

Response to Comment on ‘Meta-Analysis of Early Enteral Nutrition Provided Within 24 Hours of Admission on Clinical Outcomes in Acute Pancreatitis’

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We appreciate the careful reading of our article by Dijk and Bakker. The inclusion and exclusion criteria in our study are carefully defined. Therefore, we insist that the results of our current study are indisputable. There are a few points that need to be addressed.

First, our study is focused on whether enteral nutrition (EN) initiated within 24 hours of admission could bring benefits in different severities of acute pancreatitis (AP). One of inclusion criteria in our study is according to the timing of EN initiation within 24 hours of admission in AP, regardless of the nutrition form in the controlled group (parenteral nutrition (PN) or EN after 24 hours of admission). On the basis of our study methodology, it is credible to conclude that early EN within 24 hours seems to be beneficial in predicted severe acute pancreatitis (pSAP) or severe acute pancreatitis (SAP) by significantly decreasing the risk of multiple organ failure and pancreatic infections compared with PN or EN outside of 24 hours. Furthermore, in our limitations, we discussed the point that different feeding routes of EN and control groups in the trials may have influenced the data correction, and only 3 trials controlled with late EN. However, 2 of the studies showed that early EN within 24 hours seems not to be beneficial for AP,^{1,2} in accordance with our conclusion. Bakker has suggested that compared with late EN, early EN within 24 hours provided no benefit for patients with AP, but the data seem show beneficial clinical outcomes in pSAP or SAP.³

We would like to thank Dijk and Bakker for their kind and professional proposals on our methodology. However,

according to the explanation above, we insist on the conclusions that early EN within 24 hours seems to be beneficial in pSAP or SAP by significantly decreasing the risk of multiple organ failure and pancreatic infections compared with PN or EN outside of 24 hours.

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Linked content: This letter to the editor is related to the following letter by van Dijk et al.: <https://doi.org/10.1002/jpen.1179> and also to the following article by Qi et al.: <https://doi.org/10.1002/jpen.1139>

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