I would like to make some comments in relation to the elegant commentary of Yaqoob (2005), published recently in this journal. Dr Yaqoob rightly considers that it is important to evaluate whether using parenteral nutrition, in whatever form, increases the risk to the patient without any added benefit. In this respect, she reviews three studies evaluating the use of an olive oil-based lipid emulsion (ClinOleic, Baxter, Maurepas, France) in the home parenteral nutrition of patients with intestinal failure. She concludes that there is no added benefit from ClinOleic, compared with soyabean oil-based emulsions, with regard to complications in such patients, but that there is no evidence of harm either. I absolutely agree with this opinion.

Furthermore, another article comparing an olive oil-based lipid emulsion parenteral nutrition with glucose-based parenteral nutrition in multiple trauma patients shows a significantly lower blood glucose level, a clinically relevant shortening of duration of stay in the intensive care unit and a shorter time on mechanical ventilation in the group receiving the olive oil-based lipid emulsion (Huschak et al. 2005).

References


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