



Exploring the Role of Parenteral Nutrition

Latest research and resources

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Parenteral Nutrition in Advanced Cancer: Publication of views from a UK roundtable discussion

For patients with advanced cancer and malignant intestinal failure, use of parenteral nutrition can limit malnutrition and improve survival and quality of life.¹ Although, a wide variation in PN use is observed in practise. To better understand this, the BSNA decided to host a roundtable to explore and discuss decision-making, current understanding, recommendations, and future landscape of home parenteral nutrition (HPN) use in advanced cancer. Chaired by two independent healthcare professionals and attended by twelve other healthcare professionals, who are regularly involved in the initiation and delivery of PN/HPN, this roundtable also incorporated a relative's perspective.

These discussions have helped to provide valuable insight and guidance for clinicians involved in decision-making around the use of PN and HPN, with a number of

panel recommendations made. The full outcome of these discussions has now been published in the *British Journal of Cancer Research*.²

The roundtable discussion also raised concerns around the transition of patients from hospital to home, when on PN, and has highlighted key resources that are needed to help support patients, carers and hospital staff. This includes:

- Educational resources around expectations, the process and the support that is required; this is essential to support decisions around home PN use.
- Funding for nurses to self-teach patients how to connect and disconnect whilst in hospital; this may facilitate discharge and reduce length of stay.
- A national database to collect information on Quality of Life for people on HPN; this is currently not available in the literature.

BSNA would like to thank all those involved in these important discussions!

Parenteral nutrition resources

In addition to BSNA's work on best practice in palliative oncology, we work with a wide range of organisations and healthcare professionals to provide educational resources and activities throughout the year.

Check out some of BSNA's Parenteral Nutrition Educational resources. All of the below Parenteral Nutrition Webinars are available at: <https://bsna.co.uk/webinars>.



Dietitians' Webinar series

These sessions provide an overview of the different routes of feeding and product types used and highlight where parenteral nutrition sits within the nutrition support continuum. The series explore:

- The indications for PN
- Licensing and preparation of PN and the differences between standard and bespoke PN
- How PN is administered
- Monitoring a patient on PN
- Considerations for patients on PN.

Nurses' Webinar

In addition to the general material covered in the dietetic series, this three-part series addresses nursing concerns such as:

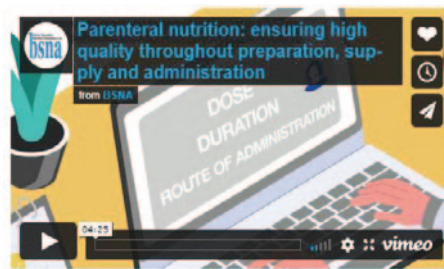
- Access points
- Management and monitoring of patients on PN
- Assessing patients for home PN
- Discharging home
- The role of the homecare nurse in management of patients on home PN.

This webinar is endorsed by NNNG.

Nutrition in Advanced Cancer

In collaboration with the BDA Oncology Specialist Group, is the more specific and targeted two-part webinar series on parenteral nutrition in advanced cancer. This includes discussions on:

- Decision making
- Guidelines and the rationale of starting nutritional support in patients with advanced malignancy
- Practicalities of establishing PN in this patient cohort
- Discharge pathways and the decision to stop nutritional support.



Parenteral Nutrition: ensuring high quality throughout preparation, supply and administration

The process of preparing PN is a complex one involving multiple, carefully controlled and regulated steps. These steps are essential to provide quality assurance of products during production, processing, delivery and administration.

You can read more about ensuring high quality throughout the preparation, supply and administration of parenteral nutrition by watching the BSNA video and reading the accompanying infographic.

Are you a student wanting to learn more about PN?

We offer comprehensive university education sessions

Since 2018 BSNA has been delivering parenteral nutrition education sessions to dietetic students at universities across England; more recently expanding to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The sessions provide an overview of parenteral nutrition, including:

- The indications of parenteral nutrition use and why PN is a valuable tool in the dietitian's toolbox
- Recognising the importance of a multi-disciplinary team approach to PN patient management
- Awareness of the type of conditions PN is used to manage
- How to determine the nutritional requirements for patients on parenteral nutrition
- Understanding the content and constituents of parenteral nutrition
- An overview of how parenteral nutrition is prepared.
- Understanding how PN is administered, monitored and stopped.

Although these sessions are currently targeted towards dietitians, we are looking to spread our reach to nursing students.

If you know of any university or course which may benefit from an education session on PN, please contact BSNA at:

info@bsna.co.uk.

The BSNA represents the three main manufacturers of parenteral nutrition (PN) in the UK: Baxter, B. Braun and Fresenius Kabi, and with our members, we work closely with organisations such as the British Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (BAPEN), the British Dietetic Association (BDA), Patients on Intravenous and Nasogastric Nutrition Treatment (PINNT), the National Nutrition Nurses Group (NNNG) and clinical experts to promote understanding of PN among healthcare professionals (HCPs) and raise awareness of best practice in patient care.

The BSNA recognises the existence of a gap in education and training opportunities on PN for current and future healthcare professionals. By providing opportunities for HCPs to understand, explore and appreciate the role of PN in the prevention and management of malnutrition, BSNA aims to contribute to appropriate, timely, and safe patient access to PN.

