

Similar outcomes for permissive underfeeding, standard feeding

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(HealthDay)—For critically ill adults, permissive underfeeding with full

protein intake is associated with similar outcomes as standard feeding among those with high and low nutritional risk, according to research published online Sept. 2 in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*.

Yaseen M. Arabi, M.D., from the King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and colleagues examined the effect of permissive underfeeding with full protein intake compared to standard feeding on 90-day mortality in a post-hoc analysis of the Permissive Underfeeding versus Target Enteral Feeding in Adult Critically Ill Patients trial. Nutritional risk was categorized by the modified Nutrition Risk in Critically Ill (NUTRIC) score.

The researchers found that 42.3 percent of patients were categorized as high nutritional risk and 57.7 percent as low nutritional risk according to the NUTRIC score. In the two categories, there was no correlation between feeding strategy and mortality (adjusted odds ratio, 0.84 [95 percent confidence interval, 0.56 to 1.27] for high nutritional risk and 1.01 [95 percent confidence interval, 0.64 to 1.61] for low nutritional risk; P for interaction = 0.53). Similar findings were seen in analyses using different definitions, with the exception of prealbumin.

"Among patients with high and low [nutritional risk](#), permissive underfeeding with full [protein intake](#) was associated with similar outcomes as standard feeding," the authors write.

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