

# **Nutritional support during pregnancy and breastfeeding**

*Maryam Alinezhad-Namaghi MD, Ph.D.*

*Assistant Professor of Clinical Nutrition*

*Department of Nutrition, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad, Iran*



# **BASICS IN CLINICAL NUTRITION**

**Fifth Edition**

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# Learning objectives

- To recognize the adverse effects of **starvation** on  
*Pregnancy and foetal outcome*
- To understand the *most common indication*  
*For nutritional support during pregnancy*
- To learn the principles of *artificial nutrition*  
*During pregnancy and lactation*

# Outline

**1- Pathophysiology**

**2- Indications for and aims of nutritional Support**

**3- Parenteral nutrition in pregnancy and lactation**

# ***Pathophysiology***

# Pathophysiology

It is estimated that **approximately 80,000 kcal** of energy

Are needed *over the course of pregnancy* to ensure

Proper **growth** of the

**Uterus, placenta, and foetus**

This corresponds to a **daily increase** of about

*150 kcal during trimester I,*

And *350 kcal during trimesters II and III,*

Over basal nutritional requirements

# Pathophysiology

These requirements are even *greater in twin pregnancy*

The **basal metabolic rate** is also *increased*, but this is *balanced* by *decreasing physical activity*

**Metabolically**, pregnancy is characterized by several dynamic adjustments including

*Increased insulin resistance,*

*Hyperlipidemia,*

*And changes in protein and amino acid metabolism*

These changes occur in parallel with *growth of the foetoplacental* unit

And serve to *increase nutrient availability* for the benefit of its *development* and *maturation*

# Pathophysiology

The **principal energy substrates** are **carbohydrates** which provide

60%-75% of energy requirements

**Lipids** provide 25%-30% of non-protein energy,

And the need for PUFAs is increased substantially,

Their key influence on central nervous system development having been confirmed



# Pathophysiology

Consumption of lipids also

Helps to *avoid high serum glucose concentrations*,

Especially important because *sustained maternal hyperglycaemia* results in

*High insulin levels*

And *increased risks of foetal macrosomia*,

*Impaired lung maturation*,

*Neonatal hypoglycaemia*,

And *foetal death*

The average daily **protein requirement** during pregnancy increases by up to about 30 g

# Pathophysiology

*Maternal nutritional status*

And *insufficient weight gain during pregnancy*

Affect **birth weight** and **foetal outcomes**

An **adverse effect** of maternal malnutrition on the foetus

Can be related to several factors, such as

**Inadequate** blood volume,

**Reduced** maternal nutrient stores,

**Impaired** maternofoetal exchange,

And **abnormal** placental development

# Pathophysiology

Poor maternal nutritional status in the first trimester

*May cause premature births*

And may increase perinatal mortality

And the incidence of congenital malformations in the central nervous system

Third trimester malnutrition results in

Delivery of a low-birth weight infant,

With increasing risk of neonatal death,

Or the need for prolonged therapy of a premature neonate

# Pathophysiology

The problem is **aggravated** because,

During **semi starvation**,

Maternal metabolism may preferentially

Maintain its own body stores

Rather than supporting the foetus

According to its needs

This **maternocentric priority** **continues during refeeding** such that

The mother may *rebuild her own body stores*

*Before supplying nutrients required for the growth of foetal tissues*

# ***Indications for and aims of nutritional Support***

Hyperemesis gravidarum

Inflammatory bowel disease

Short bowel syndrome

# Indications for and aims of nutritional support

**Nutritional status** influences fertility:

**Severe malnutrition** results in *lack of ovulation* and *secondary amenorrhoea*

This may be observed in patients with chronic intestinal failure due to

Inflammatory bowel disease,

Short bowel syndrome,

And anorexia nervosa

# Indications for and aims of nutritional support

In these patients,

Artificial nutrition is the **only way**

To improve and maintain nutritional status

And, consequently,

Offer the chance for conception and gestation

# Indications for and aims of nutritional support

**Nutritional deficits** may also occur

During pregnancy in women who were healthy before conception.

The most important cause is

Hyperemesis gravidarum with intractable nausea and vomiting.

Less frequent aetiologies of **pregnancy-induced malnutrition** include:

Coma caused by head injury or intracranial haemorrhage, bowel obstruction,

Abdominal surgery with an extended fasting period, cancer, diabetic gastroparesis, and pancreatitis



# Hyperemesis gravidarum

**Hyperemesis gravidarum** occurs

In *0.1 %-2.0% of pregnant women*,

And in *5%-10% of them* it is so *severe*

That hospitalisation and intravenous fluid and electrolyte replacement become necessary,

After rehydration and stabilization, an attempt can be made to begin normal nutrition,

Starting with *oral fluids* and advancing through *liquid to regular diet*

# Hyperemesis gravidarum

When this regimen is **unsuccessful**, **enteral nutrition** via a **nasoenteric tube** may be tried,

Although this can be **problematic**,

Especially in patients suffering from severe vomiting,

Which creates the additional risk of pulmonary aspiration

If enteral feeding proves **unsuccessful** **parenteral nutrition (PN)** should be considered

# Hyperemesis gravidarum

This can be given *initially* via a peripheral vein since

The hyperemesis often subsides after two or three weeks,

Especially when it occurs *near the end of the first trimester*.

In a few, very severe, cases it may be

Necessary to feed via a central vein

For longer periods

# Hyperemesis gravidarum

It should be noted, that in about 60% of these cases,

Substantial deficits of thiamine, riboflavin, and vitamin A are observed,

And *delayed nutritional intervention* in these cases may result in irreversible complications such as

Wernicke's encephalopathy in the mother,

And irreparable damage to, or loss, of the foetus

# Inflammatory bowel disease

The *risk* of malnutrition in women with inflammatory bowel disease  
Is high,  
And the course of pregnancy in these cases depends on  
Disease history,  
Its current activity,  
And the degree of intestinal failure

# Inflammatory bowel disease

**Artificial nutrition** seems to be

An *important means of maintaining normal nutritional status,*

As well as a

*Safe and effective treatment option*

*In the event of disease exacerbation during gestation*

# Short bowel syndrome

In the female patient with **SBS**

*Dependent on parenteral nutrition,*

*Previous treatment should be modified,*

To take into account the

*Increased requirements during pregnancy*

# Short bowel syndrome

It is of particular importance to ensure that **vitamin** and **micronutrient accumulation** and **deficiencies** are

**Identified and treated prior to conception.**

Equally, it is critical to **avoid overfeeding**

Interestingly, in patients with remaining bowel longer than **50 cm**,

Some **beneficial effects of gestation on intestinal absorption may be observed.**

In these cases the

**Increase in PN protein - energy supplementation**

**Should be lower than predicted** by ordinary calculations.



# Short bowel syndrome

Another important problem is

Estimation of water and electrolyte requirements

Given the *tendency to fluid accumulation and oedema*

*Frequent clinical assessment of mother and foetus*

Is needed with

*Subsequent modification of PN volume*

*And composition as appropriate*

# ***Parenteral nutrition in Pregnancy and lactation***

# Parenteral nutrition

## In pregnancy and lactation

If PN Is needed during pregnancy

For a week or so,

It is usually free of problems

When **longer therapy** is needed,

A **precise evaluation** of nutrient needs is **difficult**

Because of the dearth of scientific data

Concerning **PN requirements during pregnancy**

# Parenteral nutrition

## In pregnancy and lactation

In patients fed for long periods, subclinical deficiencies of

**Magnesium, zinc, phosphate, iron, folate, and vitamin B12** have been reported,

And additional supplies of **vitamin D** and **calcium** may be necessary

The requirements for micronutrients also depend on

the *primary disorder* adversely affecting **alimentary tract function**

# Parenteral nutrition

## In pregnancy and lactation

The **main goal of treatment** is to **obtain optimal weight gain** comparable to that of

The physiologically fed pregnant woman ( depending on **BMI**), i.e.,

Approximately 4 kg by 20 weeks

And 8 kg by 30 weeks of gestation

( And where thinner women should gain more and obese women should gain less weight),

As well as **appropriate foetal growth**, which may be evaluated by *ultrasonography*

Both methods should be used to monitor the efficacy of nutritional support

# Parenteral nutrition

## In pregnancy and lactation

Earlier reports suggested that **side effects** were related to

*Low quality of fat emulsions* or to *over rapid infusion*, and it has been suggested that

*Some fat emulsions are contraindicated during pregnancy*

The **present consensus** view is that *fat should be given*,

But administered *over 20-24 hours*,

As part of an *all-in-one mixture*,

To provide *25%-30% of total calories*

And the *sufficient amount of essential fatty acids*

# Parenteral nutrition

## In pregnancy and lactation

PN was first used during pregnancy by Lakoff and Feldman in **1972**

Now, well over *100 cases of prolonged parenteral feeding*

During pregnancy have been reported,

Most of them during the *second and third trimesters*,

And there are **fifteen** published reports

Of dependence on *home parenteral nutrition (HPN)*

*From conception to delivery*

# Parenteral nutrition

## In pregnancy and lactation

In Poland, 10 patients became pregnant while receiving

*HPN for 7-10 years*

Secondary to *severe short bowel syndrome*,

And the mothers delivered two healthy boys and three healthy girls at term.

Although some parenteral nutrition has been given via peripheral vein,

Most centers use *central venous catheterization*

For periods of *PN longer than 2-3 weeks*



# Parenteral nutrition

## In pregnancy and lactation

All nutritional guidelines for physiologic pregnancy

*Are valid for parenterally-fed pregnant women*

Daily requirements for nutrients

Differ in subsequent trimesters

And lactation

# Strategy of parenteral nutrition in pregnancy

Period	Strategy of parenteral nutrition
Prior to conception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Treat malnutrition effectively to full correction</li> <li>– Correct electrolyte and mineral deficiencies</li> <li>– Replete vitamins and trace elements</li> <li>– Adjust individualized nutritional regimen</li> </ul>
First trimester	<p>Monitor maternal weight gain and foetal growth parameters monthly throughout pregnancy and adjust formula to maintain foetus within optimal growing curve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– No change in the parenteral regimen or slightly adjust ca. 150 kcal daily if maternal BMI is low</li> </ul>
Second trimester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Maternal weight gain appropriate during the first trimester (i.e., 1–3 kg total) → no change in the regimen</li> <li>– Maternal weight gain suboptimal during the first trimester → add 300kcal and 10–14g protein daily to the regimen</li> </ul>
Second and Third trimester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Maternal weight gain 250–500g weekly → no change</li> <li>– Maternal weight &lt; 250–500g weekly → add 300kcal and 10–14g protein daily to the regimen</li> </ul>
Postpartum – Lactation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Standard regimen, but additional 6g amino acid/day</li> <li>– Extra fluids may be needed during breast feeding</li> </ul>

# Parenteral nutrition

## In pregnancy and lactation

However, increases in amounts of macronutrients are discussed,  
The **principal aim** being to

Monitor and follow  
The curves for maternal weight gain  
And ultrasound estimated foetal growth parameters

Women with **lower BMI** ( especially less than 18)  
Require greater increases in macronutrients in the nutritional formulas

Keep in mind that

*Fetal overgrowth is deleterious as well  
And leads to several health problems in future life*

# Parenteral nutrition

## In pregnancy and lactation

**HPN-dependent women** have a **higher risk** of development of **liver disease during pregnancy** compared with age-matched controls.

Two of 16 pregnant women described in the literature

Developed **cholestasis** *in the third trimester*.

This is an increase of 12.5%, compared with 1 % in the usual healthy population

It is very likely that

*excessive energy administration,*

or perhaps an *imperfect lipid emulsion composition* or *quantity*,

was responsible for this complication.

# ***Summary***

# Outline

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# Summary

In summary,

Pregnancy constitutes a special situation, in which

*Adequate nutrition is vital for both mother and child*

**Delay** in adequate nutritional support to

**Starving or semi starving pregnant women**

Adversely affects the foetus and may result in

Increased foetal mortality and morbidity

# Summary

**Nutritional support** should be implemented

Early and adequately in all such cases

To insure the most favourable outcomes.



***Thank you...***

***Alinezhadnm@mums.ac.ir***

