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(54) **Methods for maintaining bone quality**

(57) Methods for maintaining bone quality in an individual during pregnancy, during lactation, or during pregnancy and lactation are provided. The methods include providing an effective amount of a long chain polyunsaturated fatty acid, an effective amount of a prebiotic, or combinations thereof. The effective amount of the long chain polyunsaturated fatty acid, the effective amount of the prebiotic, or combinations thereof may be provided in a nutritional composition. The bone quality that is maintained may include bone microarchitecture, bone mineral density, bone mineral content, or combinations thereof.

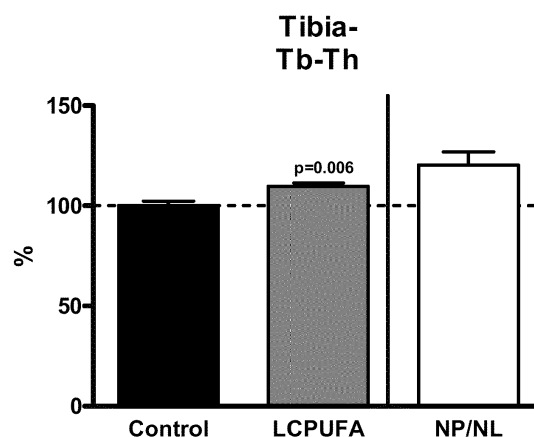


FIG. 1