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# Parenteral nutrition for the first days of life of newborn infants

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"The purpose of parenteral nutrition is to correct or prevent nutritional deficiencies when adequate enteral nutrition is precluded by impairment or immaturity of gastrointestinal function."

ESPGHAN/ESPEN/ESPR/CSPEN guidelines on pediatric parenteral nutrition: Organisational aspects





# Composition of a parenteral nutrition

EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL NUTRITION AND METABOLISM PN is the artificial, intravenous feeding of patients, bypassing the usual process of oral food intake, the gastrointestinal tube as well as the digestion.





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# Newborn infants

The *World Health Organization* (WHO) defines newborn infants or neonates as babies under 28 days of age.

All newborn infants are at highest risk of dying within these first 28 days of life.

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Categorization based on

- Gestational age (GA):
- Extremely preterm <28 weeks
- Very preterm 28 to 32 weeks
- Moderate to late preterm 32 to 37 weeks

- Body weight at birth :
- Extremely low birth weight ELBW <1'000 g
- Very low birth weight
  VLBV
- Low birth weight LBW ≥1'500
- Normal birth weight



VLBW ≥1'000 g and <1'500 g</li>
 LBW ≥1'500 g and <2'500 g</li>
 >2'500 g

#### Appropriate care including adequate feeding is crucial!



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# Parenteral nutrition in neonatology

Indications:

- Nonfunctional gastro-intestinal tube
- Immature renal function
- Important insensible loss of water
- Reduced electrolytes regulation
- Important metabolic requirements
- Limited fluid intake
- Undeveloped sucking reflex (≥ 32 weeks GA)

Inadequate and retarded postnatal nutrition is related to growth and neurodevelopmental retardation.

An <u>early and aggressive nutritional</u> <u>treatment</u> is indicated and necessary to allow an adequate extrauterine nutrient intake for preterm infants.





# Types of parenteral nutrition



### Individualized vs. standardized PN

#### Status of the patient:

- Nutritional requirements
- Clinical status
- Delay until administration

### Other decision support:

- Patient safety
- Logistical aspects
- Financial aspects
- Organization



### Hospital vs. industrial production

#### Batch production:

- Modification of the composition
- Production capacity and batch size
- Stability and storage

### Marketing authorization:

- Product safety
- Clinical research and experience
- Financial benefit
- Organizational advantages



# Preparation of parenteral nutrition

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- $\rightarrow$  **PN preparation** is complex and of high risk
  - Composed of about 50 ingredients (the majority are AA)
  - Varying volumes
  - Patients' weight dependent doses
  - Glucose as nutrient medium for germs and bacteria



Infant	Adult
Energy 25 - 120 kcal/kg/d	Energy 20 - 30 kcal/kg/d
Progressive administration of lipids	1/3 of energy from lipids
Proteins 1 - 4 g/kg/d	Proteins 1 - 2 g/kg/d



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# Risks related to parenteral nutrition

#### $\rightarrow$ Medication errors (ME) are most frequently related to PN treatment<sup>1</sup>

- Ordering (ingredients, calculation, dosage, etc.)
- Transcribing (ingredients, calculation, etc.)
- Compounding (compatibility, precipitation, etc.)
- Dispensing (storage conditions, patient data, etc.)
- Administering (osmolarity, venous access, contamination, etc.)



<sup>&</sup>quot;Swiss cheese model"

<sup>1</sup>Santesteban et al. "Medication errors in neonatal care: A systematic review of types of errors and effectiveness of preventive strategies" <u>http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jnn.2015.04.002</u>



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**Consequences of contaminated parenteral nutrition** 



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# Reasons for the development



Situation at our hospital

only 1/3 of nutritional solutions were prepared at the pharmacy under aseptic conditions



Non-conformity to guidelines

ESPGHAN guidelines 2018 recommend standardized parenteral nutrition whenever possible



Lack of commercialized PN

only 1 product that doesn't conform to internal practices



Increased demand

increased work load





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# Development of the parenteral nutrition solution

- Creation of a working group composed of:
  - Pharmacists
- Neonatologists

Industrials



- Parameters:
  - For the first days of life of newborn neonatal patients
  - For peripheral and central venous administration  $\rightarrow$  Osmolarity < 900 mOsm/L
  - Stability: 18-24 months
  - Storage at room temperature
- References:
  - ESPGHAN guidelines from 2005 and 2018
  - Standardized PN used at another university hospital







# Final product and results

- EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL NUTRITION AND METABOLISM
- Subcontracted batch production
- High quality product
- Ready-to-use parenteral nutrition
- Double-chamber infusion bag
- 250 mL final volume
- Not included: lipids, vitamins, trace elements
- Final sterilization by heat steam
- Storage at room temperature for

18 months



#### No concentration variation

#### → Improved nutritional treatment

#### No manipulation allowed

→ Increased patient safety

Standardized solution and procedures

→ Reduced medication errors





## Discussion

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**Parenteral nutrition** (PN) is a crucial part of the initial nutritional support provided for neonates in critical health situations



→ Good cerebral and neurologic development, postnatal weight gain and growth

**Medication errors** are often related to PN including prescription, transcription, preparation and administration errors



→ Growth retardation, developmental disturbances and infections

**Patients' varying needs** of nutrients and the limited composition flexibility of standardized PN



→ Only few commercialized pediatric PN (PPN) are available for neonatal patients and are not used routinely





# Conclusion

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> Standardized PN as recommended by the nutritional specialists are high-quality products with an immediate and 24/7 availability on wards



 $\rightarrow$  Minimizes the risk of medication errors

→ Improves the medical treatment and clinical outcome of the treated inpatients

→ Decreases the number of individual infusion bags

Standardization for neonatal patients is difficult but necessary and worth the work!





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# Thanks for your attention!

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