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Foreword



Approaches to nutritional management of the surgical patient have continued to evolve. Nutritional status is a major determinant of outcomes for any type of surgery, especially for high-risk patients, and it is one of the few factors that may be modifiable. In this issue of *Current Problems in Surgery*, Dr. Daniel Dante Yeh from the Ryder Trauma Center at the University of Miami has assembled a group of experts from around the country to provide a masterful perspective on this topic entitled, "Advances in Nutrition for the Surgical Patient." They review the existing literature, providing explanation and justification for each of the approaches. They begin with a discussion of prehabilitation before elective surgery, the strategy of increasing functional capacity before the stress of surgery. They then focus on gastric versus postpyloric feeding and nutrition in severe acute pancreatitis. Advances in immunonutrition are addressed in significant detail. Subsequent sections cover protein requirements in critical illness, the evidence for early enteral feeding, advances in parenteral nutrition, and the use of intravenous lipids. They conclude with an insightful discussion of the nutrition literature and of appropriate endpoints for clinical trials. Their presentation is lucid and provides the perspective of experts in the field. This superb treatise is a significant addition to the literature on this subject and should become a valued resource for all clinicians managing surgical patients.

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