



University of
South Australia

International Centre for
Allied Health Evidence

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iCAHE JC Critical Appraisal Summary

Journal Club Details

Date of submission	2013
Journal Club location	Lyell McEwin Hospital
JC Facilitator	Anna R
JC Discipline	Nutrition & Dietetics

Review Question/PICO/PACO

- P** Patients with Oesophageal cancer undergoing radio therapy +/- chemo therapy
- I** Enteral tube feeding +/- prophylactic tube placement
- C** Patients who do not receive tube feeding but could be receiving oral nutrition support
- O** decreased malnutrition risk , improved outcomes in enterally tube fed patients

Article/Paper

Orphanidou, C, Biggs, K, Johnston, ME, Wright, JR, Bowman, A, Hotte, SJ, Esau, A, Myers, C, Blunt, V, Lafleur, M, Sheehan, B & Griffin, MA 2011, 'Prophylactic feeding tubes for patients with locally advanced head-and-neck cancer undergoing combined chemotherapy and radiotherapy—systematic review and recommendations for clinical practice', *Current Oncology*, Vol. 18, No. 4; e191- e201.

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: 2013

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Ques No.	Yes	Can't Tell	No	Comments
1	✓			<p>Did the review address a clearly focused question?</p> <p>This review aimed to determine the benefits and risks of prophylactic feeding tubes for adult patients with squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck who receive combined chemotherapy and radiotherapy. It was then intended that from these results recommendations on the use of prophylactic feeding tubes and the provision of adequate nutrition to this patient population would be made.</p>
2	✓			<p>Did the authors look for the appropriate sort of papers?</p> <p>Searches were conducted using the U.S. National Guideline Clearinghouse; the Canadian Medical Association Infobase; and the medline, CINAHL, embase, and Healthstar databases for guidelines published in English between 2001 and 2006. A comprehensive literature search was also conducted using electronic databases for primary studies published between 1984 and August 2006, this was updated in 2009 (after completion of a guideline). Medline, Embase, CINAHL, Healthstar and the Cochrane Library for primary studies published between 1984 and August 2006. The search was updated in November 2007.</p> <p>Additional papers were sought through the reference lists of published papers and reviews were scanned to identify additional studies and guidelines. Members of the expert panel also supplied bibliographies and papers from their personal files and proceedings of relevant annual meetings were examined for relevant abstracts.</p> <p>The full search strategy is available through the authors.</p> <p>Is it worth continuing? YES</p>
3	✓			<p>Do you think the important, relevant studies were included?</p> <p>Although evidence from well-conducted randomized trials was expected to be used to inform the recommendations, however, due to the low level of these identified on oncology nutrition, other study designs were examined. Studies were eligible for inclusion in the systematic review if they were published as full reports or publicly available abstracts in 1985 or later (that is, after the adoption of combined-modality treatment).</p> <p>Searches were not restricted by language.</p>

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Ques No.	Yes	Can't Tell	No	Comments
4			✓	<p>Did the review's authors do enough to assess the quality of the included studies?</p> <p>The authors did not report using quality appraisal tools, however, they did summarise the quality of the evidence in terms of a measurable and valid effect size and temporality of the association between prophylactic feeding tubes and patient outcomes (and stated this was weak).</p> <p>It was also reported in the review that the highest level of evidence available at the time of the systematic review came from nonrandomized comparative studies with contemporaneous controls (referred to as level 3 evidence).</p>
5			✓	<p>If the results of the review have been combined, was it reasonable to do so?</p> <p>It was not appropriate to perform a meta-analysis as the evidence included in this review came from descriptive studies and thus did not lend itself to quantitative pooling.</p>
6				<p>What are the overall results of the reviews?</p> <p>Due to the 'insufficient quantity and quality' of evidence, conclusions were not drawn about the effectiveness of prophylactic feeding tubes in patients with squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck who receive combined chemotherapy and radiotherapy with curative intent. However, recommendations from the expert panel have been included additional to the review of the literature (p e199).</p>
7				<p>How precise are the results?</p> <p>The precision of the results cannot be determined by the analysis in this review.</p>
8	Journal club to discuss			Can the results be applied to the local population?
9				Were all important outcomes considered?
10				Are the benefits worth the harms and costs?