



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Is Biozoon Right for Me?

It is always best to talk to a medical professional with knowledge about swallowing, such as a Speech-Language Pathologist, when deciding if Biozoon is right for you. Every person and situation is unique, and a professional can help you to consider both the benefits and risks of using foam.

Foam allows people with swallowing difficulties to experience taste with much less risk. Foam can provide pleasure and comfort, and a teaspoon of foam is mostly made of air and is largely absorbed in the mouth. As a result, there is less chance of aspiration (i.e., food entering the airway), which is why it is considered safer. Your health care provider can also suggest ways to reduce risk, such as mouth care before and after using Biozoon.

## How Does Biozoon and Foam Work?

The Biozoon machine is a pump. When a liquid is mixed with a foaming powder, the Biozoon drives air into the liquid to create foam. Foam is formed by trapping many gas bubbles in a liquid. Foam is mostly air and a very small amount of liquid.

## Why is Foam a Safer Way to Taste?

Since foam consists mainly of air, the volume of liquid in a teaspoon of foam is significantly less than what is contained in a teaspoon of liquid. When foam is placed on the tongue, it is largely absorbed in the oral cavity. This is why Biozoon is a safer way for those with dysphagia to experience taste.

While foam is safer, a trace amount of foam may enter the pharynx, which could then be aspirated. Foam can also increase saliva flow. Healthcare providers should consider the client's dysphagia assessments, medical history, quality of life, and interventions to reduce aspiration risk (e.g., mouth care before and after having foam) when discussing the benefits and risks of using foam with their clients.

## Who Can Use Biozoon?

Biozoon is a great tool for many people with dysphagia, including those who are fed non-orally. It has been used in critical, palliative and long term care, as well as in rehabilitation settings. Biozoon can be used for multiple diagnoses associated with dysphagia including stroke, head and neck cancer and Parkinson's.

## Where is Foam Being Used for Dysphagia?

Foam has been effectively used with dysphagic patients in numerous countries, including the United Kingdom. Hospitals in the United Kingdom have used foam in various settings with diverse populations. Speech-Language Pathologists there have reported many benefits, including increased patient comfort and satisfaction. Biozoon has recently been introduced in a number of hospitals in British Columbia.

## Has Using Foam for Dysphagia Been Studied?

To date, there have not been any randomized controlled trial studies which have examined either the direct benefits of using foam to treat people with dysphagia or adverse events, such as aspiration pneumonia.

There have been several studies, however, which have investigated the impact of taste on sensation, swallowing physiology and dry mouth. A number of positive findings have been reported and a reference list is available on our site. In addition, research on the impact of dysphagia and quality of life, effect of not eating on muscle strength and benefits of therapeutic feeding can be applied to the use of foam with dysphagic clients.

## Will Biozoon Work with All Liquids?

Biozoon should create foam in any liquid. A small, tall glass creates a finer longer lasting foam. If a foam is not created immediately, it is likely related to the surface tension of the liquid. This can usually be corrected by diluting the liquid with water or opening the container of liquid and allowing it to de-gas.

Biozoon works well with liquids such as juice, coffee and milk. It has also been used with mouth washes to reduce halitosis. Biozoon with acid liquids (e.g., a lemon juice concentrate) allow therapists to use a sour bolus in treating dysphagia. Foam made with bacon or mushroom powder added to water and clear broths or soups can improve quality of life.

What is in the  
“Air Stick”  
Foaming Agent  
and is there  
Nutritional Value  
in Foam?

“Air sticks” contain a foaming agent which is composed of maltodextrin and soy lecithin. There are 2 grams of each substance in every “air stick”. There are 10 calories and approximately 1 gram of fat and 1 gram of carbohydrate in each packet. The foaming agent is suitable for vegetarians and those with allergies to nuts, dairy and soy.

While Biozoon allows people who have swallowing difficulties to taste, the foam itself has limited nutritional value.

Where is  
Biozoon Made?

Biozoon and the “air stick” foaming agent is made in Bremerhaven, Germany by Biozoon GmbH. The company was established in 2001 and in 2015 they received an ISO 9001 rating. This rating is an international standard that demonstrates the ability to consistently provide products and services that meet customer and regulatory requirements. In 2016, Biozoon GmbH opened a modern stand-alone fact.