Welcome to the latest August Newsletter. This will be produced every 2-3 months and lists the most recent literature in the field.

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Cochrane Reviews

Nutritional support is an essential component of critical care. Malnutrition has been associated with poor outcomes among patients in intensive care units (ICUs). Evidence suggests that in patients with a functional gut, nutrition should be administered through the enteral route. One of the main concerns regarding use of the enteral route is the reduction in gastric motility that is often responsible for limited caloric intake. This increases the risk of aspiration pneumonia as well. Post-pyloric feeding, in which the feed is delivered directly into the duodenum or the jejunum, could solve these issues and provide additional benefits over routine gastric administration of the feed. Full Text

Selenium is a trace mineral essential to health and has an important role in immunity, defence against tissue damage and thyroid function. Improving selenium status could help protect against overwhelming tissue damage and infection in critically ill adults. This Cochrane review was originally published in 2004 updated in 2007 and again 2015. Full Text

A number of conditions compromise the passage of food along the digestive tract. Nasogastric tube (NGT) feeding is a classic, time-proven technique, although its prolonged use can lead to complications such as lesions to the nasal wing, chronic sinusitis, gastro-oesophageal reflux, and aspiration pneumonia. Another method of infusion, percutaneous endoscopy gastrostomy (PEG), is generally used when there is a need for enteral nutrition for a longer time period. There is a high demand for PEG in patients with swallowing disorders, although there is no consistent evidence about its effectiveness and safety as compared to NGT between the groups for pain, ease of learning to use, or the secondary outcome of length of hospital stay (two studies, 381 participants). Full Text

Enteral tube feeding is routinely used in many cystic fibrosis centres when oral dietary and supplement intake has failed to achieve an adequate nutritional status. The use of this method of feeding is assessed on an individual basis taking into consideration the patients age and clinical status. Full Text

Acute pancreatitis is a common and potentially lethal disease with increasing incidence. Severe cases are characterised by high mortality, and despite improvements in intensive care management, no specific treatment relevantly improves clinical outcomes of the disease. Meta-analyses suggest that enteral nutrition is more effective than conventional treatment consisting of discontinuation of oral intake with use of total parenteral nutrition. However, no systematic review has compared different enteral nutrition formulations for the treatment of patients with acute pancreatitis. Full Text

Dietician Role


Fluid Management


Interventions


Nursing Role


Nutritional Status


Organisation


The following sources have been searched for evidence published in the previous four months

- Age and ageing
- BMJ
- British Journal of Community Nursing
- British Journal of Nursing
- Clinical Nutrition
- Critical Care Medicine
- Current Opinion in Clinical Nutrition and Metabolic Care
- Dysphagia
- European Journal of Clinical Nutrition
- Gastrointestinal Nursing
- GUT
- International Journal of Palliative Nursing
- Intensive Care Medicine
- Intensive and Critical Care Nursing
- JAMA, Journal of the American Medical Association
- Journal of Advanced Nursing
- JPEN, Journal of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition
- Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- Journal of the American Geriatric Society
- Journal of Wound care
- Lancet
- NEJM, New England Journal of Medicine
- NICE Published Clinical Guidelines
- NICE Published Technology Appraisals
- Nursing and Residential Care
- Nursing Standard
- Nursing Times
- Nutrition
- Nutrition in Clinical Practice
- Proceedings of the Nutrition Society
- Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)

Please contact the editor for further information.

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