

Nutrition in the Critically Ill Patient: Part I. Essential Physiology and Pathophysiology

M. ATKINSON, L. I. G. WORTHLEY

Department of Critical Care Medicine, Flinders Medical Centre, Adelaide, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ABSTRACT

Objective: *To review the human nutrition in the critically ill patient in a three-part presentation.*

Data sources: *Articles and published peer-review abstracts and a review of studies reported and identified through a MEDLINE search of the English language literature on parenteral nutrition.*

Summary of review: *In a healthy individual, nutrition involves an alternating system of feeding and fasting, with periods of fasting longer than 72 hr inducing a state of starvation. The hormonal response to nutrition is substrate controlled with glucose and amino acids, during the fed state, stimulating insulin secretion and decreasing glucagon secretion. Glycogen reserves and protein synthesis increase and the excess carbohydrate, amino acids and fats are stored as lipid. During the fasted state, plasma levels of glucose and amino acids fall, reducing insulin secretion and increasing glucagon secretion, stimulating gluconeogenesis and glycogenolysis. A further reduction in insulin and increase in glucagon secretion occurs during starvation and mild sympathetic activation stimulates hormone-sensitive lipoprotein lipase to increase the release of free fatty acids (FFAs) from adipose tissue. Much of the excess FFAs are converted by the liver to ketone bodies.*

During injury and sepsis the nutritional hormones are no longer substrate controlled. For example, during injury, to maintain haemodynamic homeostasis, an increase in sympathetic tone and catecholamine (i.e. adrenaline and noradrenaline) secretion occurs, and in the septic state, in addition to the hormonal stress response, polypeptide mediators of tumour necrosis factor (TNF- α) and interleukin-1 are liberated, causing an increase in glucose intolerance and an increase in skeletal muscle protein catabolism.

Optimal nutritional support in the critically ill patient can only be achieved when the patient is in the convalescent phase of injury, as nutritional supplementation will not reverse the factors causing proteolysis, gluconeogenesis or lipolysis associated with stress or sepsis. Therapy should therefore focus upon decreasing or reducing the factors causing the acute illness before nutritional supplementation can be given with benefit.

Conclusions: *In the critically ill patient nutritional hormones are no longer substrate controlled with glucose, amino acid and lipid intolerance often occurring when given to excess. While nutritional supplementation is often required, particularly during a prolonged illness, the influence of stress and sepsis should be minimised while the nutritional substrates are being provided. (Critical Care and Resuscitation 2003; 5: 109-120)*

Key words: Nutrition, parenteral nutrition, enteral nutrition, critically ill

Normal individuals will adapt to periods of starvation up to 30 days, due to body fuel reserves (table 1), without demonstrating any adverse effects on wound healing, immunity or organ function.¹ Periods of starvation in excess of this will lead to nutritional depletion causing respiratory muscle weakness,² diminished host defence and poor wound healing,³ with death often occurring at about 60 days.⁴ In disease and in malnourished states, starvation is poorly tolerated and a correlation often exists between the degree of starvation and the patient's outcome.⁵ Therefore, a patient's diet should always be reviewed and nutrition prescribed as a routine part of therapy.

The adult diet normally contains approximately 220 g of carbohydrate (880 kcal), 90 g fat (810 kcal), and 80 g of protein (320 kcal), along with water, electrolytes, vitamins, trace elements and fibre. The recommended daily allowance (RDA) for an adult ranges from 1800 - 2800 kcal for energy and 44 - 56 g for protein. During feeding, fasting and starvation, the nutritional hormone status is substrate controlled (table 2). The percentages of substrate used to provide energy in the various nutritional states are listed in table 3.

Table 1. Body fuel reserves for 70 kg man

Substrate	Organ	Weight (g)	kcal
Triglyceride	Adipose tissue	15 000	140 000
<i>Carbohydrate</i>			
Glycogen	Skeletal muscle	350	1 400
	Liver	100	400
Glucose	Extracellular fluid	20	80
Protein	Skeletal muscle	6 000	24 000

Table 2. Hormonal control and effects on nutrition

Hormone	Secretion stimulated by	Stimulates	Inhibits
<i>Insulin</i>	Hyperglycaemia Amino acids (e.g. arginine, leucine)	Glycogenesis Lipogenesis Protein synthesis	Gluconeogenesis Ketogenesis Proteolysis Lipolysis
<i>Glucagon</i>	Hypoglycaemia Sympathetic stimulation Alanine	Gluconeogenesis Ketogenesis Glycogenolysis	Glycogenesis Lipogenesis
<i>Catecholamines</i>	Sympathetic stimulation Hypoglycaemia	Glycogenolysis Glucagon release Lipolysis	Insulin release Insulin effect

NORMAL NUTRITION

Normal nutrition involves an alternating system of feeding and fasting, with periods of fasting longer than 72 hr inducing a state of starvation.

Feeding. During the fed state, plasma glucose and amino acid levels increase, stimulating insulin secretion and decreasing glucagon secretion. Glycogen reserves and protein synthesis increase and the excess carbohydrate, amino acids and fats are stored as lipid.

Fasting. During the fasted state, plasma levels of glucose and amino acids fall, reducing insulin secretion and increasing glucagon secretion, stimulating gluconeogenesis and glycogenolysis.

After 24 hr of fasting, the hepatic glycogen is largely depleted, thereafter body protein is utilised to meet the obligatory demand for glucose. The reduction in insulin levels permit an increase in release of amino acids (mainly alanine and glutamine) from skeletal muscle (a processes which is inhibited by insulin), which are transported to the splanchnic bed and kidney to undergo gluconeogenesis.⁶ The increase in glucagon enhances gluconeogenesis and inhibits the formation of malonyl coenzyme A (CoA). The latter inhibits carnitine acyltransferase I, thereby inhibiting the initial step in the long chain free fatty acid oxidative sequence. Thus, low levels of malonyl CoA releases the inhibition of carnitine acyltransferase I, which in turn augments hepatic oxidation of long chain free fatty acids (FFAs) and stimulates ketogenesis.⁷ Ketogenesis will only occur if there is also a reduction in plasma insulin levels.⁸

Starvation During the starved state (i.e. fasting for longer than 72 hr), a further reduction in insulin and increase in glucagon secretion occurs. Mild sympathetic activation stimulates hormone-sensitive lipoprotein lipase (HS-LPL) increasing the release of FFAs from adipose tissue.

Table 3. Percentage of substrate used and energy required for the various nutritional states

<i>Nutritional state</i>	<i>CHO</i>	<i>Lipid</i>	<i>Protein</i>	<i>Ket</i>	<i>kcal/24 hr</i>
Fed/fasted	45	40	15		2000
Starved		70	5	25	1600
Stress/sepsis		80	20		2500

CHO = carbohydrate, Ket = ketones

Much of the excess FFAs are converted by the liver to ketone bodies, which substitute for glucose as energy substrates in brain and other organs.⁹ Ketosis decreases skeletal muscle protein breakdown and amino acid release by reducing the obligatory demand for glucose from 150 to 50 g/day, reducing protein breakdown from 75 to 20 g/day.¹⁰ With chronic starvation, glucagon levels return to their post absorptive levels and catecholamine levels decrease. The decrease in protein catabolism is reflected by a reduction in urinary nitrogen excretion by 75% (i.e. 400 to 100 mmol/24 hr). The basal metabolic rate (BMR) decreases due to a reduction in peripheral conversion of thyroxine (T₄) to triiodothyronine (T₃).

NUTRITION DURING SEPSIS

During sepsis and injury the nutritional hormones are no longer substrate controlled.

Stress. To maintain haemodynamic homeostasis during acute injury, an increase in sympathetic tone and catecholamine (i.e. adrenaline and noradrenaline) secretion occurs. The catecholamine stimulation of glycogenolysis and hormone sensitive lipoprotein lipase (HS-LPL) increases the plasma levels of FFAs, glucose and insulin. The high insulin levels inhibit ketogenesis and the increase in sympathetic tone increases peripheral tissue resistance to insulin. Protein catabolism reaches a maximum of 70 - 150 g/day, 4 - 8 days after injury,¹¹ the magnitude being related to the severity of the injury as well as the patient's protein intake prior to injury.¹² In the uncomplicated postoperative patient, the loss of body protein is due to a reduction in protein synthesis with little change in the breakdown rate of body protein.¹³

Sepsis. In patients who are septic, in addition to the hormonal stress response, polypeptide mediators of tumour necrosis factor (TNF- α)¹⁴ and interleukin-1¹⁵ are liberated, causing functional hepatic abnormalities, an increase in glucose intolerance and an increase in skeletal muscle protein catabolism^{13,16} (by accelerating ubiquitin-conjugation of skeletal muscle proteins which are then degraded by an ATP dependent proteasome).¹⁷

Optimal nutritional support can only be achieved when the patient is in the convalescent phase of injury, as intravenous nutrition will not reverse the factors causing proteolysis, gluconeogenesis or lipolysis associated with sepsis or stress.¹⁸ Therapy should therefore focus upon decreasing catecholamine secretion by correcting hypotension, hypoxia and pain, and decreasing the levels of the catabolic polypeptide mediators by treating sepsis (e.g. antibiotics, drainage of pus, removal of infarcted tissue).

Nevertheless, while nutrition may not reverse the catabolic response, it enhances protein synthesis¹⁹ and may retard protein catabolism,²⁰ and therefore may reduce the total burden of body protein loss if introduced early in the management of the acutely ill patient.

NUTRITIONAL ASSESSMENT

Malnutrition is defined as a pathological state resulting from a relative or absolute deficiency of one or more essential nutrients. History, physical examination and nutritional indices are often used to assess the patients skeletal muscle mass, visceral protein mass, fat stores and immune status, to identify patients who are most likely to benefit from nutritional supplementation and to monitor nutritional requirements. However, the commonly used nutritional indices lack sensitivity and specificity. For example,

Anthropometric measurements. The anthropometric measurements of arm muscle circumference and triceps skin-fold thickness overestimate by 10 - 40% arm muscle plus bone cross-sectional area and underestimate the fat cross-sectional area.²¹ They are based on the assumption that bone area can be neglected, arm fat is of a linear thickness and arm muscle is circular. The measurements are also prone to large observer variation errors.²²

Plasma protein levels (e.g. plasma albumin, prealbumin or transferrin). When using plasma protein levels to assess nutrition, the assumption is made that a decrease in plasma protein concentration is a consequence of decreased hepatic biosynthesis, which in turn is due to a limited supply of nutritional substrate. However, this assumption is often incorrect. Albumin, for example, has a large extravascular pool, and plasma levels are more often influenced by the effects of redistribution to the extravascular compartment with recumbency²³ and increase in severity of illness.²⁴⁻²⁶ Furthermore, reduction in albumin synthesis occurs as an acute-phase response.^{27,28} Also albumin loss, rather than undernutrition, may decrease plasma albumin levels.²⁹ Patients who have marasmus (i.e. malnutrition with an extreme wasting of fat and muscle due to a reduced intake of carbohydrate, fat and protein) often

have normal plasma albumin levels³⁰ (due to a decrease in albumin degradation and a transfer of extravascular albumin to the intravascular compartment),²⁷ although in patients with kwashiorkor (i.e. malnutrition due to a reduced intake of protein without a similar reduction in carbohydrate) severe hypoalbuminaemia usually exists with ascites and pitting oedema.

As hypoalbuminaemia is not a sensitive or specific marker of malnutrition, plasma albumin levels should not be used as a nutritional marker in humans.³¹ Plasma transferrin levels have also been shown to be a poor measure of nutritional status.³²

Delayed hypersensitivity. While delayed hypersensitivity skin testing (to assess the patient's immune status) has been used to assess the patient's nutritional status, the patient's immune status is often altered by the underlying disease rather than nutritional status.³³ Immunity is only impaired slightly in marasmus,³⁴ supporting the concept that immunologic capability has a high biological priority in starvation.³⁵

Skeletal muscle function. Following electrical stimulation of the ulnar nerve, the force of isometric contraction of the adductor pollicis muscle, recovery time and relaxation rate have been used as an assessment of nutrition.³⁶ However, the mechanical characteristics of skeletal muscle are influenced more by the availability of energy stores within the muscle and ability to regenerate them from the available substrate, rather than by loss of muscle mass with malnutrition.³⁷

In practice, when assessing the absence or presence and extent of malnutrition, clinical judgement of the patient's nutritional status, which takes into consideration symptoms of recent weight loss (e.g. > 10% of the usual body weight in less than 6 months),³⁸ reduction in dietary intake, anorexia, vomiting and diarrhoea and signs of weight loss (e.g. muscle wasting of deltoids, temporalis, small muscles of hands, loss of subcutaneous fat over triceps or chest) and nutritional deficiency (e.g. glossitis, dermatitis, stomatitis), have been found to be as reliable as any biochemical test.^{39,40}

NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

CALORIC

Energy expenditure, and therefore caloric requirement in the critically ill patient, depends on the type of injury (e.g. trauma, sepsis, burns),^{41,42} activity of the patient (e.g. energy expenditure increases with spontaneous respiratory activity compared with controlled or assisted breathing),^{43,44} stage of the illness (e.g. the thermogenic 'stress' response falls rapidly after 2 - 5 days)⁴⁵ and the patient's previous nutritional status (e.g. a patient who was previously on a low protein diet

and had a decreased body mass, has a reduced thermogenic response to trauma or sepsis).⁴⁶

Measurement of energy expenditure

Equations. Numerous equations (e.g. Harris-Benedict equations)⁴⁷ and nomograms⁴⁸⁻⁵⁰ have been used to predict the patient's metabolic rate. However, in the malnourished or critically ill patient these equations are often unreliable^{48,51,52} and usually overestimate the caloric requirement.^{49,53-55} They have been found to be no more accurate than simpler equations using weight or surface area^{49,56} (e.g. caloric requirement = weight in kg x 30), or even an empirical clinical assessment ranging from 1500 - 2500 kcal/day (i.e. 6300 - 10,500 kJ/day, or 1 - 1.75 cal/min),⁵⁴ as very few adult patients lie outside this range.^{57,58}

Indirect calorimetry. To accurately determine the energy expenditure in a critically ill patient, metabolic monitoring systems have been used to calculate caloric requirements by indirect calorimetry from oxygen uptake and carbon dioxide excretion.⁵⁹ The assumptions are that all the oxygen uptake is used to oxidise degradable fuels and all carbon dioxide thereby evolved is recovered. However, the stability and accuracy of the recordings may be altered by numerous factors. For example,

- a. any procedure that causes, stimulation, anxiety or pain (because they result in an increase in energy expenditure of up to 20% - 40%⁵³ due to an increase in catecholamine release lasting for 5 - 20 minutes).^{53,60,61} To determine baseline recordings, measurements should be performed 30 - 60 minutes after a disruptive influence. To determine the total energy expenditure, measurements over the 24 hr period should be performed.⁶²
- b. an alteration in the patient's ventilation. The body's carbon dioxide store, which is 800 mmol or 15 - 20 L (with a carbon dioxide production of 9 mmol/min in an adult),⁶³ inhibits a new carbon dioxide 'stable point' being reached rapidly after an alteration in ventilation.⁶⁴ Therefore, measurements should be delayed for 90 minutes following changes to the patient's ventilation (although it may take up to 120 minutes,⁶⁵ or even longer in the critically ill patient who has acute or chronic ventilatory failure).⁶⁶ On the other hand, equilibrium with oxygen stores following a change in $F_{I}O_2$ only requires 15 - 30 minutes.⁶⁶
- c. an acute infusion of sodium bicarbonate, or an acute metabolic acidosis, which artefactually increases the carbon dioxide output.
- d. an acute alteration in the administration of thermogenic agents (e.g. intravenous or inhaled sympathomimetic agents).⁶⁷⁻⁶⁹ Alpha and beta

adrenergic agonists can increase oxygen consumption and carbon dioxide excretion therefore metabolic measurements should be delayed for up to 2 hours after their inhalation or altering their intravenous dose.

- e. airway system leaks from pleural drains or loose endotracheal connections, or an acute reduction in cardiac output or an acute pulmonary embolism (e.g. thrombo- fat or air embolism), all of which may artefactually reduce carbon dioxide excretion.⁵³
- f. the $F_{I}O_2$ level. Because the accuracy of oxygen consumption measurement in many systems is inversely proportional to the $F_{I}O_2$, errors greater than 6% often occur when an $F_{I}O_2$ of more than 60% is used.^{53,70,71}

There have been many formulae proposed for the calculation of metabolic expenditure from gas-exchange measurements. For clinical purposes, any of the commonly used formulae can be used, as the difference between their values are clinically insignificant,⁷² and consideration of urinary nitrogen is clinically unimportant.⁷² One of the commonly used equations is.^{73,74}

$$EE = (3.796 \times \dot{V} O_2 + 1.214 \times \dot{V} CO_2) \times 1.44$$

Where

EE = energy expenditure (kcal/day)

$\dot{V} O_2$ = oxygen uptake (mL/min)

$\dot{V} CO_2$ = carbon dioxide excretion (mL/min)

Substrate oxidation. The rates of substrate oxidation in the fasting state may be calculated from oxygen uptake, carbon dioxide output and urinary nitrogen excretion using the equations listed in Table 4.⁷²

Table 4. Rates of oxidation of substrate (g/24 hr) from $\dot{V} O_2$, $\dot{V} CO_2$ and urinary nitrogen excretion

Substrate	rate of oxidation (g/24 hr)
CHO	$= 4.12 \times \dot{V} CO_2 - 2.91 \times \dot{V} O_2 - 2.56 \times N$
Fat	$= 1.69 \times (\dot{V} O_2 - \dot{V} CO_2) - 1.94 \times N$
Protein	$= 6.25 \times N$

CHO = carbohydrates, N = 24 hr urinary urea nitrogen (g) excretion

However, these calculations do not take into consideration the processes of gluconeogenesis, ketogenesis or lipogenesis which occur in the post absorptive, starved or energy excess states, and therefore they do not predict accurately the metabolic fate of carbohydrate, fat or protein.^{75,76} The calculated rate of carbo-

hydrate oxidation represents both true carbohydrate oxidation and the rate of conversion to fat minus the rate of carbohydrate synthesis from gluconeogenesis.⁷⁷ The calculated rate of fat oxidation represents true fat oxidation minus the rate of fat synthesis from carbohydrate.⁷⁷

Energy substrates

Carbohydrates. Polysaccharides (starches), disaccharides (lactose, fructose) and monosaccharides (dextrose) are the main dietary sources of carbohydrates. Salivary and pancreatic α -amylase initially split starch into oligosaccharides. The intestinal oligosaccharidases cleave these products further to produce disaccharides which are finally hydrolysed by α -limit dextrinase, maltase, lactase and sucrase on the luminal surface of mucosal cells to produce the monosaccharides of glucose, fructose and galactose which are absorbed.

All body cells have the capacity to oxidise glucose to yield energy, either partially by glycolysis to lactate (which is then returned to the liver to be recycled as glucose), or completely to carbon dioxide and water by the citric acid cycle (Figure 1). The metabolism of glucose is controlled largely through regulation of the enzyme phosphofructokinase, although other sites of regulation are also present (Table 5). When completely oxidised and measured by *in vitro* calorimetry, dextrose (D-glucose) provides 4.182 kcal/g (17.5 kJ/g). However, *in vivo*, anhydrous glucose yields only 3.75 kcal/g (15.7 kJ/g)⁷⁸ utilising 746 mL of oxygen and producing 741 mL of carbon dioxide (RQ 1.00).⁷⁷ Lipogenesis of 1 g of glucose produces 0.346 g of fat, which requires 45 mL of oxygen and produces 250 mL of carbon dioxide.⁷⁷ When the fasting individual is given glucose alone, the lowest level of negative nitrogen balance attained is approximately 1.8 g of nitrogen/m² per day, or 20 g of protein in a normal adult.⁷⁹

Lipid. Dietary lipid is acted upon by pancreatic lipase forming fatty acids and monoglycerides which, in the presence of bile salts, form spherical aggregates known as micelles. Micelles liberate fatty acids and monoglycerides at the brush border of the intestinal mucosal cell which enter the cell by passive diffusion. Fatty acids containing less than 10 - 12 carbon atoms pass from the mucosal cell directly into portal blood, where they are transported as free fatty acids bound largely to albumin. Fatty acids containing more than 10 - 12 carbon atoms are re-esterified to triglycerides, and are coated with lipoprotein, cholesterol and phospholipid to form chylomicrons which leave the cell and enter the lymphatic system. The triglyceride component of chylomicrons is cleared from the circulation by an endothelial lipoprotein lipase to form free fatty acids and glycerol, which may enter adipose tissue, liver or

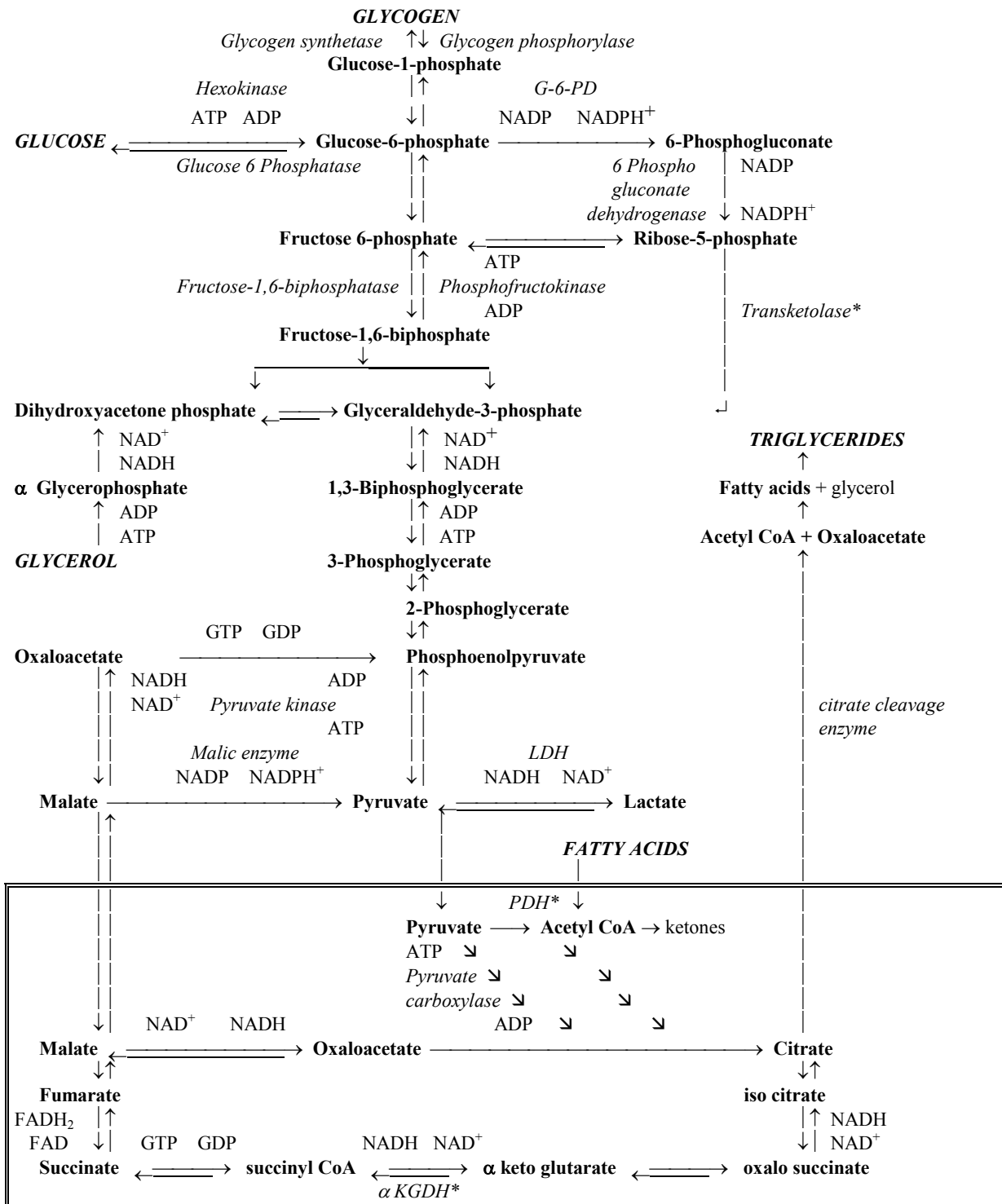


Figure 1. Metabolism of carbohydrate

Mitochondrial metabolism is represented with reactions within the rectangle, PDH = pyruvate dehydrogenase, LDH = lactic acid dehydrogenase, G-6-PD = Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase, NAD⁺ = nicotine adenine dinucleotide (oxidised form), NADH = nicotine adenine dinucleotide (reduced form), FAD = Flavine adenine dinucleotide (oxidised form), FADH₂ = Flavine adenine dinucleotide (reduced form), α KGDH = α Ketoglutarate dehydrogenase, * = thiamine pyrophosphate is required a cofactor.

Table 5. Control sites for glucose metabolism

<i>Tissue</i>	<i>Substance/hormone</i>	<i>Enzyme</i>	<i>Effect</i>
Muscle, lipogenesis)	Insulin	Hexokinase	stimulates (glycogenesis (M & L only),
liver & adipocytes	Insulin, G 6-P	Glycogen synthetase	stimulates (glycogenesis (M & L only))
	Insulin	Phosphofructokinase	stimulates (lipogenesis)
	Insulin	G 6-PD	stimulates (lipogenesis)
	Insulin	6-PGD	stimulates (lipogenesis)
	Insulin, F 1,6-P	Pyruvate kinase	stimulates (glycolysis)
	Insulin, AMP, NAD	Pyruvate dehydrogenase	stimulates (lipogenesis)
	Insulin	Citrate cleavage enzyme	stimulates (lipogenesis)
	Insulin	Malic enzyme	stimulates (lipogenesis)
	G 6-P	Hexokinase	inhibits (glycolysis, lipogenesis)
	ATP, citrate, low pH	Phosphofructokinase	inhibits (glycolysis, lipogenesis)
	AMP, F 6-P, high pH	Phosphofructokinase	stimulates (glycolysis, lipogenesis)
	ATP, alanine, Gl, CA	Pyruvate kinase	inhibits (glycolysis)
	ACoA, NADH, ATP	Pyruvate dehydrogenase	inhibits (glycolysis, lipogenesis)
Liver	Gl, GC & CA	Glucose 6-phosphatase	stimulate (gluconeogenesis)
	Gl, GC, CA, & citrate	Fructose 1.6-biphosphatase	stimulate (gluconeogenesis)
	Gl, GC, CA, ACoA	Pyruvate carboxylase	stimulate (gluconeogenesis)
	Gl, GC & CA	PEP carboxykinase	stimulates (gluconeogenesis)
	Gl,	Glycogen synthase	inhibits (gluconeogenesis)
	Insulin	Glucose 6-phosphatase	inhibits (gluconeogenesis)
	Insulin, AMP, F 1,6-BP	Fructose 1.6-diphosphatase	inhibits (gluconeogenesis)
	Insulin	PEP carboxykinase	inhibits (gluconeogenesis)
	Insulin, AMP	Pyruvate carboxylase	inhibits (gluconeogenesis)
	Insulin	Glucokinase	stimulates (glycogenesis, lipogenesis)

G 6-PD = Glucose 6 dehydrogenase, 6-PGD = 6-Phosphogluconate dehydrogenase, PEP = Phosphoenolpyruvate, M = muscle, L = liver, Gl = Glucagon., GC = Glucocorticoids, CA = catecholamines, ACoA = Acetyl CoA, F 1,6-BP = fructose 1,6-biphosphate, G 6-P = glucose 6 phosphate, F 6-P = fructose 6 phosphate, NAD = nicotine adenine dinucleotide (oxidised form), NADH = nicotine adenine dinucleotide (reduced form), AMP = Adenosine monophosphate, ATP = Adenosine triphosphate.

muscle to be re-esterified and stored as lipid or undergo oxidation (e.g. glycerol is metabolised via the glycolytic pathway and FFAs are metabolised predominantly by mitochondrial beta-oxidation).⁸⁰ Chylomicrons depleted of their triglyceride remain in the circulation as cholesterol-rich lipoproteins known as chylomicron remnants, which are metabolised in the liver by a hepatic lipoprotein lipase.

Triglycerides and cholesterol synthesised by the liver are transported in the circulation by very low density lipoproteins (VLDL or pre β -lipoproteins, which are high in triglyceride content), intermediate-density lipoproteins (IDL or VDL remnants, formed during conversion of VLDL to LDL by lipoprotein lipase), low-density lipoproteins (LDL or β -lipoproteins, representing the final stage in the catabolism of VLDL and are the major cholesterol-carrying particles in plasma) and high-density lipoproteins (HDL or α -lipoproteins). Plasma lipoproteins also contain apolipoproteins which

function to solubilise the cholesterol esters and triglyceride, regulate the reaction of these lipids with enzymes such as lecithin-cholesterol transferase (LCAT) and lipoprotein lipase, and bind to cell surface receptors to regulate degradation of other lipoprotein constituents (e.g. cholesterol). LDL are taken up by cells by a LDL receptor mediated endocytosis and are metabolised to provide cholesterol to the tissues. At the same time it reduces cellular cholesterol production by down regulating β -hydroxyl- β -methylglutaryl-coenzyme A (HMG CoA) reductase. LDL are also taken up by a lower affinity system in macrophages, particularly when high levels of LDL prevail. When overloaded with cholesterol esters these cells degenerate and leave cholesterol laden atherosclerotic plaques.

Adipose tissue contains an intracellular hormone-sensitive lipase, which is activated rapidly by catecholamines (via cAMP production), and activated slowly by growth hormone, glucocorticoids and thyroid

hormone (via synthesis of new protein), to break down stored triglyceride to FFAs and glycerol.^{80,81} The free fatty acid concentration in plasma normally ranges from 0.4 to 0.8 mmol/L (most of which is bound to albumin) and seldom rise to more than 1 mmol/L. The turnover of the plasma FFAs is extremely rapid (20% - 40% of the FFAs entering plasma per minute undergo oxidation - usually by skeletal or myocardial muscle, re-esterification - usually by liver, or conversion to other FFAs)

Amino acids. In an individual ingesting a normal western diet containing approximately 80 g of protein (320 kcal)/day, approximately 20 g/day is required for protein. The remaining undergoes gluconeogenesis with the nitrogen being excreted as urea. If excess protein is ingested it is stored as glycogen or fat.

PROTEIN

While daily protein requirement during health varies little in the critically ill patient it depends on the type of injury (e.g. trauma, sepsis, burns), stage of the illness and the patients previous nutritional status.

Measurement of nitrogen requirements

Normally, an effective nitrogen intake is prescribed by estimating the patient's caloric requirements, and administering an amino acid nitrogen increment so that the calorie:nitrogen (kcal:g) ratio is between 135:1⁸² to 150:1⁸³ (i.e. approximately 1 g of protein per kilogram weight).⁸⁴ The nitrogen requirement has sometimes been performed by measuring the 24 hr urinary urea excretion and administering a 'nitrogen' intake of 1.25 x this amount (i.e. the urinary loss is assumed to represent 80% of the total urinary nitrogen loss). However, the accuracy of such an estimation is poor, particularly in critically ill patients.^{85,86} Furthermore, the daily urea load may not be excreted in patients who have renal failure and other body protein losses (gastrointestinal, urine, body cavity drains) are not accounted for.^{86,87}

Protein substrates

Protein digestion begins in the stomach where acid activated pepsinogens form pepsins and cleave some of the protein peptide linkages to form polypeptides. In the small intestine polypeptides are acted upon by the pancreatic proteolytic enzymes of trypsin, chymotrypsin and the aminopeptidases of the brush border of the intestine further hydrolysing polypeptides to form tri- and di-peptides (which are converted to amino acids by intracellular peptidases) as well as free amino acids which enter the portal circulation.

Because many of the amino acids released from body protein catabolism are recycled, the normal adult needs an oral intake of only 20 g of protein with high

biological value to meet the daily protein requirements.⁸⁸ Protein ingested in excess of this is stored or used as energy. In the acutely ill patient, the minimal quantity of protein required is unknown, although it is unlikely to exceed 50 - 60 g/day, in patients who have no external protein loss.

During the catabolic phase of disease, skeletal muscle tissue serves as a protein reservoir which is mobilised (due to circulating IL-1, TNF- α , catecholamines and glucocorticoids)^{89,90} to meet the specific metabolic needs of the body. Approximately 40% of the amino acids released are glutamine and alanine (from the free glutamate pool and formed from transamination reactions involving branched-chain amino acids and α -ketoglutarate or pyruvate) providing the skeletal muscle with energy, the body with glucose (alanine is converted in the liver to pyruvate and in turn to glucose by gluconeogenesis) and an abundant supply of amino acids to the liver for production of acute phase reactants.

Amino acids. Normal adults require twenty L-amino acids for protein synthesis, although only leucine, isoleucine, valine, lysine, threonine, phenylalanine, methionine and tryptophan can not be synthesised and so are essential (Table 6). The minimal daily requirement in a normal adult is 0.25 g/day of tryptophan and approximately 1 g/day for all other essential amino acids, although the safe recommended intake is probably double this.⁹¹ The branched-chain amino acids (BCAA) of leucine, isoleucine and valine are unique in that they bypass the liver and are metabolised almost exclusively by the skeletal muscle. Leucine also stimulates skeletal muscle protein synthesis and inhibits muscle proteolysis (even during sepsis).⁹² The BCAA requirements may be increased by a factor of two (i.e. 2 - 4 g/day of each) during surgical convalescence⁹³ and in patients who have sepsis,⁹⁴ trauma⁹⁵ or acute/chronic liver failure.^{96,97} During disease, other amino acids are also essential (e.g. histidine, cystine/cysteine, glutamine, arginine and tyrosine).

Histidine is essential in infants⁹⁸ and in patients who have renal failure.⁹⁹⁻¹⁰¹ Cysteine is essential in premature infants,¹⁰² and in critically ill patients. Glutamine is a precursor for renal ammonia production and a crucial substrate for the rapidly dividing cells of both the gastrointestinal mucosa and the immune system.¹⁰³⁻¹⁰⁵ It is also required for the production of the major cellular antioxidant glutathione, a requirement which is increased in the critically ill patient.¹⁰⁶ Parenteral glutamine also increases protein synthesis and decreases protein breakdown in skeletal muscle,^{103,107} and preserves gastrointestinal mucosal structure and permeability.¹⁰⁸ Arginine is required in sufficient amounts to convert ammonia to urea and is the precursor

for endothelium derived relaxing factor (i.e., nitric oxide); it may also enhance cell mediated immunity.¹⁰⁹

Table 6. Protein L-amino acid requirements in adults

	Indispensable	Dispensable
<i>Essential</i>	Valine	Alanine
	Isoleucine	Asparagine
	Leucine	Aspartic acid
	Lysine	Glutamic acid
	Methionine	Glycine
	Phenylalanine	Proline
	Threonine	Serine
	Tryptophan	
<i>Essential during disease</i>	Histidine	
	Arginine	
	Cysteine	
	Tyrosine	
	Glutamine	

WATER, ELECTROLYTES, VITAMINS, TRACE ELEMENTS AND ESSENTIAL FATTY ACIDS

The estimation of water and electrolytes requirements are performed daily using parameters that determine their balance in critically ill patients, including cardiovascular, renal hepatic and plasma biochemical tests. The daily vitamin, trace elements and essential fatty acid requirements are estimated using the recommended daily allowance with an added amount suggested in the acutely ill patient (see part II).

NUTRITIONAL DELIVERY

Nutritional support in the critically ill patient may be intravenous or enteral or both. However, while the enteral route is commonly held as the method of choice, in practice (due to gastrointestinal dysmotility with gastroparesis or diarrhoea) it is often suboptimal¹¹⁰ and often fails to deliver the desired daily requirements.¹¹¹

Received: 30 April 2003
 Accepted: 30 May 2003

REFERENCES

1. Benedict FG. A study of prolonged fasting. Washington, D.C., Carnegie Institute, 1915 (Publication No. 203).
2. Arora NS, Rochester DF. Respiratory muscle strength and maximal voluntary ventilation in undernourished patients. *Am Rev Resp Dis* 1982;126:5-8.

3. Haydock DA, Hill GL. Impaired wound healing in surgical patients with varying degrees of malnutrition. *J Parenter Enteral Nutr* 1986;10:550-554.
4. Korcock M. Hunger strikers may have died of fat, not protein, loss. *JAMA* 1981;246:1878-1879.
5. Buzby GP, Mullen JL, Matthews DC, Hobbs CL, Rosato EF. Prognostic nutritional index in gastrointestinal surgery. *Am J Surg* 1980;139:160-167.
6. Cahill GF Jr. Protein and amino acid metabolism in man. *Circ Res* 1976;38 (suppl 1):109-111.
7. McGarry JD, Foster DW. Regulation of hepatic fatty acid oxidation and ketone body production. *Ann Rev Biochem* 1980;49:395-420.
8. Baruh S, Sherman L, Markowitz S. Diabetic ketoacidosis and coma. *Med Clin N Amer* 1981;65:117-132.
9. Saudek CD, Felig P. The metabolic effects of starvation. *Am J Med* 1976;60:117-126.
10. Cahill GF Jr. Starvation in man. *N Engl J Med* 1970;282:668-675.
11. Cuthbertson DP. The metabolic response to injury and its nutritional implications: retrospect and prospect. *J Parenter Enteral Nutr* 1979;3:108-129.
12. Lemoyne M, Jeejeebhoy KN. Total parenteral nutrition in the critically ill patient. *Chest* 1986;89:568-575.
13. Munro HN. Hormones and the metabolic response to injury. *N Engl J Med* 1979;300:41-42.
14. Beutler B, Cerami A. Cachectin: more than a tumor necrosis factor. *N Engl J Med* 1987;316:379-385.
15. Dinarello CA. Interleukin-1 and the pathogenesis of the acute-phase response. *N Engl J Med* 1984;311:1413-1418.
16. Cerra FB, Siegel JH, Coleman B, Border JR, McMenamy RR. Septic autocannibalism: a failure of exogenous nutritional support. *Ann Surg* 1980;192:570-580.
17. Mitch WE, Goldberg AL. Mechanisms of muscle wasting. The role of the ubiquitin-proteasome pathway. *N Engl J Med* 1996;335:1897-1905.
18. Long CL, Kinney JM, Geiger JW. Nonsuppressability of gluconeogenesis by glucose in septic patients. *Metabolism* 1976;25:193-200.
19. Neuhauser M, Bergstrom J, Chao L, et al. Urinary excretion of 3-methylhistidine as an index of muscle protein catabolism in postoperative trauma: the effect of parenteral nutrition. *Metabolism* 1980;29:1206-1213.
20. Leverve X, Guignier M, Carpentier F, Serre JC, Caravel JP. Effect of parenteral nutrition on muscle amino acid output and 3-methylhistidine excretion in septic patients. *Metabolism* 1984;33:471-477.
21. Forbes GB, Brown MR, Griffiths HJL. Arm muscle plus bone area: anthropometry and CAT scan compared. *Am J Clin Nutr* 1988;47:929-931.
22. Heymsfield SB, Casper K. Anthropometric assessment of the adult hospitalized patient. *J Parenter Enteral Nutr* 1987;11:36S-41S.
23. Courtney ME, Greene HL, Folk CC, Helinek GL, Dmitruk A. Rapidly declining serum albumin values in newly hospitalized patients: prevalence, severity, and

- contributory factors. *J Parenter Enteral Nutr* 1982;6:143-145.
24. Fleck A, Raines G, Hawker F, et al. Increased vascular permeability: a major cause of hypoalbuminaemia in disease and injury. *Lancet* 1985;i:781-784.
 25. O'Keefe SJD, Dicker J. Is the plasma albumin concentration useful in the assessment of nutritional status of hospital patients? *Eur J Clin Nutr* 1988;42:41-45.
 26. Boosalis MG, Ott L, Levine AS, et al. Relationship of visceral proteins to nutritional status in chronic and acute stress. *Crit Care Med* 1989;17:741-747.
 27. Klein S. The myth of serum albumin as a measure of nutritional status. *Gastroenterology* 1990;99:1845-1846.
 28. Soeters PB, von Meyenfeldt MF, Meijerink WJHJ, Fredrix EWHM, Wouters EFM, Schols AMWJ. Serum albumin and mortality. *Lancet* 1990;335:348.
 29. Starker PM, Gump FE, Askanazi J, Elwyn DH, Kinney JM. Serum albumin levels as an index of nutritional support. *Surgery* 1982;91:194-199.
 30. McLaren DS. A fresh look at protein-energy malnutrition in the hospitalized patient. *Nutrition* 1988;4:1-6.
 31. Jeejeebhoy KN. Nutrition and serum albumin levels. *Nutrition* 1994;10:353.
 32. Roza AM, Tuitt D, Shizgal HM. Transferrin - a poor measure of nutritional status. *J Parenter Enteral Nutr* 1984;8:523-528.
 33. Twomey P, Ziegler D, Rombeau J. Utility of skin testing in nutritional assessment: a critical review. *J Parenter Enteral Nutr* 1982;6:50-58.
 34. Bistran BR, Sherman M, Blackburn GL, et al. Cellular immunity in adult marasmus. *Arch Intern Med* 1977;137:1408-1411.
 35. Moore FD. Delayed scientific hypersensitivity. *J Parenter Enteral Nutr* 1982;6:1-2.
 36. Pichard C, Jeejeebhoy KN. Muscle dysfunction in malnourished patients. *QJM* 1988;69:1021-1045.
 37. Shizgal HM, Vasilevsky CA, Gardiner PF, Wang W, Tuitt DAQ, Brabant GV. Nutritional assessment and skeletal muscle function. *Am J Clin Nutr* 1986;44:761-771.
 38. Sitzmann JV, Pitt HA, and the Patient Care Committee of the American Gastroenterological Association. Statement on guidelines for total parenteral nutrition. *Dig Dis Sci* 1989;34:489-496.
 39. Baker JP, Detsky AS, Wesson DE, et al. Nutritional assessment: a comparison of clinical judgement and objective measurements. *N Engl J Med* 1982;306:969-972.
 40. Jeejeebhoy KN, Detsky AS, Baker JP. Assessment of nutritional status. *J Parenter Enteral Nutr* 1990;14 (suppl):193S-196S.
 41. Kinney JM. The application of indirect calorimetry to clinical studies. In: *Assessment of energy metabolism in health and disease*. Ross Laboratories Publications, Columbus, Ohio, 1980, pp42-48.
 42. Jequier E. Measurement of energy expenditure in clinical nutritional assessment. *J Parenter Enteral Nutr* 1987;11:86S-89S.
 43. Prakash O, Meij SH. Oxygen consumption and blood gas exchange during controlled and intermittent mandatory ventilation after cardiac surgery. *Crit Care Med* 1985;13:556-559.
 44. Kanak R, Fahey PJ, Vanderwarf C. Oxygen cost of breathing: changes dependent upon mode of mechanical ventilation. *Chest* 1985;87:126-127.
 45. Quebbeman EJ, Ausman RK, Schneider TC. A re-evaluation of energy expenditure during parenteral nutrition. *Ann Surg* 1982;195:282-286.
 46. Munro HN. General aspects of the regulation of protein metabolism by diet and hormones. In: *Mamalian protein metabolism (vol 1)*, Munro HN, Allison JB, eds. New York: Academic press, 1964;381-481.
 47. Harris JA, Benedict FG. A biometric study of basal metabolism in man. *Carnegie Institute of Washington, Washington, D.C.* 1919; Publication no 279.
 48. Long CL, Schaffel N, Geiger JW, Schiller WR, Blakemore WS. Metabolic response to injury and illness: estimation of energy and protein needs from indirect calorimetry and nitrogen balance. *J Parenter Enteral Nutr* 1979;3:452-456.
 49. Quebbeman EJ, Ausman RK. Estimating energy requirements in patients receiving parenteral nutrition. *Arch Surg* 1982;117:1281-1284.
 50. Rainey-Macdonald CG, Holliday RL, Wells GA. Nomograms for predicting resting energy expenditure of hospitalised patients. *J Parenter Enteral Nutr* 1982;6:59-60.
 51. Weissman C, Kemper M, Damask MC, Askanazi J, Hyman AI, Kinney JM. Metabolic rate in the post operative critical care patient. *Crit Care Med* 1985;13:280.
 52. Roza AM, Shizgal HM. The Harris Benedict equation reevaluated: resting energy requirements and the body cell mass. *Am J Clin Nutr* 1984;40:168-182.
 53. Swinamer DL, Phang PT, Jones RL, Grace M, King EG. Twenty-four hour energy expenditure in critically ill patients. *Crit Care Med* 1987;15:637-643.
 54. Mann S, Westenskow DR, Houtchens BA. Measured and predicted caloric expenditure in the acutely ill. *Crit Care Med* 1985;13:173-177.
 55. Weissman C, Kemper M, Askanazi J, Hyman AI, Kinney JM. Resting metabolic rate of the critically ill patient: measured versus predicted. *Anesthesiology* 1986;64:673-679.
 56. Pellett PL. Food and energy requirements in humans. *Am J Clin Nutr* 1990;51:711-722.
 57. Macfie J. Energy requirements of surgical patients requiring intravenous nutrition. *Ann R Coll Surg Eng* 1984;66:39-42.
 58. Soop M, Forsberg E, Thorne A, Alvestrand A. Energy expenditure in postoperative multiple organ failure with acute renal failure. *Clin Nephrol* 1989;31:139-145.
 59. van Lanschot JJB, Feenstra BWA, Vermeij CG, Bruining HA. Accuracy of intermittent metabolic gas exchange recordings extrapolated for diurnal variation. *Crit Care Med* 1988;16:737-742.

60. Damask MC, Askanazi J, Weissman C, Elwyn DH, Kinney JM. Artifacts in measurement of resting energy expenditure. *Crit Care Med* 1983;11:750-752.
61. Weissman C, Kemper M, Damask MC, Askanazi J, Hyman AI, Kinney JM. Effect of routine intensive care interactions on metabolic rate. *Chest* 1984;86:815-818.
62. Doisey EA. Micronutrient controls on biosynthesis of clotting proteins and cholesterol. In Hemphill DD (ed) *Trace Substances in Environmental Health VI*, Columbia: University of Missouri. 1978;p193.
63. Ferrannini E, The theoretical basis of indirect calorimetry: a review. *Metabolism* 1988;37:287-301.
64. Henneberg S, Soderberg D, Groth T, Stjernstrom H, Wiklund L. Carbon dioxide production during mechanical ventilation. *Crit Care Med* 1987;15:8-13.
65. Henneberg S, Soderberg D, Groth T, Stjernstrom H, Wiklund L. Carbon dioxide production during mechanical ventilation. *Crit Care Med* 1987;15:8-13.
66. Brandi LS, Bertolini R, Santini L, Cavani S. Effects of ventilator resetting on indirect calorimetry measurement in the critically ill surgical patient. *Crit Care Med* 1999;27:531-539.
67. Mansell PI, Fellows IW, Birmingham AT, Macdonald IA. Metabolic and cardiovascular effects of infusions of low doses of isoprenaline in man. *Clin Sci* 1988;75:285-291.
68. Green CJ, Frazer RS, Underhill S, Maycock P, Fairhurst JA, Campbell IT. Metabolic effects of dobutamine in normal man. *Clin Sci* 1992;82:77-83.
69. Tattersfield AE, Wilding P. Agonists and ventilation. *Thorax* 1993;48:877-878.
70. Eccles RC, Swinamer DL, Jones RL, King EG. Validation of a compact system for measuring gas exchange. *Crit Care Med* 1986;14:807-811.
71. Westenskow DR, Cutler CA, Wallace WD. Instrumentation for monitoring gas exchange and metabolic rate in critically ill patients. *Crit Care Med* 1984;12:183-187.
72. Westenskow DR, Schipke CA, Raymond JL, et al. Calculation of metabolic expenditure and substrate utilization from gas exchange measurements. *J Parenter Enteral Nutr* 1988;12:20-24.
73. de V Weir JB. New methods for calculating the metabolic rate with special reference to protein metabolism. *J Physio* 1949;109:1-9.
74. Kleiber M. Energy. In: *The fire of life*. New York: John Wiley and Sons Inc, 1961;105-128.
75. Elia M, Livesey G. Theory and validity of indirect calorimetry during net lipid synthesis. *Am J Clin Nutr* 1988;47:591-607.
76. Livesey G, Elia M. Estimation of energy expenditure, net carbohydrate utilization, and net fat oxidation and synthesis by indirect calorimetry: evaluation of errors with special reference to the detailed composition of fuels. *Am J Clin Nutr* 1988;47:608-628.
77. Frayn KN. Calculation of substrate oxidation rates in vivo from gaseous exchange. *J Appl Physiol* 1983;55:628-634.
78. Kopple JD, Blumenkrantz MJ. Total parenteral nutrition and parenteral fluid therapy. In: *Clinical disorders of fluid and electrolyte metabolism*. Maxwell MH, Kleeman CR, eds. New York. McGraw-Hill Book Co, 1980;413-458.
79. Moore FD. Energy and the maintenance of body cell mass. *J Parenter Enteral Nutr* 1980;4:228-260.
80. Eckel RH. Lipoprotein lipase. *N Engl J Med* 1989;320:1060-1068.
81. Stout RW. The physiology of triglyceride metabolism. *Br J Hosp Med* 1975;14:309-316.
82. Smith RC, Burkinshaw L, Hill GL. Optimal energy and nitrogen intake for gastroenterological patients requiring intravenous nutrition. *Gastroenterology*. 1982;82:445-452.
83. Rutten P, Blackburn GL, Flatt JP, Hallowell E, Cochran D. Determination of optimal hyperalimentation infusion rate. *J Surg Res* 1975;18:477-483.
84. Pellett PL. Protein requirements in humans. *Am J Clin Nutr* 1990;51:723-737.
85. Loder PB, Kee AJ, Horsburgh R, Jones M, Smith RC. Validity of urinary urea nitrogen as a measure of total urinary nitrogen in adult patients requiring parenteral nutrition. *Crit Care Med* 1989;17:309-312.
86. Konstantinides FN, Konstantinides NN, Li JC, Myaya ME, Cerra FB. Urinary urea nitrogen: too insensitive for calculating nitrogen balance studies in surgical clinical nutrition. *J Parenter Enteral Nutr* 1991;15:189-193.
87. Berger R, Adams L. Nutritional support in the critical care setting (Part 1). *Chest* 1989;96:139-150.
88. Giovannetti S, Maggiore Q. A low-nitrogen diet with proteins of high biological value for severe chronic uraemia. *Lancet* 1964;i:1000-1003.
89. Hasselgren P-O, Pedersen P, Sax HC, Warner BW, Fischer JE. Current concepts of protein turnover and amino acid transport in liver and skeletal muscle during sepsis. *Arch Surg* 1988;123:992-999.
90. Clowes GHA Jr, George BC, Villee CA, Saravis CA. Muscle proteolysis in sepsis or trauma. *N Engl J Med* 1983;309:494.
91. Rose WC, Wixom RL, Lockhart HB, Lambert GF. Amino acid requirements of man; valine requirement; summary and final observations. *J Biol Chem* 1955;217:987-995.
92. Lindberg BO, Clowes GHA Jr. The effects of hyperalimentation and infused lucine on the amino acid metabolism in sepsis: an experimental study in vivo. *Surgery* 1981;90:278-290.
93. Freund HR, Yoshimura N, Lunetta L, Fischer JE. The role of the branched chain amino acids in decreasing muscle catabolism in vivo. *Surgery* 1978;83:611-618.
94. Freund HR, Ryan JA Jr, Fischer JE. Amino acid derangements in patients with sepsis. Treatment with branched chain amino acid rich solutions. *Ann Surg* 1978;188:423-439.
95. Askanazi J, Carpentier YA, Michelsen CB, et al. Muscle and plasma amino acids following injury. *Ann Surg* 1980;192:78-85.
96. Eriksson S, Hagenfeldt L, Wahren J. A comparison of the effects of intravenous infusion of individual branched chain amino acids on blood amino acid levels in man. *Clin Sci* 1981;60:95-100.

97. Fischer JE. Amino acids in hepatic failure. *Dig Dis Sci* 1982;27:97-99.
98. Holt LE Jr, Snyderman SE. The amino acid requirements of infants. *JAMA* 1961;175:100-103.
99. Wretling A. Complete intravenous nutrition. Theoretical and experimental background. *Nutr Metabol* 1972;14:1-57.
100. Bergstrom J, Bucht H, Furst P, et al. Intravenous nutrition with amino acid solutions in patients with chronic uraemia. *Acta Med Scand* 1972;191:359-367.
101. Kopple JD, Swindseid ME. Evidence that histidine is an essential amino acid in normal and chronically uraemic man. *J Clin Invest* 1975;55:881-891.
102. Sturman JA, Gaull G, Raiha NRC. Absence of cystathionase in human fetal liver: is cysteine essential? *Science* 1970;169:74-76.
103. Smith RJ. Glutamine metabolism and its physiologic importance. *J Parenter Enteral Nutr* 1990;14(suppl):40S-44S.
104. Bulus N, Cersosimo E, Ghishan F, Abumrad NN. Physiologic importance of glutamine. *Metabolism* 1989;38(suppl 1):1-5.
105. Editorial. Nutrition and the metabolic response to injury. *Lancet* 1989;i:995-997.
106. Wernerman J, Luo JL, Hammarqvist F. Glutathione status in critically-ill patients: possibility of modulation by antioxidants. *Proc Nutr Soc* 1999;58:677-680.
107. Hammarqvist F, Wernerman J, Ali R, von der Decken A, Vinnars E. Addition of glutamine to total parenteral nutrition after elective abdominal surgery spares free glutamine in muscle, counteracts the fall in muscle protein synthesis, and improves nitrogen balance. *Ann Surg* 1989;209:455-461.
108. van der Hulst RRWJ, van Kreel BK, von Meyenfeldt MF, et al. Glutamine and the preservation of gut integrity. *Lancet* 1993;334:1363-1365.
109. Barbul A. Arginine and immune function. *Nutrition* 1990;6:53-58.
110. De Beaux I, Chapman M, Fraser R, et al. Enteral nutrition in the critically ill: a prospective survey in an Australian intensive care unit. *Anaesth Intensive Care* 2001;29:619-622.
111. Heyland D, Cook DJ, Winder B, Brylowski L, Van deMark H, Guyatt G. Enteral nutrition in the critically ill patient: a prospective survey. *Crit Care Med* 1995;23:1055-1060.