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Nutritional Requirements and Parenteral Nutrition in Preterm Infants

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Neonatal parenteral nutrition has been in routine clinical use in preterm infants for more than 40 years and yet the field remains highly controversial. The initiation, targets and formulations for both macronutrients and micronutrients continue to provoke debate. This is reflected in variations in clinical practice which persist despite the move to more standardization and quality improvement in neonatal services. The PN-dependent period coincides with early postnatal metabolic and immune adaptation. The role of optimal parenteral immunonutrition while minimizing metabolic disturbance is a field of growing importance. Similarly, postoperative preterm parenteral nutrition after necrotizing enterocolitis provides even greater research complexity particularly in those infants facing the clinical challenge of long-term parenteral nutrition. Finally, there are the lifelong benefits and risks of preterm parenteral nutrition: brain growth and neurodevelopment versus adult cardiovascular and metabolic disease. This issue will tackle some of these research questions using the latest methodologies and clinical strategies.



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