Parenteral and enteral nutrition
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## EDITORIAL

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- Some aspects of the use of fats in parenteral and enteral nutrition in infancy, *A. Ballabriga*  

## REVIEW OF SELECTED PAPERS FROM THE RECENT LITERATURE ON PARENTERAL AND ENTERAL NUTRITION

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## TRENDS
The idea of a temporary partial or total exclusion of the gastro-intestinal tract, with maintenance of a correct nutritional status, has permitted extraordinary support for thousands of children suffering from very varied conditions. The great experience, acquired in the last two decades with the use of the intravenous route for the intake of nutrients, has led to a better knowledge and understanding, and perfection of its techniques and indications. The earlier glucose-amino acid stage has given place to the addition of fat emulsions, and acceptance of the concept of total parenteral nutrition (TPN) has been achieved, at the same time as its indications have been successively widened. Its widespread use has allowed us to establish in a more defined manner the requirements necessary to avoid clinical or biochemical deficiencies in essential fatty acids, carnitine, trace elements and vitamins. The disadvantages and complications of TPN are also better understood.

Similarly, a better knowledge of the advantages and disadvantages of the parenteral route has led to an understanding of the need to maintain the function of the gastro-intestinal tract as far as possible, and different formulae and techniques of utilization of continuous enteral feeding have come into use with a reduction of some of the disadvantages of the parenteral route. Simplified diets and the availability of modular elements for dispensing different combinations of various nutrients have also been an important advance.

Sufficient experience exists in order to assess the medium- and long-term effects of the use of TPN and of continuous enteral feeding. The possible changes in the composition of body tissue induced by the use of such diets, are also better understood. In the present issue, qualified experts deal with these aspects in detail.

A broad bibliographical review of the most important articles which have appeared concerning this subject in recent years, together with our usual section of Trends, complete this issue of *Annales Nestlé*. We think that it will offer interesting and useful material for paediatric practice.

The *Annales Nestlé*
Editorial Committee