Reviewer’s report

Title: Enteral nutrition in the critically ill child with shock: a prospective observational study

Version: 1 Date: 16 November 2007

Reviewer: Hilde Wøien

Reviewer’s report:

General
A well written interesting study with results that document the possibility and importance of choosing enteral nutrition for critically ill children with shock. I have only few comments regarding the need for more precise definition:
On page 5- how do you define or measure altered level of consciousness? Please describe shortly. Did the unit have a protocol of enteral feeding in front of the study? This may strengthen for example your aspiration routines in the study.
On page 6 you mention necrotising enterocolitis as a complication, please tell how to diagnose this.
Finally, do you mean that critically ill patients with shock do have the same caloric need as critically ill patients in general? If yes, please give a reference and argue that it is fair to compare the 2 groups in kcal/day. If no, you may describe shortly the consequences in the interpretation of the results
Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.