Reviewer's report

Title: Comparison of the effect of three different protein content enteral diets on serum levels of proteins, nitrogen balance and energy expenditure in critically ill infants: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

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Reviewer: Artur Delgado

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The study has a very interesting design and I consider the outcomes very important in the treatment of critically ill children in several clinical situations. However some aspects can be relevant to produce the final text: 1) It's not clear on the third group mainly and seems to be very much protein delivery and hyperproteinemia higher than 8.5 g/dL or serum urea levels elevation higher than 80 mg/dL without evidence of renal function disturbance or hypercatabolism insufficient parameters to diagnose early adverse effects. I suggest to review protein recommendations to avoid complications; 2) Other aspect is to administrate diets with complete protein (polymeric) by transpyloric tube mainly in children < 1 year old because the immaturity of digestive tract and increased risk of allergy in the future. I think that diets by transpyloric tube should be hydrolyzed, including the supplementary protein of the third group, mainly in that age; 3) Visceral proteins vary in accordance of inflammatory response and to evaluate in a correct way the results is necessary to monitor procalcitonin or same C-reactive protein at the same time; 4) I think that severe hepatic dysfunction should be a exclusion criteria because provokes changes in visceral proteins; 5) Anthropometry is essential for a current nutritional evaluation/classification and the protocol doesn't have many details about this aspect and bioimpedance could be a further good parameter.

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