation, joint health, blood lipid metabolism, exercise performance, and overall wellness.\(^1,5\)

**Cytokine Modulation**

Hyperimmune egg contains heightened levels of cytokine inhibitory factor (CIF) and cytokine activating factor (CAF).\(^14,15\) These bioactive molecules help balance the production of cytokines such as TNF-alpha and are believed to help the immune system recognize when to turn on and when to turn off.*\(^14,15\)

**Muscle Performance and Recovery**

In clinical studies comparing the benefits of hyperimmune egg to an egg-protein placebo group, oral supplementation of hyperimmune egg (4.5 g to 13.5 g) for 10 days resulted in a significantly lower submaximal heart rate and higher peak power.\(^16\) In a double-blind, balanced, matched-pairs study, oral supplementation of hyperimmune egg (4.5 g to 13.5 g) improved strength performance and enhanced muscle recovery. The supplemented group also experienced significantly less muscle soreness.\(^17\) Other studies suggested that hyperimmune egg significantly increased levels of growth factors and overall bioavailability of IGF-1.*\(^18-20\)

**Quality of Life**

HIV/AIDS patients (n=31) with varying levels of sickness were administered hyperimmune egg (4.5 g) for four to eight weeks. Research showed that supplementation appeared to improve multiple parameters of physical and mental well-being.\(^21\)

**Cardiovascular and Joint Health**

Studies have indicated that the consumption of hyperimmune egg may also support cardiovascular and joint health.*\(^22,23\)
### IG 26 DF Powder Nutrition Facts

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>% Daily Value</th>
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<tr>
<td>Iron</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Ingredients**
- IgY MaxTM Hyperimmune Egg Powder, silica.
- Eggs

**Directions**
Blend or shake 3 scoops daily in cold liquid, or sprinkle on cold food such as salad. Do not heat, cook or add to hot food or liquid.

**Storage**
Keep closed in a cool, dry place out of reach of children.

**Does Not Contain**
Wheat, gluten, yeast, corn, soy, dairy products, fish, shellfish, peanuts, tree nuts, ingredients derived from genetically modified organisms (GMOs), artificial colors, artificial sweeteners, or artificial preservatives.

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**References**

24. Additional references available upon request