# Aslı Ucar / Mustafa Özgür / Serkan Yilmaz

Safety of Aspartame

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### **SAFETY OF ASPARTAME**

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Sweeteners are the most discussed among the food additives. Those, used as alternatives to sucrose, are generally referred to as "alternative sweeteners" (Mortensen, 2006). The first registered sweetener was honey (Bright 1999; Weihrauch and Diehl 2004), but as time pasts the common sugar took its place. Artificial sweeteners came into use, because diabetes and obesity rate was increased due to use of common sugar. The first used artificial sweetener was saccharin (Bright 1999; Weihrauch and Diehl 2004). Aspartame and cyclamate were used following the saccharin.

They are produced to be used instead of sugar, have the same taste as sugar, are not considered as harmful to health, have low calorie and/or without calories (Position of the American Dietetic Association, 2004). Increasing with the prevalence of obesity, individuals wishing to reduce energy intake have talented particularly to energy-free sweeteners and low-calorie products (World Health Organization, 2008). The products made with sweeteners are equivalent to the product made with sugar being preferred by producers and consumers (Blackburn and et al., 1997). During the past two decades, worldwide low-calorie food consumption has considerably increased, thus leading to an increase in health concerns associated with high intake of synthetic sweeteners (Bergamo et al. 2011).

"Intense sweeteners" are the sweeteners that produce the required effect in minute quantities, because of their intense sweetness. To emphasize that most of them