Author's response to reviews

Title: Nutritional Therapy and Infectious Diseases: A Two-Edged Sword

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To the Nutrition Journal Editorial Team

I have revised MS 3810836899819554 “Nutritional therapy and infectious diseases: a two-edged sword and I believe I have complied as completely as possible with the reviewers’ suggestions. Note that I have changed the title page because the Medical University of Ohio merged with the University of Toledo on 7/1/06. the email address and the phone numbers are unchanged.

In response to Dr Peterson:
1) the tables he requested have been added
2) a discussion of the possible bases of TPN’s deleterious effects on infection incidence was added on pgs 15 & 16 as well as 3 new references (65-67)

In response to Dr van Haren: The manuscript is written by an infectious disease specialist and aimed at physicians dealing with infected people and their questions about nutritional interventions. It has been my experience that the public assumes that physicians are ignorant about nutritional therapies and are ignoring a valuable therapeutic resource. This manuscript is configured as a review of the information of relevance to such physicians:
1) the inclusion criteria have been elucidated on pg 3
2) the manuscript’s scope is broad for the reasons stated above and the papers chosen for inclusion were intended to illustrate the level of investigation in the field. Meta-analyses were cited in areas where numerous smaller studies had been done whose recitation would be tedious
3) the reference to the Dietitians of Canada has been deleted
4) I have deleted the exclusion of large doses of vitamins
5) There are many definitions of malnutrition and the inclusion only of studies from the developed world is consonant with the goal of this manuscript
6) The evidence of the value of perioperative enteral nutrition is amply demonstrated on pgs 14 & 15
7) I believe the discussion on pgs 15 & 16 explains my belief that the components of TPN are not as important as is the lack of enteral nutrition
8) I reviewed only the immunonutrition articles dealing with infectious complications
9) The pg 3 title has been modified to mention the general population and those institutionalized (non-hospitalized)