

CAN AN ENTERAL TUBE FEED CONTAINING FOOD-DERIVED INGREDIENTS IMPROVE SYMPTOMS OF NAUSEA, VOMITING AND POOR STOOL QUALITY?



PATIENT Z

29-year-old female with a history of loose stools, nausea and vomiting

- Past medical history of osteoarthritis, Crohn's disease, coeliac disease, dermatitis, pancytopenia, hypermobility syndrome and depression

PRESENTATION:

- Admitted to hospital following an adverse reaction to medication
- Reported ongoing food intolerance and reduced oral intake
- No evidence of dysphagia
- Unable to meet full nutritional requirements orally

Discharged on small amounts of oral diet and fluids alongside nasogastric tube feeding.

NUTRITION:

- Receiving 1.5 kcal/ml peptide-based enteral tube feed
- Over several weeks progressive loss of tolerance for oral intake and marked reduction in enteral feed tolerance

An urgent medical review of Patient Z was requested:

Initial review:

Patient Z was losing a significant amount of weight and was experiencing worsening GI symptoms

- Presented with 15% weight loss and a low BMI and was now underweight
- Vomiting numerous times a day
- Stools were offensive, light coloured and greasy



Switch to Compleat® Nature Mix 1.5 Protein:

Small but non-significant weight gain and less frequent stools that continued to be offensive Patient X continued to be agitated and distressed



Switching to an enteral tube feed containing food-derived ingredients improved Patient Z's symptom management and helped her meet her nutritional requirements

Outcome: 7-days after switch to Compleat® Nature Mix 1.5 Protein



Improved stool consistency and GI symptoms

- Stool consistency significantly improved
- Nausea and vomiting significantly reduced



Improved quality of life

Vomiting reduced from 5-6 times per day to 3-4 times per week, significantly improving her quality of life and wellbeing



Allowed for increased oral intake

Received 500ml of Compleat® Nature Mix 1.5 Protein per day. Although this did not meet her full nutritional requirements, it played an important role in enabling Patient Z to slowly build up her oral intake and minimise her risk of refeeding syndrome