



Effective Health Care Feeding/Nutrition Interventions in Cerebral Palsy Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Feeding/nutrition interventions in cerebral palsy will go forward for refinement as a systematic review. The scope of this topic, including populations, interventions, comparators, and outcomes, will be further developed in the refinement phase.
- When key questions have been drafted, they will be posted on the AHRQ Web site and open for public comment. To sign up for notification when this and other Effective Health Care (EHC) Program topics are posted for public comment, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/join-the-email-list/>.

Topic Description

Nominator: Health care professional association

Nomination Summary: The nominator expresses an interest in the comparative effectiveness of nutritional interventions in individuals with cerebral palsy and feeding difficulties, including anti-reflux surgery, gastrostomy, type of tube feeding (jejunostomy tube or gastrostomy-jejunostomy tube vs. typical percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy or surgical gastrostomy), food thickeners, nutritional supplementation, behavioral interventions, or other interventions to improve nutritional status in this population.

Staff-Generated PICO

Population(s): Individuals with cerebral palsy (especially severe) with feeding difficulties

Intervention(s): Food thickeners, nutritional supplementation, gastrostomy (including comparison of tube type), behavioral and other interventions

Comparator(s): Standard oral feeding

Outcome(s): Mortality; nutritional status; growth; health outcomes, including hospitalizations, episodes of pneumonia, asthma or other respiratory markers; quality of life; decreased time spent on feeding-related activities; physical and mental health of primary caregiver

Key Questions from Nominator:

1. In patients with cerebral palsy (CP) and difficulties with feeding, what is the effectiveness of anti-reflux procedures (since often done in conjunction with gastrostomy placement) or type of tube (J-tube or G-J tube versus typical PEG or surgical gastrostomy) and feeding interventions (food thickeners, nutritional supplementation, gastrostomy, behavioral interventions, etc.) in improving nutrition, growth, health, and quality of life?

Considerations

- The topic meets all EHC Program selection criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- Many children with cerebral palsy experience feeding problems, which can be associated with poor growth and health status. A recent systematic review across all types of interventions for feeding difficulties in cerebral palsy was not identified; therefore, a review on this topic may aid in care decisions for these patients.