

AuSPEN Nutrition Support Study

AuSPEN Nutritional Support Study

The inaugural study of the AuSPEN Clinical Research Group got underway recently. This study which is an observation nutritional support practice in Australasian hospitals, was designed as a fairly basic research project, to encourage collation amongst AuSPEN members, but also to commence the process of determining what our current practice in Australia and New Zealand is, so as to assist in the design of future prospective multi-centre randomised controlled trials (RCT's).

It is perhaps a slight exaggeration, but for the 90 hospitals who were involved in this study, May 6th became the most in the history of nutritional support in Australia and New Zealand. Over the 24 hour "snapshot" period, information was collated on those patients receiving either enteral or parenteral nutrition. Practice patterns, such as the number of patients receiving nutritional support, the basic clinical indications for nutritional support, as well as the degree of adequacy and the major barriers to nutritional support will therefore be able to be determined.

So congratulations are due to all of those dietitians, doctors and nurses, who were involved in the data collection. With 90 institutions involved, we can probably expect to have enrolled somewhere between 2000 and 3000 patients in the study, a substantial study, and perhaps one of the largest ever completed in the field of nutritional support.

The collation and analysis of the results will no doubt be a pretty big job. A database is presently in the design phase, for data entry and statistical analysis will be done. The plan is to have the grouped results in a presentable format by the time of the AuSPEN Annual Scientific Meeting in October this year. Hopefully many of you will be able to attend this meeting to hear the anticipated release of these results.

This study is a terrific start for our AuSPEN Clinical Research Group. It hopefully augurs extremely well for future research, this is only possible because of the fantastic efforts of a huge number of people. Thank you to all of those who have been involved in this exciting study.

Andrew Davies

[BACK](#)