

Nutritional Treatment of Patients Operated on for Acute Mesenteric Ischemia

Timuçin Erol^{1,2}, [MD]

ORCID: 0000-0002-3475-3639

Şermin Ataç², [MD]

ORCID: 0000-0002-2940-3714

Kezban Akçay², [MD]

ORCID: 0000-0003-2848-3449

Nilgün Ölmez², [MD]

ORCID: 0000-0001-5823-8124

Nezih Akapulu¹, [MD]

ORCID: 0000-0001-7392-961X

Ahmet Doğrul¹, [MD]

ORCID: 0000-0001-9837-0787

Osman Abbasoğlu^{1,2}, [MD]

ORCID: 0000-0001-7069-929X

¹Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine Department of General Surgery

²Nutritional Support Department, Hacettepe University Hospital

Corresponding Author: Timuçin Erol
Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine Department of General Surgery & Nutritional Support Department, Hacettepe University Hospital.
Phone: +90 312 305 16 76
E-mail: timucinerol@hacettepe.edu.tr

<https://doi.org/10.32552/2021.ActaMedica.536>

Received: 11 November 2020, Accepted: 15 March 2021,
Published online: 25 March 2021

ABSTRACT

Objective: Acute mesenteric ischemia is a surgical emergency. During the course of treatment, most of the patients require nutritional treatment. However, achieving nutritional goals may not be always possible. This study aimed to investigate nutritional management of the patients who were operated on for acute mesenteric ischemia.

Materials and Methods: Patients who were diagnosed and hospitalized for acute mesenteric ischemia between 2015 and 2018 were retrospectively analyzed. Nutritional management of patients was studied in terms of hospital length of stay, mortality rate and achieving of nutritional goals.

Results: Thirty patient were included in the study and 18 patient received nutritional treatment. Median length of stay was 28.5 (range:9-220) days. Target nutrition goals were only achieved in 11 patients (61%). Overall mortality rate for nutritional treatment group was 50%. There was no significant difference between the patients whose treatment objectives were achieved or failed in terms of length of stay ($p=0.375$) or mortality [$p=0.630$ (95% CI 0,237-10,809)].

Conclusion: The management of nutritional treatment of acute mesenteric ischemia patients is challenging. Achieving the nutritional goals may not be possible in many patients.

Keywords: Mesenteric ischemia, short bowel syndrome, parenteral nutrition

INTRODUCTION

Acute mesenteric ischemia (AMI) is a sudden interruption of intestinal blood supply. Due to lack of collateral circulation, this situation often progresses to necrosis of bowel if early intervention is not performed. The incidence is quite low and diagnosis can be challenging. Delay in diagnosis is very common. Moreover, despite the utilization of endovascular techniques and appropriate

surgical treatment, morbidity and mortality rates are still high even in patients with early diagnosis [1]. Ischemia and the accompanying necrosis necessitates surgical intervention and resection of the necrotic bowel. The extent of resection depends on the amount of the bowel affected and can result in short bowel syndrome. Even in limited resections, patients may require nutritional treatment during

their hospital course. Most of these patients are old and have multiple co-morbidities which renders nutritional therapy even more challenging [2]. Under some circumstances, effective nutrition management may be more problematic due the patient's metabolic derangement. Interruptions of therapy and insufficient nutrient delivery are common problems in many patients [3].

In this study, we aimed to investigate the nutritional management of patients who were operated on for acute mesenteric ischemia in our center.

MATERIALS and METHODS

All patients diagnosed and hospitalised at general surgery department between 2015 and 2018

included to study included in this study. Patient's data retrospectively retrieved from General Surgery Department data base which prospectively collect all operated patient's data. AMI was diagnosed by physical examination, laboratory tests, radiologic imaging, operative findings, and proved by histopathologic examination of resected bowel (Figure 1).

Patients' medical reports, operation notes, and prospectively recorded nutrition treatment follow up forms were analyzed retrospectively (Figure 2) . Nutrition treatment aimed to reach 25 kcal/kg/d energy and 1.5 gr/kg/d protein to actual body weight. If the length of the remaining functional small bowel was less than 200 cm, in accordance with European Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition(ESPEN) definition and classification of

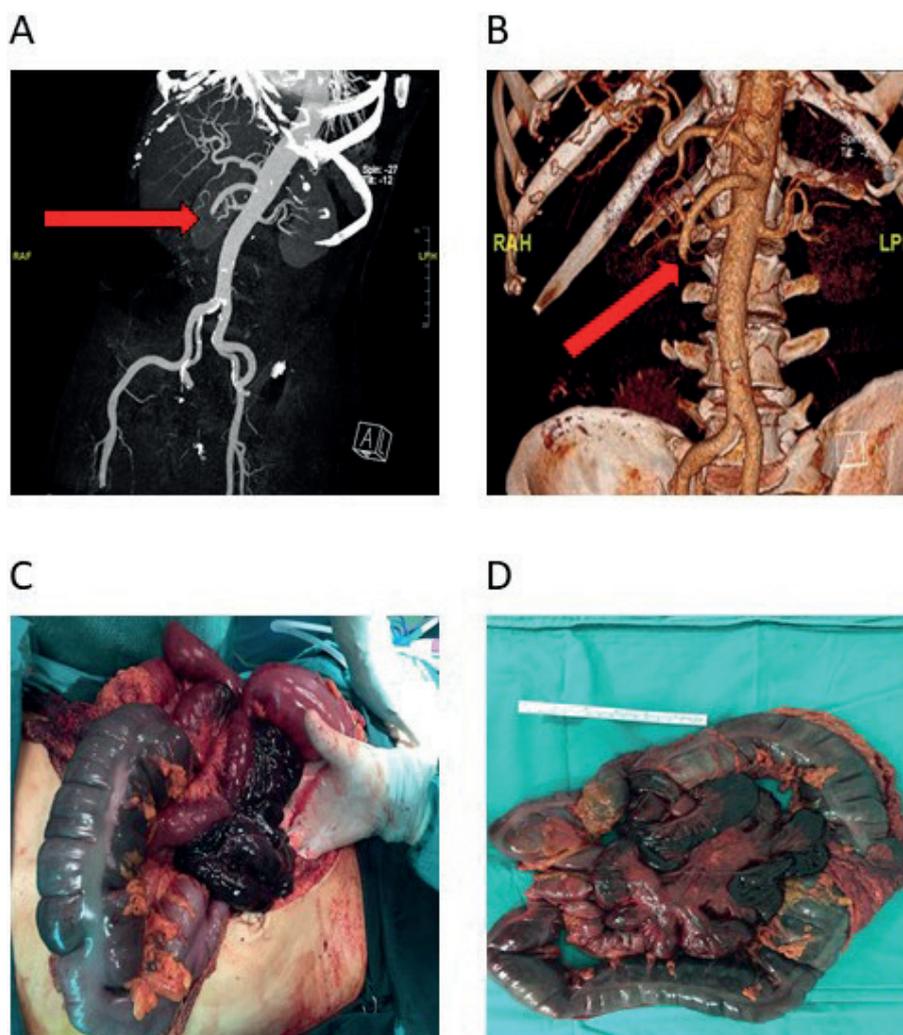


Figure 1. Preoperative imaging and intraoperative findings

A, B: Computerized tomography angiography and 3-D reconstruction images showing a case of total occlusion of superior mesenteric artery. Red arrow indicates the level of occlusion

C, D: Intraoperative appearance of ischemic bowel and specimen after resection.

HACETTEPE ÜNİVERSİTESİ HASTANELERİ **DIYETİSYEN İZLEM FORMU**

Erişkin Hastanesi Beslenme Destek Birimi

HASTANIN Adı, Soyadı : Tarih :
 = Adı, Soyadı : = Yaşı :
 = Doğu No : = Ağırık :
 = K : E : = Boy : = Ağırık :
 = BKE : = NRS :

= İstemedi Çıktı Tarihi : = İstemedi Çıktı Nedeni :
 Akciğerdeki Ağırık : İlaç Ağırık : Dişetişim Ağırık :

* Tanı/Klinik Durum :
 1.
 2.
 3.
 4.

* Geçirilmiş Ameliyatlarda :
 * Yatsıdaki Ameliyatlarda :
 * Tedavi Planı :

= BESLENME DESTEK TEDAVİSİ VERİLİYOR YOLU :
 Oral
 Enteral NG NS Gastrostomi Jejunostomi KJ Diğer
 Parenteral Santral Periferik

Kat.No: 410000 HB-F15/Rev:01/2020

NRS-2002 (Beslenme Risk Taraması)

Tarama

Nütriyon Durumundaki Bulunma	Hastalığın Şiddeti (gereksinimlerle artış)
Yük Skor 0 Normal nütriyon durumu	Yük Skor 0 Normal besinsel gereksinimler
Hafif Skor 1 3 ayda > %5 kilo kaybı ya da geçen haftaki besin alımı normal gereksinimlerin %50-75'inin altında	Hafif Skor 1 Kaçça Kemiklerde Kırık* Özellikle akut komplikasyonları olan kırık hastaları skora*, KDAK*, kronik hemodiyaliz, diyabet, emboli
Orta Skor 2 2 ayda > %5 kilo kaybı ya da BKE 18.5 -20.5 + genel durum bozukluğu ya da geçen haftaki besin alımı normal gereksinimlerin %25-50'i	Orta Skor 2 Majör abdominal cerrahi*, lama*, şiddetli anemisi, hematolojik malignite
Şiddetli Skor 3 1 ayda > %5 kilo kaybı (3 ayda > %15) ya da BKE < 18.5 + genel durum bozukluğu ya da geçen haftaki besin alımı normal gereksinimlerin %0-25'i	Şiddetli Skor 3 Kafa travması*, Kemik iliği transplantasyonu* Yoğun bakım hastaları (APACHE > 10)
Skor: +	Skor: - Toplam skor
Yaş >70 yaş ise toplam skora 1 ekle	= yaşa uyulanmış toplam skor

Skor >3: Hasta nütriyon riski altındadır ve bir nütriyon planı gereklidir

Skor <3: Haftada bir taramalı. Eğer majör operasyon planı varsa yine bir nütriyon planı geliştirilmelidir

NRS-2002 varolan randomize klinik çalışmalara dayanmaktadır. "işaretili tanı olan hastaların kategorizasyonunu doğrularak destekleyen bir çalışma var. İlaçlı gliseroller tanımlar yanda ve-ten prototiplere dayanmaktadır. Nütriyon riski, o andaki nütriyon durumu ve bunun stres metabolizması nedeniyle artan gereksinimlere bağlı olarak beslenme riski şeklinde tanımlanır.

Nütriyon destek planı ya hastalarla endikedir:

(1) şiddetli malnütriyonda (skor = 3), ya da (2) ağır hasta (skor = 3) ya da (3) orta derecede malnütriyon + hafif hasta (skor >1) ya da (4) hafif malnütriyon = orta derecede hasta (skor 1 +2)

Hastalığın derecesine ilişkin prototipler:

Skor=1: Kronik hastalığı olup komplikasyonlar nedeniyle hastaneye yatan bir hasta. Hazırlı- diğün durumdadır ancak düzenli olarak yataktan kalkabilir. Protein gereksinimleri artmıştır ancak oral diyet ya da suplenmanlarla karşılanabilir.

Skor=2: majör abdominal cerrahi gibi bir hastalık nedeniyle yatağa bağlı bir hasta. Protein gereksinimleri yüksek, klinik beslenme yöntemleri gerekli ve bu sayede açıkları kapatılabilir

Skor=3: ventilasyon desteği altındaki yoğun bakım hastası. Protein gereksinimleri yüksek ve klinik beslenme yöntemleriyle karşılanamaz. Protein yıkam ve azot kaybı görülebilir.

Tarih :
 Prealbumin :
 Albumin :
 CRP :

HACETTEPE ÜNİVERSİTESİ HASTANELERİ

HEMŞİRE İZLEM FORMU

Erişkin Hastanesi Beslenme Destek Birimi

İzlem tarihi:

Adı-Soyadı: Boy -Kilo: Çıktı tarihi:
 Dozuna No: NRS 2002: Çıktı nedeni:
 Bilgi/oda no: Prealbumin ilk: Prealbumin son:
 Yaşı: Cinsiyeti: 1- E 2- E CRP ilk: CRP son:

Ek hastalıkları: 0- Yok 1- DM 2- KDAH 3- KBH 4- KAH 5- KKY 6- HT 7- Karaciğer 8- Diğer

Yatış Tarihi:
 Hastalık öyküsü:
 Yatışındaki girişimler:
 BDT alma nedeni: 1- Dişli 2- İntestinal Obst. 3- Entübe 4- Proop destek 5- Postop destek
 6- Bilinç bozuk. 7- Karın içi enf. 8- Yetersiz/güvensiz oral alım 9- Diğer.....

BDT veriliş yolu: ENTERAL PARENTERAL
 1- Nazal yal 2- NG 3- ND 4- NJ 5- Periferik Süre:
 6- Gastrostomi 7- Apik 8- PEG 9- Radyolojik 1- Port 2- Hickman 3- İv
 4- SEV 5- Femoral 6- PICC
 7- Jejunostomi 8- Apik 9- G/Jejunostomi 1- Santral Kaneter tarihi: Çıktı:

Hedef kalori/protein: Hedef kalori/protein:
 Alışıldığı kalori/protein: Alışıldığı kalori/protein:
 Hedefle ulaşma durumu: Hedefle ulaşma durumu:
 Beslenme planı:

KOMPLİKASYONLAR

ENTERAL		PARENTERAL	
Gastrointestinal	Metabolik	Erişim Yolu	Metabolik
<input type="checkbox"/> Regürjitasyon	<input type="checkbox"/> Hipermotemi (elektrolit kaybı)	<input type="checkbox"/> Tıp tıkanması	<input type="checkbox"/> Hipermotemi (elektrolit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Aspirasyon Pnömonisi	<input type="checkbox"/> Hipofosfatemi (P<0.8mg/dl)	<input type="checkbox"/> Tıp yırtılması	<input type="checkbox"/> Hipofosfatemi (P<0.8mg/dl)
<input type="checkbox"/> Kusma	<input type="checkbox"/> Hipokalsemi (K<0.8mg/dl)	<input type="checkbox"/> Gömülü Tampon	<input type="checkbox"/> Hipokalsemi (K<0.8mg/dl)
<input type="checkbox"/> İshal (sıvı ve elektrolit)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hiperglissemi (glukoz >200mg/dl)	<input type="checkbox"/> Oksimil enfeksiyon	<input type="checkbox"/> Hiperglissemi (glukoz >200mg/dl)
<input type="checkbox"/> Kabızlık	<input type="checkbox"/> Hipermagnezemi (Mg >2.0mg/dl)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kuveme (1-1-1-1)	<input type="checkbox"/> ALT (U/L)*
<input type="checkbox"/> Distansiyon	<input type="checkbox"/> Hipermagnezemi (Mg >2.0mg/dl)	<input type="checkbox"/> İlaç (1-1-1-1)	<input type="checkbox"/> ALT (U/L)*
<input type="checkbox"/> Reaksiyon >500ml	<input type="checkbox"/> Hipermagnezemi (Mg >2.0mg/dl)	<input type="checkbox"/> İlaç (1-1-1-1)	<input type="checkbox"/> GOT (U/L)*
<input type="checkbox"/> Diğer	<input type="checkbox"/> Hipermagnezemi (Mg >2.0mg/dl)	<input type="checkbox"/> Diğer	<input type="checkbox"/> ALP (mg/dl)*
			<input type="checkbox"/> Total Sitrülin* *Normalin 2 katı ve üzeri

YAŞAMSAL BULGULAR	Tarih	Tarih	Tarih	Tarih	Tarih	Tarih
Ağırık						
Ateş						
KB (mmHg)						
Solumun desteği						
Vazopressor kullanımı						
ORAL BESLENME						
ENTERAL BESLENME						
EN ürün adı						
Hedeflenen EN miktarı						
Aldığı EN miktarı						
Uygulama hızı						
Su						
Ek modüler ürün						
Gastroit rezidü						
PARENTERAL BESLENME						
Hedeflenen PN miktarı						
Aldığı PN miktarı						
ÇIKARDIĞI						
İdrar						
NG/Gastrostomi						
Kusma						
Dren						
Fistül						
İleostomi						
Kolostomi						
Gaita						
Toplam Aldığı						
Toplam Çıkardığı						

İlaçlar:

Figure 2 . Follow up forms

intestinal failure in adults patients were classified as short bowel syndrome group [4]. Patients' demographic data, extent of surgery, intensive care unit and hospital length of stay (LOS), type of nutritional treatment, nutritional treatment duration, achieving nutritional goals, and 30-day and overall mortality rates were investigated.

SPSS software v23.0 (IBM Inc., Armonk, New York, USA) was used for statistical analysis. We used descriptive statistics to analyze the demographic data; chi-squared tests were used for multiple proportions, and a p-value <0.05 was considered significant. Continuous numerical variables were not normally distributed, and we presented them as the median value via the Mann-Whitney U-test. Categorical data were presented with frequency (%) and compared by chi-squared testing.

Informed consent was obtained from the patients and the study was approved by Institutional Ethic Committee (GO16/65).

RESULTS

A total of 30 patients (19 males and 11 females) were diagnosed and hospitalized for AMI during the study period. Twenty-five patients had additional co-morbidities including atrial fibrillation, diabetes mellitus, deep venous thrombosis, mitral valve replacement, vasculitis, and malignancy. Twenty-

nine patients were operated on due to AMI, and one patient was followed up non-operatively with anticoagulation. Operative procedures were evaluated in three groups: 1. Massive small bowel \pm colon resection, 2. Segmental small bowel \pm colon resection, and 3. other surgical procedures. After resection, intestinal anastomoses were performed in 16 patients while in the remaining operations were completed with an ostomy.

Patient characteristics and surgical procedures are summarized in Table 1.

The median hospital LOS was 20 days (range: 1-220) and median intensive care unit LOS was 6.5 days (range: 6-206). The 30-day mortality rate was 37.9% (n= 11), and the overall hospital mortality rate was 53.3% (n=16).

Eighteen patients received nutritional treatment during hospitalization, and the median duration of this treatment was 18 days (range: 3-128). Twelve patients did not receive any nutritional intervention due to early mortality (n=6) and early return to oral intake (n=6); the median length of stay in these patients was 11 days (range: 1-26). The operative mortality and overall mortality of patients receiving nutritional treatment were 27% (n=5) and 50% (n=9), respectively. The median LOS of the patients receiving nutritional treatment was significantly higher than those who did not [28.5 (9-220) days and 11 (1-26) days respectively]. Parenteral

Table 1. Patient characteristics and surgical procedures

Patient Characteristics		Number (n)	Percentage (%)
Age (median, range)	64 (19-87)		
BMI	26.8 (15.0-35.1) kg/m ²		
Gender	Male	19	63%
	Female	11	37%
Co-morbidities	Atrial fibrillation	5	16%
	Diabetes mellitus	5	16%
	Hypertension	10	32%
	Malignancy	6	20%
	Vascular diseases	6	20%
	Other diseases (Chronic renal failure, autoimmune diseases. etc.)	11	36%
Surgical procedures			
	Massive small bowel \pm colon resection	8	26%
	Segmental small bowel \pm colon resection	16	53%
	Other surgical procedures (Primary repair, total colectomy, segmental colon resection)	5	16%

BMI: Body mass index

nutritional (72%, n=13) was the most commonly used route followed by enteral (17%, n=3) and enteral plus parenteral combination (11%, n=2).

For the patients receiving nutritional treatment, we aimed to reach 25 kcal/ kg/d energy and 1.5 gr/ kg/d protein depending on the patient's general condition. These target levels were only achieved in 11 patients (61%). The main reasons for the failure were fluid restriction and patient's hemodynamic instability. There was no significant difference between the patients whose treatment objectives were reached or failed in terms of LOS ($p=0.375$) or mortality [$p=0.630$ (95% CI 0,237-10,809)] (Table 2).

In patients with short bowel syndrome, early mortality was seen in 1 of 8 patient (postoperative day 1). In addition to this, 4 patient died during the hospital course. Operative mortality rate was high as 62% (n=5). Five patients whose surgeries resulted in short bowel received only parenteral nutrition after clinical stabilization. All mortalities occurred in the parenteral nutrition group which progression to enteral or combined enteral plus parenteral nutrition was not possible.

DISCUSSION

Acute mesenteric ischemia is a surgical emergency with high mortality rates. To date no laboratory test can accurately diagnose the bowel ischemia or necrosis [5,6]. A high index of suspicion, early diagnosis, and prompt treatment are key factors for improved survival rates. Arterial emboli, thrombosis, venous infarction, and non-occlusive ischemia are the main causes of AMI [7]. Cardiac arrhythmia, endocarditis, vasculitis, cardiac failure, malignancies and hypercoagulability contribute to the disease process. Most patients have at least one co-morbidity as a risk factor for the development of bowel ischemia. Assessment of bowel viability by laparotomy or laparoscopy is indicated when overt peritoneal irritation signs are present. Reestablishment of vascular flow, resection of non-viable intestine, and preserving viable bowel are

the main goals of surgery [8]. Unfortunately, most patients in our series required bowel resection due to bowel necrosis and endovascular or open surgical revascularization techniques were not be possible. Late admission and delay in diagnosis are the main causes of this condition.

In our study, majority of patients received parenteral route alone (n= 13, 72%). This seems to be a deviation from recommendations. Guidelines recommend early enteral or combined nutrition for post-operative artificial nutrition after major abdominal surgery [9,10]. However, parenteral nutrition becomes necessary when enteral nutrition is not possible or inadequate due to impaired gastrointestinal function or presence of a high output stoma which are very common after surgery performed due to mesenteric ischemia. Two possible explanations of this high rate of parenteral route utilization in our study are; Patients whose operation resulted in short bowel syndrome require parenteral nutrition due to high stoma output or diarrhea at the early phase. Second, the high anastomosis rate and presence of intra-abdominal infections may render the patients not to use enteral route for several days (n=16).

Meticulous monitoring is crucial to avoid complications. Target levels of 25kcal/k/d energy and 1.5 gr/kg/d protein may be slightly lower than the actual requirements [9]. On the other hand, over nutrition may which increase the energy expenditure, oxygen consumption and carbondioxide production and can be dangerous.

In this study, the patients who required parenteral nutrition have a longer LOS. Patients who did not receive nutritional treatment had little resections and could quickly return to oral intake. Those who survived the early post-operative period were prone to type II intestinal failure due to surgical trauma, pre-existing co-morbidities, and accompanying septic or metabolic complications [11,12]. These patients eventually need complex and long-term nutritional management, which prolongs the LOS [13].

Table 2. Mortality rates and length of stay of patients who received nutritional treatment.

	Mortality (%)	Median Length of Stay (range)
Nutritional goals achieved (n= 11)	6 (54%)	37 days (11-220)
Nutritional goals not achieved (n=7)	3 (42%)	25 days (9-93)

The main limitations of this study are small sample size and retrospective nature. Multicenter prospective trials are needed to establish adequate nutritional management of patients undergoing surgery for AMI.

CONCLUSION

The management of acute mesenteric ischemia patients is challenging. Nutritional treatment is one of the most crucial components of this treatment. Reaching the nutritional goals may not be possible in many patients. Individualized and meticulous

nutrition treatment may help to improve patient management.

CONFLICTS of INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

FUNDING

None

REFERENCES

- [1] Eslami MH, Rybin D, Doros G et.al. Mortality of acute mesenteric ischemia remains unchanged despite significant increase in utilization of endovascular techniques. *Vascular*. 2016; 24(1): 44-52. doi:10.1177/1708538115577730
- [2] Acosta S, Björck M. Acute thrombo-embolic occlusion of the superior mesenteric artery: A prospective study in a well defined population. *EJVES*. 2003; 26(2): 179-183. doi:https://doi.org/10.1053/ejvs.2002.1893
- [3] Nurkkala J, Kaakinen T, Vakkala M, et.al. Factors associated with discrepancy between prescribed and administered enteral nutrition in general ICU. *Eur J Clin Nutr*. 2020; 74(2): 248-254. doi: 10.1038/s41430-019-0451-8. Epub 2019 Jun 13. PMID: 31197219.
- [4] Pironi L, Arends J, Bozzetti F, et al. ESPEN guidelines on chronic intestinal failure in adults. *Clin.Nutr*. 2016; 35(2): 247-307. doi:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clnu.2016.01.020
- [5] Powell A, Armstrong P. Plasma biomarkers for early diagnosis of acute intestinal ischemia. *Semin Vasc Surg*. 2014; 27(3): 170-175. doi:https://doi.org/10.1053/j.semvascsurg.2015.01.008
- [6] Evennett NJ, Petrov MS, Mittal A et.al. Systematic Review and Pooled Estimates for the Diagnostic Accuracy of Serological Markers for Intestinal Ischemia. journal article. *World J Surg*. 2009; 33(7): 1374-1383. doi:10.1007/s00268-009-0074-7
- [7] Bala M, Kashuk J, Moore EE, et al. Acute mesenteric ischemia: guidelines of the World Society of Emergency Surgery. *World J Emerg Surg*. 2017; 12(1): 38. doi:10.1186/s13017-017-0150-5
- [8] Bala M, Kashuk J, Moore EE, et al. Acute mesenteric ischemia: guidelines of the World Society of Emergency Surgery. *World J Emerg Surg*. 2017; 12: 38-38. doi:10.1186/s13017-017-0150-5
- [9] McClave SA, Taylor BE, Martindale RG, et al. Guidelines for the Provision and Assessment of Nutrition Support Therapy in the Adult Critically Ill Patient: Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) and American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (A.S.P.E.N.). *JPEN J Parenter Enteral Nutr*. 2016; 40(2): 159-211. doi:10.1177/0148607115621863
- [10] Weimann A, Braga M, Carli F, et al. ESPEN guideline: Clinical nutrition in surgery. *Clin Nutr*. 2017; 36(3): 623-650. doi:10.1016/j.clnu.2017.02.013
- [11] Pironi L, Arends J, Baxter J, et al. ESPEN endorsed recommendations. Definition and classification of intestinal failure in adults. *Clin Nutr*. 2015; 34(2): 171-80. doi:10.1016/j.clnu.2014.08.017
- [12] Park WM, Gloviczki P, Cherry KJ, et al. Contemporary management of acute mesenteric ischemia: Factors associated with survival. *J Vasc Surg*. 2002; 35(3): 445-452. doi:https://doi.org/10.1067/mva.2002.120373
- [13] Klek S, Forbes A, Gabe S, et al. Management of acute intestinal failure: A position paper from the European Society for Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism (ESPEN) Special Interest Group. *Clin Nutr*. 2016; 35(6): 1209-1218. doi:10.1016/j.clnu.2016.04.009