Customizing Proteins, Fats and Carbs: A Balancing Act in the NICU

Presented by William W. Hay, Jr, MD, with Bethany S. Hodges, MS, RD, CNSC

Dr. Hay and Ms. Hodges discuss the balance of macronutrients in preterm infants, with a focus on the role of protein; the challenges associated with preterm infant nutrition in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU); unique nutritional needs of preterm infants; the implications of suboptimal protein intake on growth and development; practical recommendations for parenteral and enteral protein intake in the preterm infant; and the protein sources for preterm infants, including mother’s own milk, donor milk, and formula.

About the Presenters

William W. Hay, Jr, MD, was previously a professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. He serves as chief medical officer and a member of the clinical and scientific advisory board of Astarte Medical. Bethany Hodges, MS, is a registered dietitian at Bronson Children's Hospital in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where she specializes in neonatal nutrition.

Learning Objectives

• Describe the unique nutritional needs of preterm infants
• Relate the protein needs of preterm infants with growth and development
• Identify preterm infants whose nutritional needs are changing

Activity Format

This activity is an online enduring material. Successful completion is achieved by reading and/or viewing the material, reflecting on its implications in your practice, and completing the assessment component.

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