

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF AN ENTERAL TUBE FEED CONTAINING FOOD-DERIVED INGREDIENTS ON SYMPTOM CONTROL AFTER TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY?



PATIENT Y

27-year-old female living with a traumatic brain injury (TBI), dystonia, epilepsy and pseudo-obstruction of the bowel



- Balloon retained gastrostomy tube, a ventriculoperitoneal shunt and tracheostomy tube in situ
- Previously stable on a high fibre and low kcal/ml polymeric enteral tube feed

PRESENTATION:

- After an admission to hospital Patient Y began to show issues of poor tolerance to their low kcal/ml polymeric enteral tube feed:
 - Dramatic increase to obese BMI
 - Faecal loading and chronic constipation, likely as a result of ongoing metabolic dysfunction
- Rate and volume of feed was reduced with no significant impact on weight or symptom control



NOTE:

- TBI can result in changes to cerebral and systemic metabolism, resulting in metabolic dysfunction³
- Nutritional requirements may be significantly impacted compared to individuals living without a TBI

The care team decided to trial a peptide enteral tube feed to see if the pre-digestion of components would improve nutrient absorption and the symptoms of discomfort and intolerance

Initial trial:

Switched to a low volume 1kcal/ml peptide enteral tube feed with low osmolality

- Bowel frequency and GI gas showed some improvement
- Weight and abdominal distension decreased slightly, though not to a clinically significant degree

2 weeks after initial trial:

Patient Y's symptoms persisted, with ongoing discomfort and wider clinical implications, including recurrent aspiration pneumonias secondary to vomiting episodes associated with gastric stasis

Switch to Compleat® Nature Mix 1.5 Protein:

Decision to switch made based on clinical trial evidence of GI symptom improvements and patient tolerance, including bloating, wind and gas²



Switching to an enteral tube feed with food-derived ingredients improved Patient Y's symptoms, meaning she is able to remain cared for in the community without acute illness or infection

Outcome: 4-weeks post-switch to Compleat® Nature Mix 1.5 Protein



Improved abdominal distention & weight loss

Patient Y began losing a slow and steady amount of weight, improving their comfort, and reducing symptoms



Improved management of constipation

Reliance on enemas reduced and bowel care was maintained with osmotic enemas and the enteral feed with food-derived ingredients alone



Improved mental health

Patient X was happier and no longer displaying signs of agitation or discomfort