

iCAHE JC Critical Appraisal Summary

Journal Club Details

Date of submission	May 2012
Journal Club location	RAH
JC Facilitator	Claire Roberts
JC Discipline	Nutrition

Clinical Scenario

What is the evidence for (or against) using a Medpass (nutrition as medication) program in patients with dementia?

PICO:

- P** Dementia patients, all ages
- I** Medpass or low volume oral nutrition supplements, or oral nutrition support
- C** Comparing to no treatment
- O** Malnutrition &/or quality of life &/or mortality &/or falls risk &/or length of hospital/rehab stay &/or nutrition status

Article/Paper

Hanson L, Ersek M, Gilliam R & Carey T (2011) Oral feeding options for people with dementia: A systematic review, *JAGS*, 59: 463-472.

Please note: due to copyright regulations CAHE is unable to supply a copy of the critically appraised paper/article. If you are an employee of the South Australian government you can obtain a copy of articles from the [DOHSA librarian](#).

Article Methodology:	Systematic Review
Returned JC on:	2012
By CAHE staff member:	Namita M



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Ques No.	Yes	Can't Tell	No	Comments
1	√			Did the review ask a clearly-focused question? The main aim of the review is to evaluate the benefits of oral feeding options in people suffering from dementia.
2	√			Did the review include the right type of study? Yes, the review included both randomised and non randomised controlled trials. Is it worth continuing? Yes
3	√			Did the reviewers try to identify all relevant studies? All the databases like PUBMED/MEDLINE, EMBASE, Cochrane library, CINAHL and PsychINFO literature were searched between 1999 - 2009. Pearling of the selected articles was also done in order to find other clinical trials.
4	√			Did the reviewers assess the quality of the included studies? Two investigators graded the studies based on strength of evidence and risk of bias using the Cochrane rating approach. Studies meeting five to seven of the criteria on the rating scale were low risk.
5			√	If the results of the studies have been combined, was it reasonable to do so? No, meta-analysis could not be completed as the studies were heterogeneous in nature as there was variation of data at baseline.
6				How are the results presented and what is the main result? The results were presented in a table format Main results: High caloric supplements and other oral feeding options are helpful for people with dementia having feeding problems for gaining weight. Other feeding options like assisted feeding, appetite stimulants and modified foods may also help in weight gain and these may be combined with the supplement diet or used individually.

7		√	<p>How precise are these results?</p> <p>The results were reported in a descriptive order. Studies in regards to high calorie supplement were of moderate strength and those in terms of modified foods, assisted feeding were of low strength evidence.</p>
8		√	<p>Can the results be applied to the local population?</p> <p>This review was done on patients with dementia and thus cannot be applied to general population or other populations with nutritional deficits.</p>
9	√		<p>Were all important outcomes considered?</p> <p>The studies included the change in weight, BMI, physical and cognitive function, morbidity, mortality and wound healing as the main outcome measures.</p>
10			<p>Should policy or practice change as a result of the evidence contained in this review?</p> <p>Journal Club to answer.</p>

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