

# Malnutrition beim internistisch geriatrischen Patienten: die EFFORT Studie

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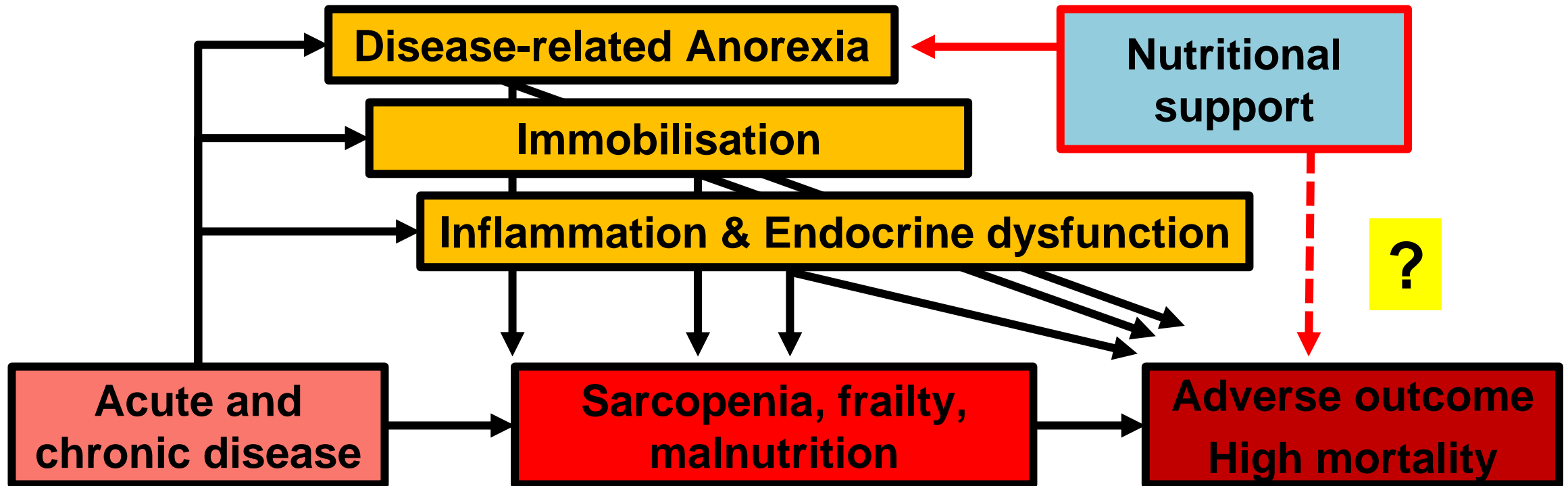
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# Pathophysiology of Malnutrition: Our current concept



## Individualised nutritional support in medical inpatients at nutritional risk: a randomised clinical trial **EFFORT Trial**



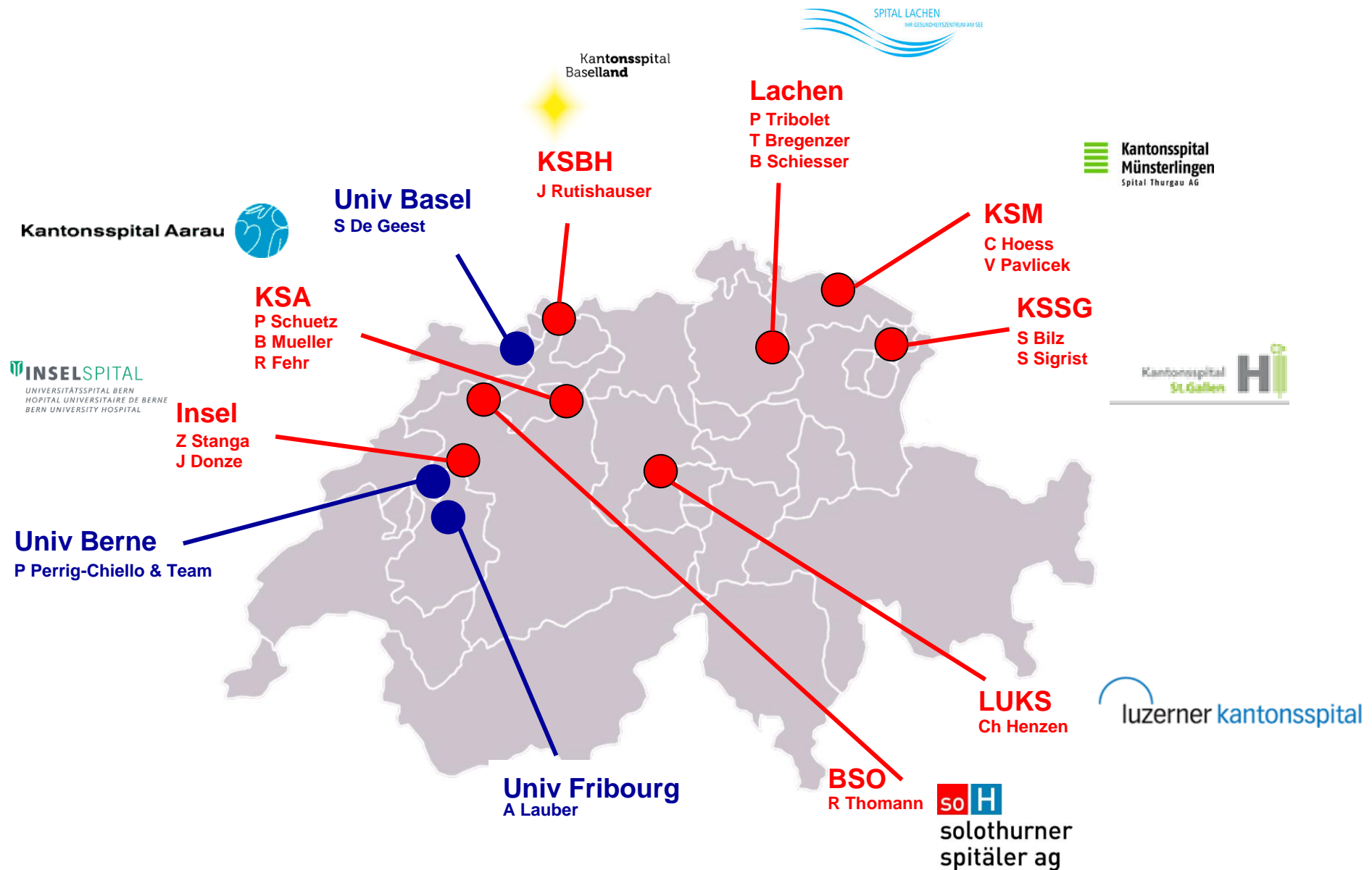
*Philipp Schuetz, Rebecca Fehr, Valerie Baechli, Martina Geiser, Manuela Deiss, Filomena Gomes, Alexander Kutz, Pascal Tribolet, Thomas Bregenzer, Nina Braun, Claus Hoess, Vojtech Pavlicek, Sarah Schmid, Stefan Bilz, Sarah Sigrist, Michael Brändle, Carmen Benz, Christoph Henzen, Silvia Mattmann, Robert Thomann, Claudia Brand, Jonas Rutishauser, Drahomir Aujesky, Nicolas Rodondi, Jacques Donzé, Zeno Stanga\*, Beat Mueller\**

### Summary

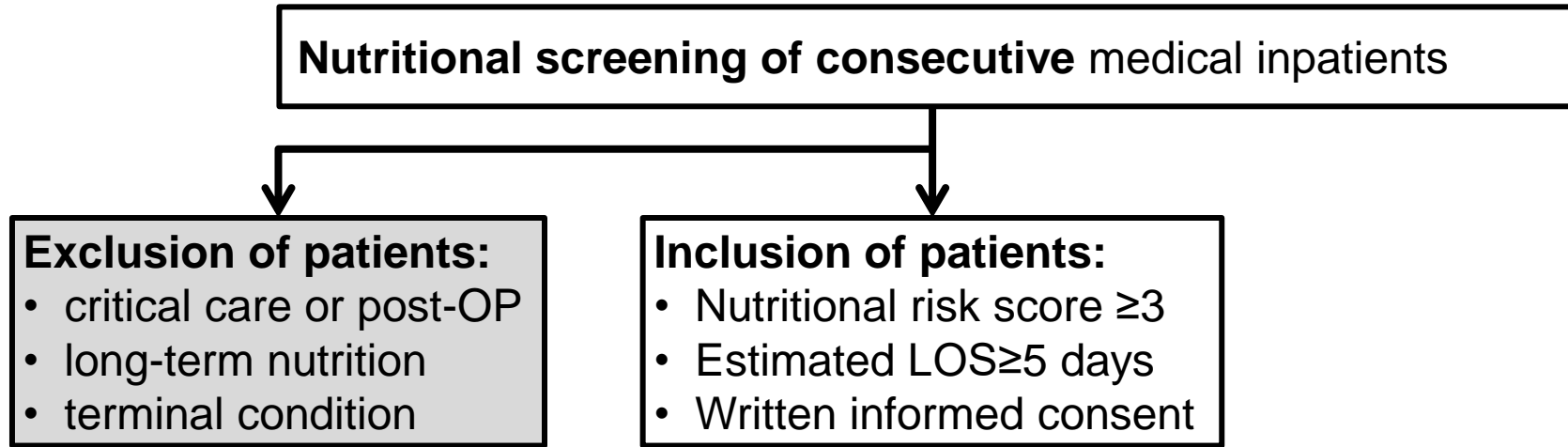
**Background** Guidelines recommend the use of nutritional support during hospital stays for medical patients (patients not critically ill and not undergoing surgical procedures) at risk of malnutrition. However, the supporting evidence for this recommendation is insufficient, and there is growing concern about the possible negative effects of nutritional therapy during acute illness on recovery and clinical outcomes. Our aim was thus to test the hypothesis that protocol-

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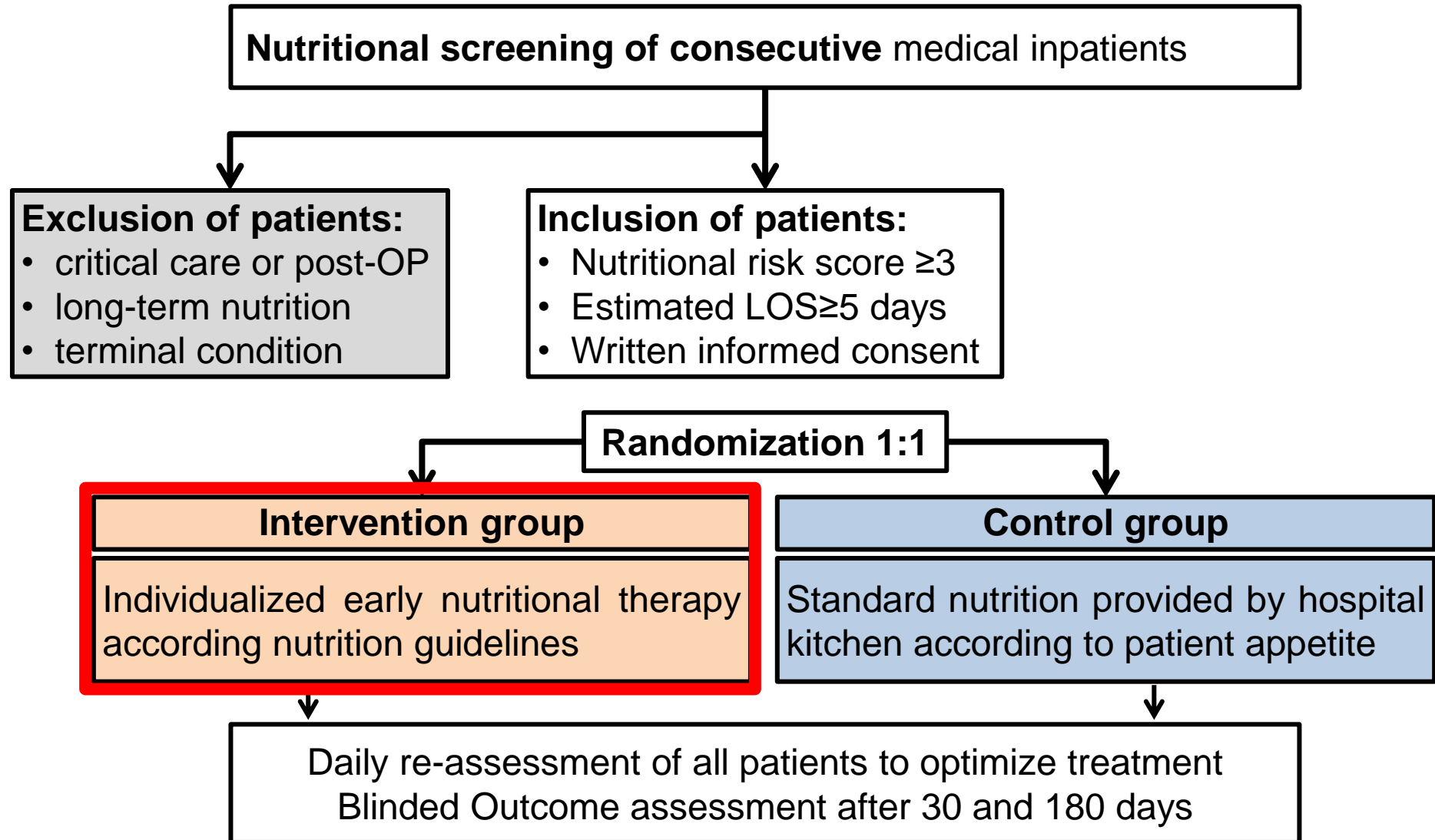
# Swiss-wide network



# The EFFORT trial - study flow diagram (1/2)



# The EFFORT trial - study flow diagram (2/2)



# Step 1: Screening and Assessment

Nutrition risk screening (NRS 2002) within 48 h of hospital admission in all patients

If increased risk for malnutrition → individual assessment of the patient → if risk for malnutrition is present and nutritional therapy is not contraindicated → establish a strategy to achieve individual nutritional targets

Individual nutrition targets

**Caloric requirements**  
Harris-Benedict equation  
with adjusted bodyweight  
or indirect calorimetry

**Protein requirements**  
1.2–1.5 g/kg bodyweight  
per day (0.8 g/kg of  
bodyweight per day in  
patients with renal failure  
with no dialysis)

**Micronutrient  
requirements**  
Multivitamin use; other  
micronutrients  
according to specific  
laboratory results

**Specific targets**  
Disease-specific  
adaptations  
(eg. medium-chain  
triglycerides, low  
potassium in patients  
with renal failure)

Nutrition risk screening (NRS 2002) within 48 h of hospital admission in all patients

If increased risk for malnutrition → individual assessment of the patient → if risk for malnutrition is present and nutritional therapy is not contraindicated → establish a strategy to achieve individual nutritional targets

Individual nutrition targets

**Caloric requirements**  
Harris-Benedict equation with adjusted bodyweight or indirect calorimetry

**Protein requirements**  
1.2–1.5 g/kg bodyweight per day (0.8 g/kg of bodyweight per day in patients with renal failure with no dialysis)

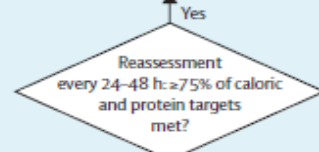
**Micronutrient requirements**  
Multivitamin use; other micronutrients according to specific laboratory results

**Specific targets**  
Disease-specific adaptations (eg, medium-chain triglycerides, low potassium in patients with renal failure)

Strategy to reach the nutrition targets

Level 1: oral nutrition (meals adapted to preferences, food fortification or enrichment, and snacks between meals) and oral nutritional supplements

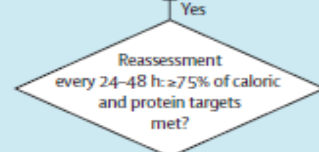
+ Multivitamins and multimineral supplements according to 100% of recommended dietary allowance



After 5 days escalate to level 2

Level 2: enteral nutrition

+ Oral nutrition, no additional vitamins and mineral supplements needed if enteral nutrition provides ≥1500 kcal per day



After 5 days escalate to level 3

Level 3: parenteral nutrition

+ Enteral and oral nutrition

Use concomitant minimal oral or enteral nutrition (to avoid villous atrophy)

1. Malnutrition screening (NRS 2002)

2. Definition of individual nutritional goals

3. Individual nutritional intervention to reach goals

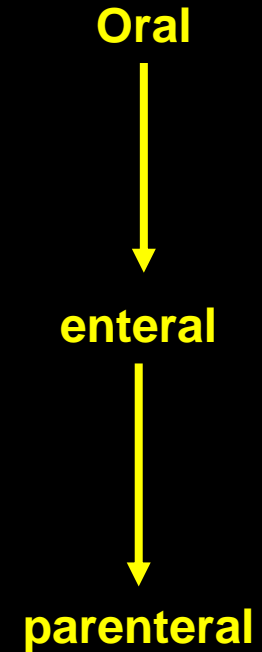


Figure 1: Nutritional algorithm used during the trial  
Reproduced from Bounoure et al.,<sup>19</sup> by permission of Elsevier.



	Intervention group (n=1015)	Control group (n=1013)
<b>Sociodemographics</b>		
Mean age (years)	72.4 (14.1)	72.8 (14.1)
<b>Age group</b>		
<65 years	177 (17%)	178 (18%)
65-75 years	349 (34%)	322 (32%)
>75 years	489 (48%)	513 (51%)
Male sex	525 (52%)	539 (53%)
<b>Nutritional assessment</b>		
Mean body-mass index (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )*	24.9 (5.4)	24.7 (5.3)
Mean bodyweight (kg)	70.9 (16.4)	70.9 (16.4)
<b>NRS 2002 score (%)†</b>		
3 points	310 (31%)	314 (31%)
4 points	391 (39%)	384 (38%)
5 points	263 (26%)	261 (26%)
>5 points	51 (5%)	54 (5%)
<b>Admission diagnosis</b>		
Infection	298 (29%)	315 (31%)
Cancer	201 (20%)	173 (17%)
Cardiovascular disease	92 (9%)	113 (11%)
Failure to thrive	99 (10%)	95 (9%)
Lung disease	50 (5%)	75 (7%)
Gastrointestinal disease	96 (9%)	68 (7%)
Neurological disease	42 (4%)	53 (5%)
Renal disease	34 (3%)	34 (3%)
Metabolic disease‡	30 (3%)	32 (3%)
Other	30 (3%)	25 (2%)
<b>Comorbidity</b>		
Hypertension	557 (55%)	552 (54%)
Malignant disease	338 (33%)	329 (32%)
Chronic kidney disease	323 (32%)	318 (31%)
Coronary heart disease	287 (28%)	279 (28%)
Diabetes	215 (21%)	213 (21%)
Congestive heart failure	174 (17%)	179 (18%)
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	147 (14%)	156 (15%)
Peripheral arterial disease	80 (8%)	106 (10%)
Cerebrovascular disease	75 (7%)	87 (9%)
Dementia	39 (4%)	36 (4%)

Data are number of participants (%) or mean (SD). There were no significant differences between the groups at baseline, except for admission diagnosis of gastrointestinal disease and lung disease, and comorbidity of peripheral arterial disease.\*The body-mass index is the weight in kilograms divided by the square of the height in metres. †Scores on nutritional risk screening range from 0 to 7, with a score of 3 or more identifying patients at nutritional risk and higher scores indicating increased risk. ‡Metabolic disease included, but was not limited to, hypoglycaemia, hyperglycaemia, ketoacidosis, electrolyte disturbances including hyponatraemia and hypernatraemia, hypokalaemia, and hyperkalaemia. NRS 2002=nutritional risk screening 2002.

Table 1: Characteristics of the patients at trial entry

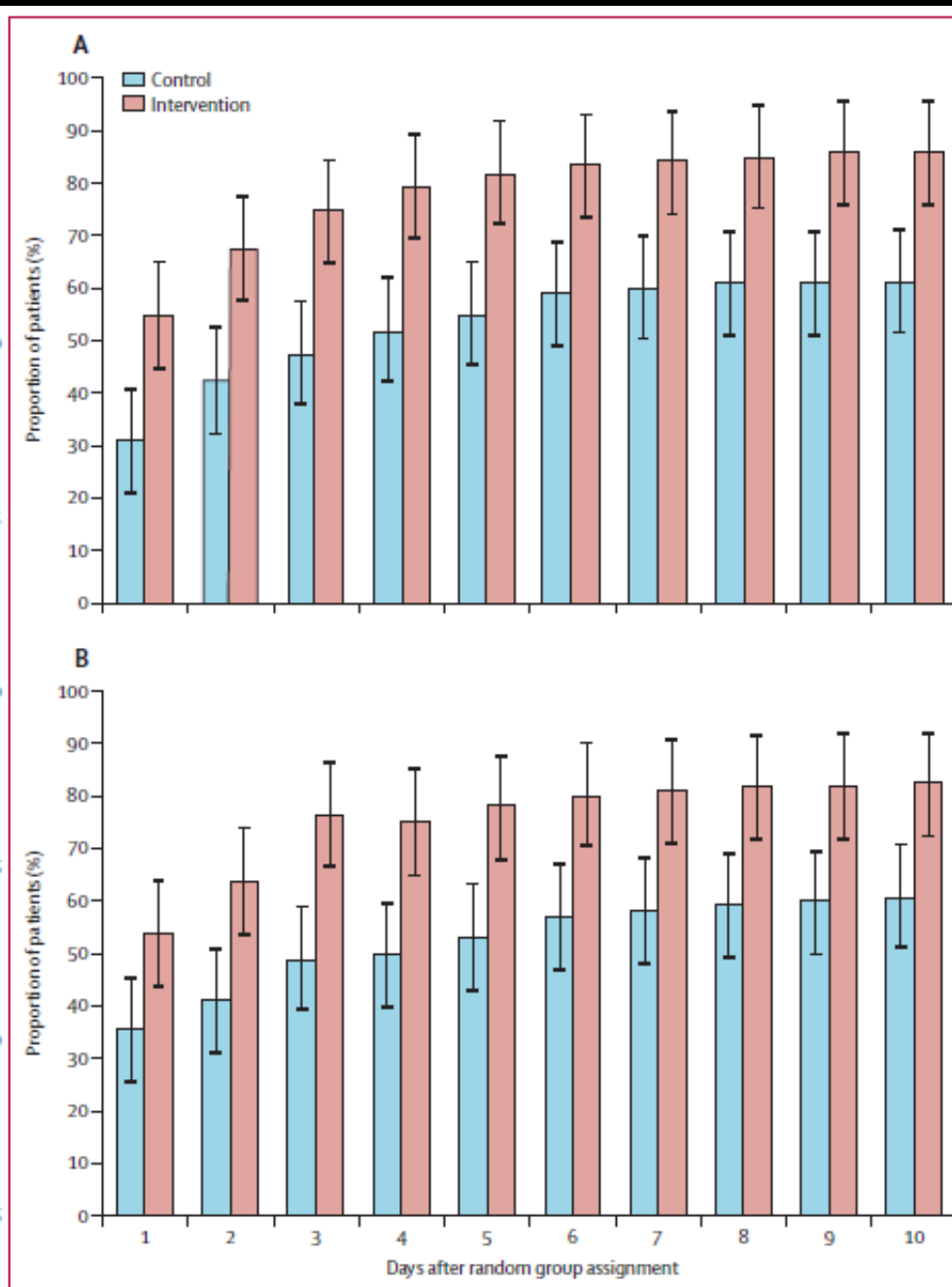
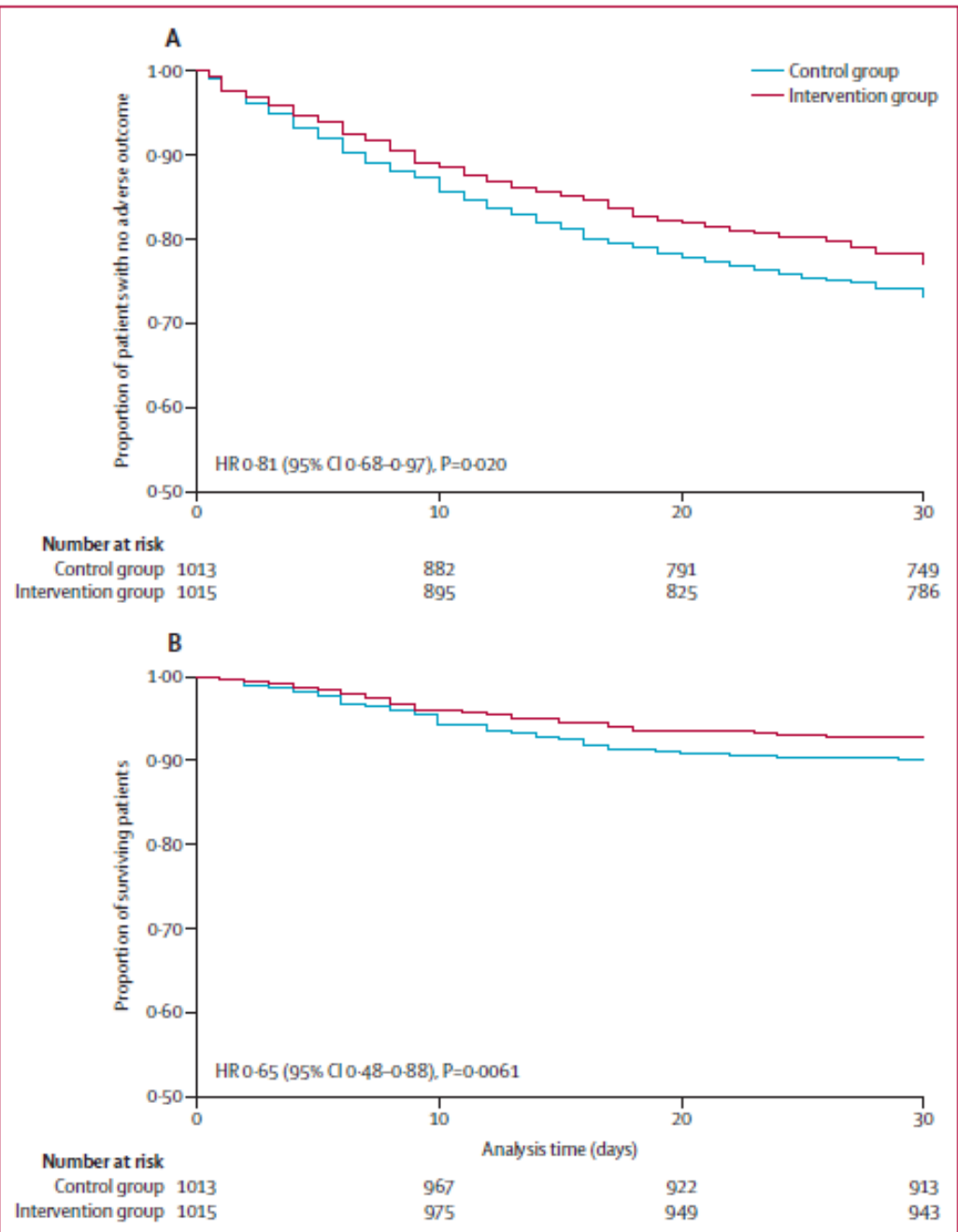


Figure 3: Proportion of patients reaching caloric (A) and protein (B) requirements during the first 10 days after random group assignment



**Complications**  
**26.9% (Controls) vs 22.9% (Intervention)**  
**Number needed to treat (NNT): 25**

**Mortality**  
**9.9% (Controls) vs 7.2% (Intervention)**  
**Number needed to treat (NNT): 37**

Figure 4: Kaplan-Meier estimates of the cumulative incidence of the primary endpoint and all-cause mortality (A) Time to the first event of the composite primary endpoint (log-rank p value=0.035). (B) Time to death (log-rank p value=0.031).

	Intervention group (n=1015)	Control group (n=1013)	Odds ratio or coefficient (95% CI)	p value
<b>Outcomes</b>				
Primary outcome				
Adverse outcome within 30 days	232 (23%)	272 (27%)	0.79 (0.64 to 0.97)	0.023
Single components of primary outcome				
All-cause mortality	73 (7%)	100 (10%)	0.65 (0.47 to 0.91)	0.011
Admission to the intensive care unit	23 (2%)	26 (3%)	0.85 (0.48 to 1.51)	0.58
Non-elective hospital readmission	89 (9%)	91 (9%)	0.99 (0.73 to 1.35)	0.96
Major complications				
Any major complication	74 (7%)	76 (8%)	0.95 (0.68 to 1.34)	0.79
Nosocomial infection	40 (4%)	39 (4%)	1.01 (0.63 to 1.59)	0.98
Respiratory failure	14 (1%)	13 (1%)	1.06 (0.49 to 2.28)	0.89
Major cardiovascular event	8 (1%)	7 (1%)	1.11 (0.40 to 3.11)	0.84
Acute kidney failure	32 (3%)	31 (3%)	1.01 (0.61 to 1.69)	0.96
Gastrointestinal events	9 (1%)	15 (1%)	0.57 (0.25 to 1.31)	0.19
Decline in functional status of $\geq 10\%^*$	35 (4%) of 942	55 (6%) of 913	0.62 (0.40 to 0.96)	0.034
Additional secondary outcomes				
Mean length of stay (days)	9.5 (7.0)	9.6 (6.1)	-0.21 (-0.76 to 0.35)	0.46
Mean Barthel score (points)*	88 (26)	85 (30)	3.26 (0.93 to 5.60)	0.006
Mean EQ-5DVAS (points)†	59 (26)	56 (29)	3.06 (0.53 to 5.59)	<0.0001
Mean EQ-5D index (points)	0.75 (0.32)	0.73 (0.34)	0.13 (0.09 to 0.17)	0.018
<b>Side-effects from nutritional support</b>				
All side-effects	162 (16%)	145 (14%)	1.16 (0.90 to 1.51)	0.26
Gastrointestinal side-effects	43 (4%)	40 (4%)	1.12 (0.68 to 1.83)	0.66
Complications due to enteral feeding or parenteral nutrition	5 (<1%)	3 (<1%)	1.63 (0.38 to 6.95)	0.51
Liver or gall bladder dysfunction	4 (<1%)	7 (1%)	0.54 (0.15 to 1.91)	0.34
Severe hyperglycaemia	48 (5%)	46 (5%)	1.06 (0.69 to 1.61)	0.80
Refeeding syndrome	86 (8%)	73 (7%)	1.21 (0.86 to 1.70)	0.27

Data are number of events (%), unless otherwise stated. All odds ratios were calculated with a logistic regression for binary data and linear regression for continuous data. Models were adjusted for predefined prognostic factors (initial nutritional risk screening score and baseline Barthel index) and study centre. \*To estimate decline in functional status, we used the Barthel index (scores range from 0 to 100, with higher scores indicating better functional status) and compared initial scores on admission with scores at day 30; only surviving patients were included in this analysis. †To estimate quality of life we used the European Quality of Life 5 Dimensions index (EQ-5D; values range from -0.205 to 1, with higher scores indicating better quality of life) including the visual-analogue scale (EQ-5D VAS; scores range from 0 to 100, with higher scores indicating better health status).

Table 2: Endpoints and adverse events

Is there a **legacy effect** inhospital nutrition  
after long term follow-up?



## Randomized Control Trials

## Six-month outcomes after individualized nutritional support during the hospital stay in medical patients at nutritional risk: Secondary analysis of a prospective randomized trial

Nina Kaegi-Braun <sup>a</sup>, Pascal Tribolet <sup>a, b</sup>, Filomena Gomes <sup>a, c</sup>, Rebecca Fehr <sup>a</sup>,  
 Valerie Baechli <sup>a</sup>, Martina Geiser <sup>a</sup>, Manuela Deiss <sup>a</sup>, Alexander Kutz <sup>a</sup>,  
 Thomas Bregenzer <sup>d</sup>, Claus Hoess <sup>e</sup>, Vojtech Pavlicek <sup>e</sup>, Sarah Schmid <sup>e</sup>, Stefan Bilz <sup>f</sup>,  
 Sarah Sigrist <sup>f</sup>, Michael Brändle <sup>f</sup>, Carmen Benz <sup>f</sup>, Christoph Henzen <sup>g</sup>, Silvia Mattmann <sup>g</sup>,  
 Robert Thomann <sup>h</sup>, Jonas Rutishauser <sup>i</sup>, Drahomir Aujesky <sup>j</sup>, Nicolas Rodondi <sup>j, k</sup>,  
 Jacques Donzé <sup>j, l</sup>, Zeno Stanga <sup>m</sup>, Beat Mueller <sup>a, n</sup>, Philipp Schuetz <sup>a, n, \*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Medical University Department, Division of General Internal and Emergency Medicine, Kantonsspital Aarau, Aarau, Switzerland

<sup>b</sup> Department of Health Professions, Bern University of Applied Sciences, Bern, Switzerland

<sup>c</sup> The New York Academy of Sciences, USA

<sup>d</sup> Internal Medicine, Spital Lachen, Switzerland

<sup>e</sup> Internal Medicine, Kantonsspital Münsterlingen, Switzerland

<sup>f</sup> Internal Medicine & Endocrinology/Diabetes, Kantonsspital St.Gallen, Switzerland

<sup>g</sup> Internal Medicine, Kantonsspital Luzern, Switzerland

<sup>h</sup> Internal Medicine, Bürgerspital Solothurn, Switzerland

<sup>i</sup> Internal Medicine, Kantonsspital Baselland, Switzerland

<sup>j</sup> Department of General Internal Medicine, Inselspital, Bern University Hospital, University of Bern, Switzerland

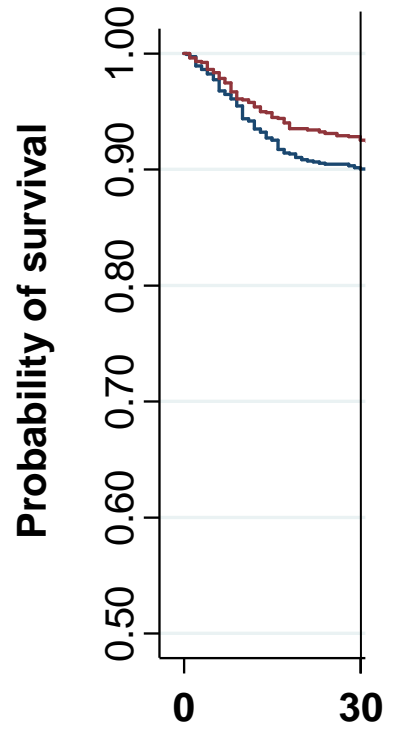
<sup>k</sup> Institute of Primary Health Care (BIHAM), University of Bern, Switzerland

<sup>l</sup> Division of General Internal Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA, USA

<sup>m</sup> Division of Diabetology, Endocrinology, Nutritional Medicine & Metabolism, Inselspital, Bern University Hospital, University of Bern, Switzerland

<sup>n</sup> Medical Faculty of the University of Basel, Switzerland

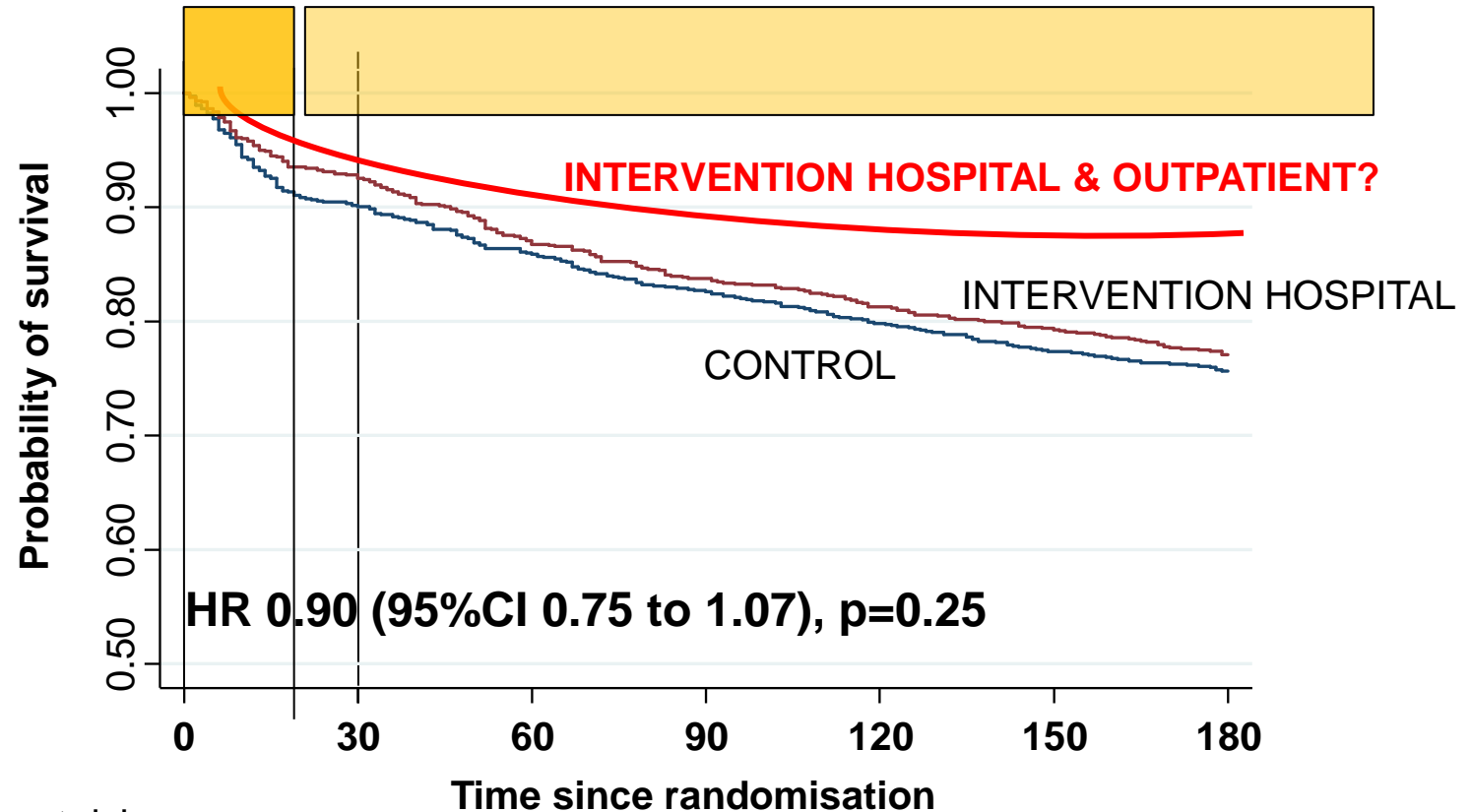
# Shortterm - 30-day mortality



Number at risk	
CONTROL	1013 913
INTERVENTION	1015 942

# Longterm - 180-day mortality

## Ernährungsintervention



Number at risk		0	30	60	90	120	150	180
CONTROL	1013	913	866	833	804	779	762	762
INTERVENTION	1015	942	873	840	815	796	773	773

**Should we «individualize» nutritional support according to patient`s comorbidities?**



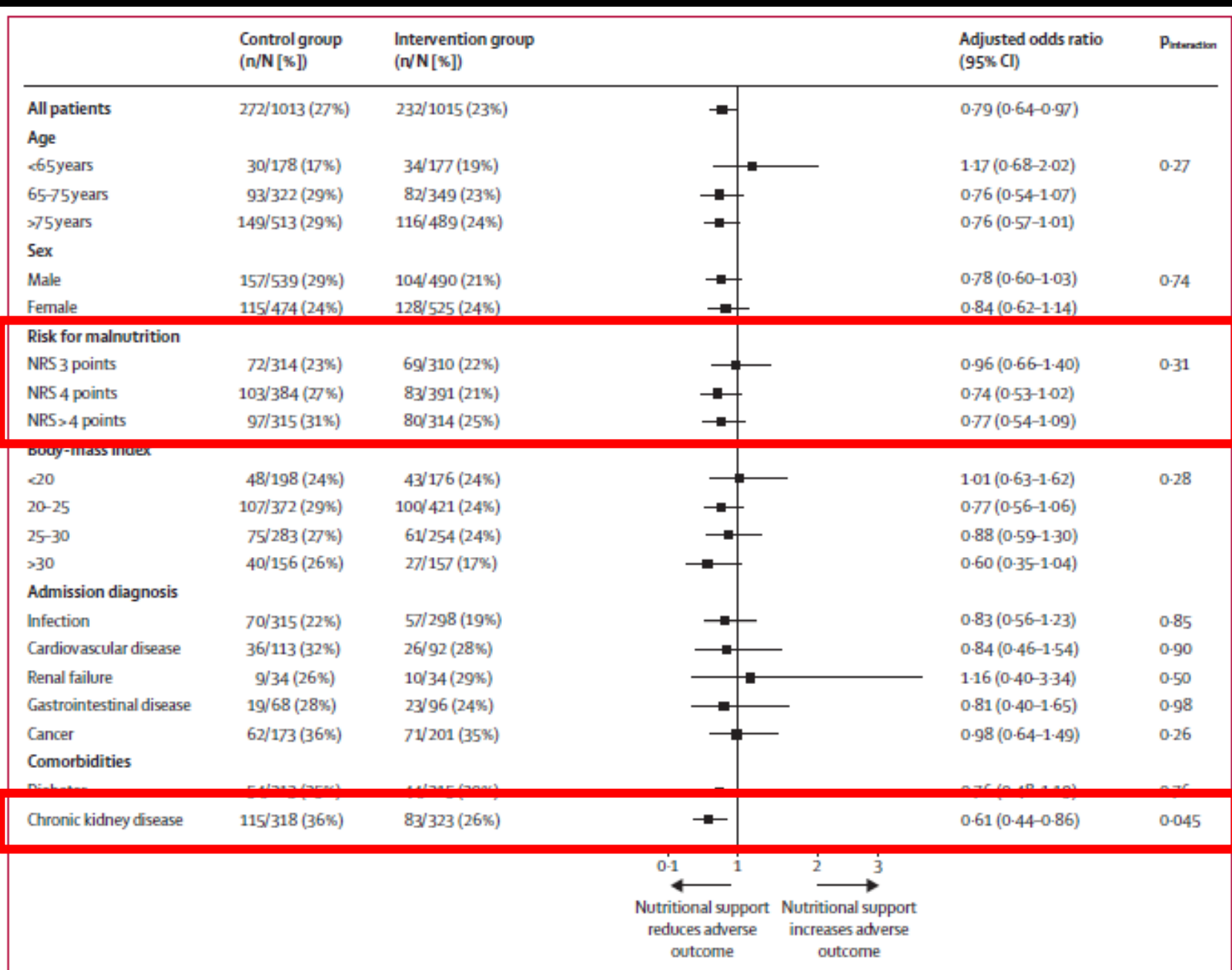


Figure 5: Odds ratios for adverse outcome in prespecified subgroups

The only significant interactions between group assignment and subgroup were for chronic kidney disease. The body-mass index is the weight (in kg) divided by the square of the height (in m). NRS=nutritional risk screening.

Schuetz P, et al.  
*Lancet*.  
 2019;393(10188):2  
 312-2321.

**Should we «individualize» nutritional support according to a patient`s inflammatory response?**



**Original Investigation** | Nutrition, Obesity, and Exercise

# Association of Baseline Inflammation With Effectiveness of Nutritional Support Among Patients With Disease-Related Malnutrition

## A Secondary Analysis of a Randomized Clinical Trial

Meret Merker, MD; Martina Felder, BMSc; Louise Gueissaz, BMSc; Rebekka Bolliger, MD; Pascal Tribolet, MSc; Nina Kägi-Braun, MD; Filomena Gomes, PhD; Claus Hoess, MD; Vojtech Pavlicek, MD; Stefan Bilz, MD; Sarah Sigrist, MD; Michael Brändle, MD; Christoph Henzen, MD; Robert Thomann, MD; Jonas Rutishauser, MD; Drahomir Aujesky, MD; Nicolas Rodondi, MD, MAS; Jaques Donzé, MSc; Zeno Stanga, MD; Beat Mueller, MD; Philipp Schuetz, MD, MPH

### Abstract

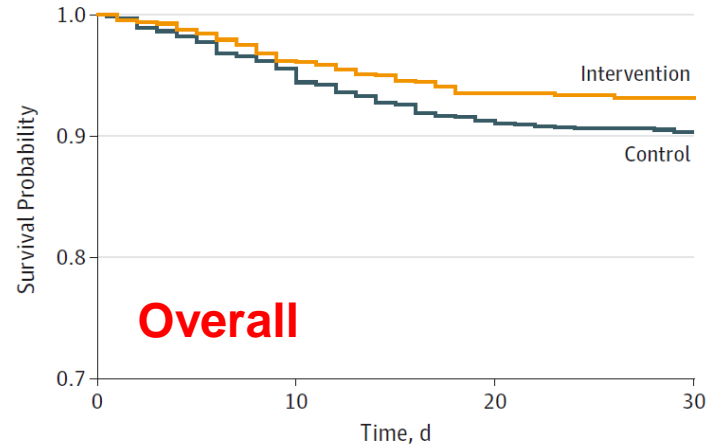
**IMPORTANCE** Inflammation is a key driver of malnutrition during illness and is often accompanied by metabolic effects, including insulin resistance and reduction of appetite. However, it still remains unclear if inflammation influences the response to nutritional support among patients with disease-related malnutrition.

### Key Points

**Question** Does nutritional support have a similar effect on 30-day mortality among patients with high inflammation compared with patients with low or moderate inflammation?

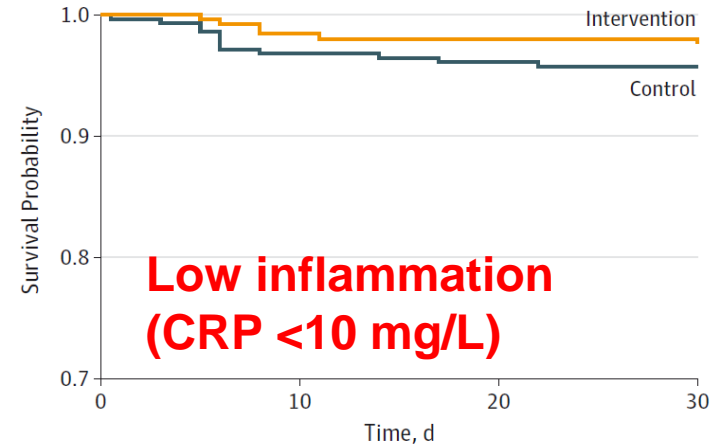
Figure 2. Kaplan-Meier Estimate for Time to Death Within 30-Days According to Inflammatory Status

**A** 30-Day mortality in overall population



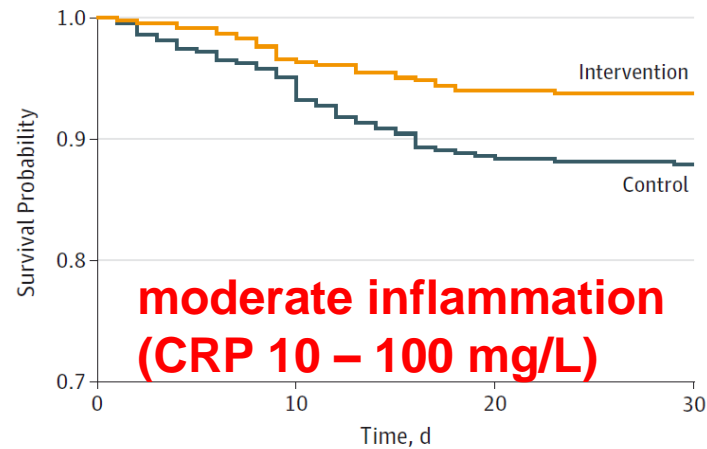
No. at risk		0	10	20	30
Control		972	929	887	878
Intervention		978	941	915	911

**B** 30-Day mortality among patients with low inflammation



No. at risk		0	10	20	30
Control		281	272	270	269

**C** 30-Day mortality among patients with moderate inflammation

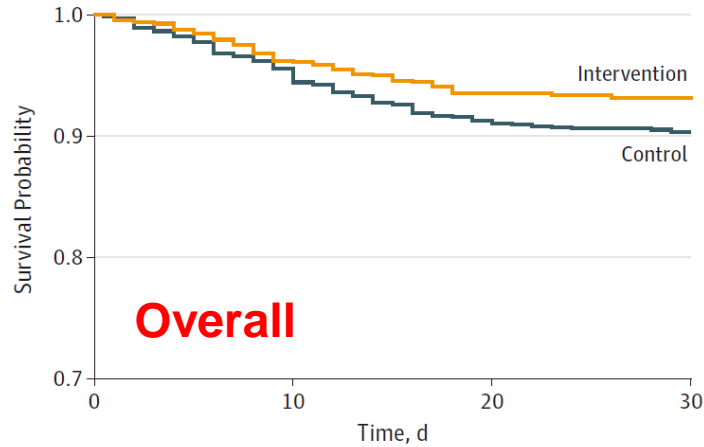


No. at risk		0	10	20	30
Control		429	408	380	377
Intervention		465	449	437	436

No. at risk		0	10	20	30
Intervention		261	244	231	228

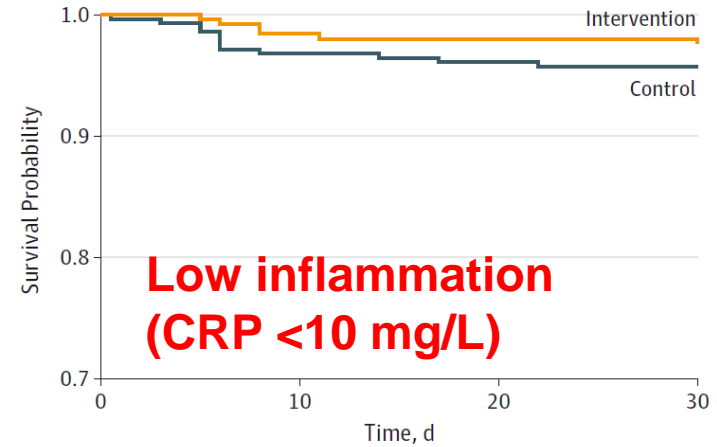
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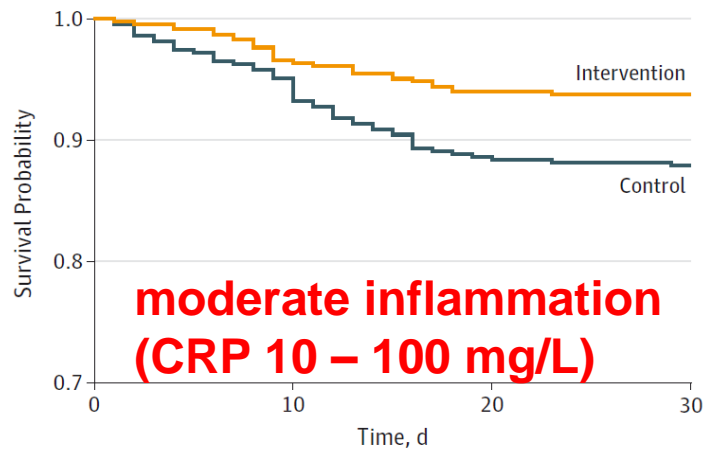
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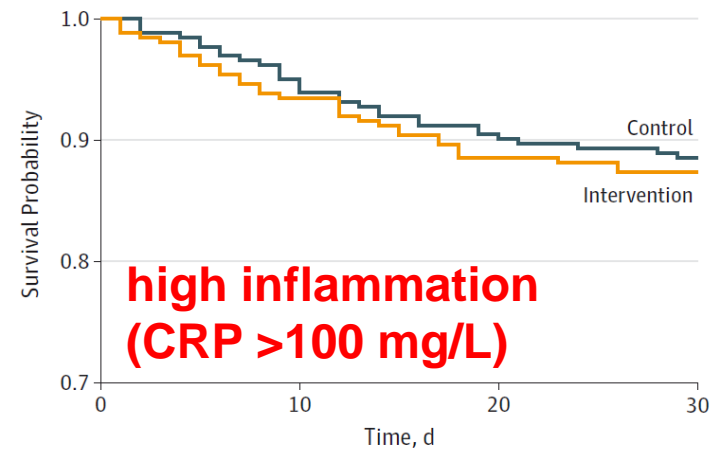
No. at risk	0	10	20	30
Control	281	272	270	269
Intervention	252	248	247	247

**C** 30-Day mortality among patients with moderate inflammation



No. at risk	0	10	20	30
Control	429	408	380	377
Intervention	465	449	437	436

**D** 30-Day mortality among patients with high inflammation



No. at risk	0	10	20	30
Control	262	249	237	232
Intervention	261	244	231	228

**How should we implement these data  
into **clinical routine?****

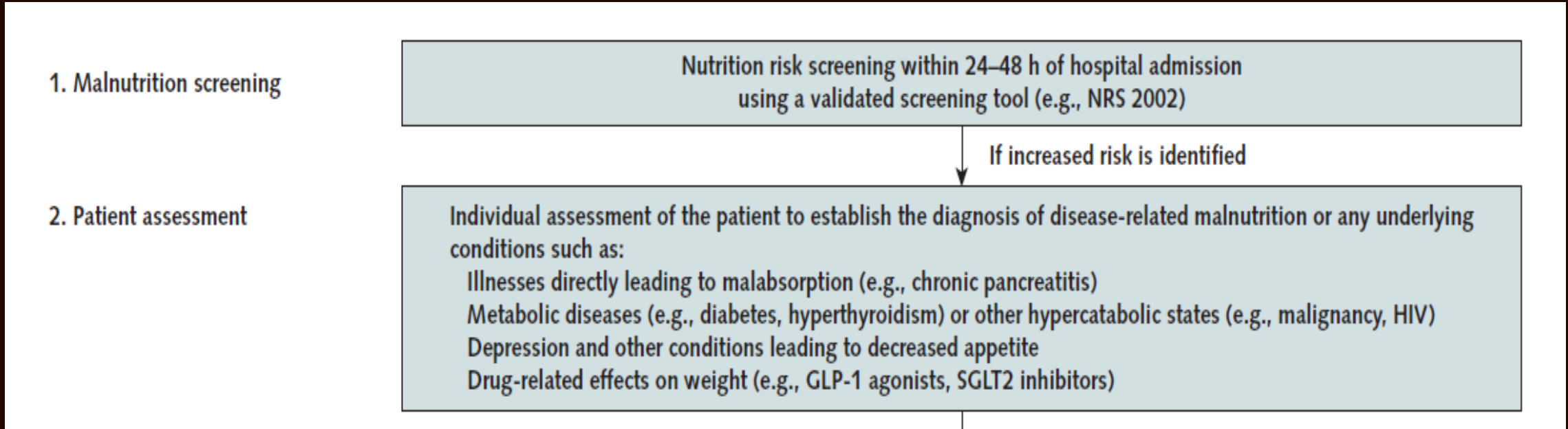
## Inpatient Notes: Optimizing Inpatient Nutrition—Why Hospitalists Should Get Involved

Philipp Schuetz, MD, MPH, and Jeffrey L. Greenwald, MD

**M**alnutrition is a common condition among newly admitted, medically complex inpatients. Emerging evidence demonstrates that malnutrition directly increases the risk for adverse clinical outcomes, including death, illness, and functional impairments, hospital length of stay, and the risk for hospital readmission (1). Moreover, nutritional status often further deteriorates during the hospital stay because of illness-related loss of appetite, fasting orders for diagnostic studies, or overall suboptimal nutritional management. Data from the United States and Europe show that about 1 in 4

number needed to treat of 25. The trial also found that nutritional support substantially reduced death, with a number needed to treat of 37. A similar positive effect on the risk for death (number needed to treat = 20) was also found in the placebo-controlled, 652-patient NOURISH (Nutrition effect On Unplanned Readmissions and Survival in Hospitalized patients) trial, which studied the effects of using a protein-rich oral supplement on clinical outcomes in malnourished, medical inpatients in the United States (3).

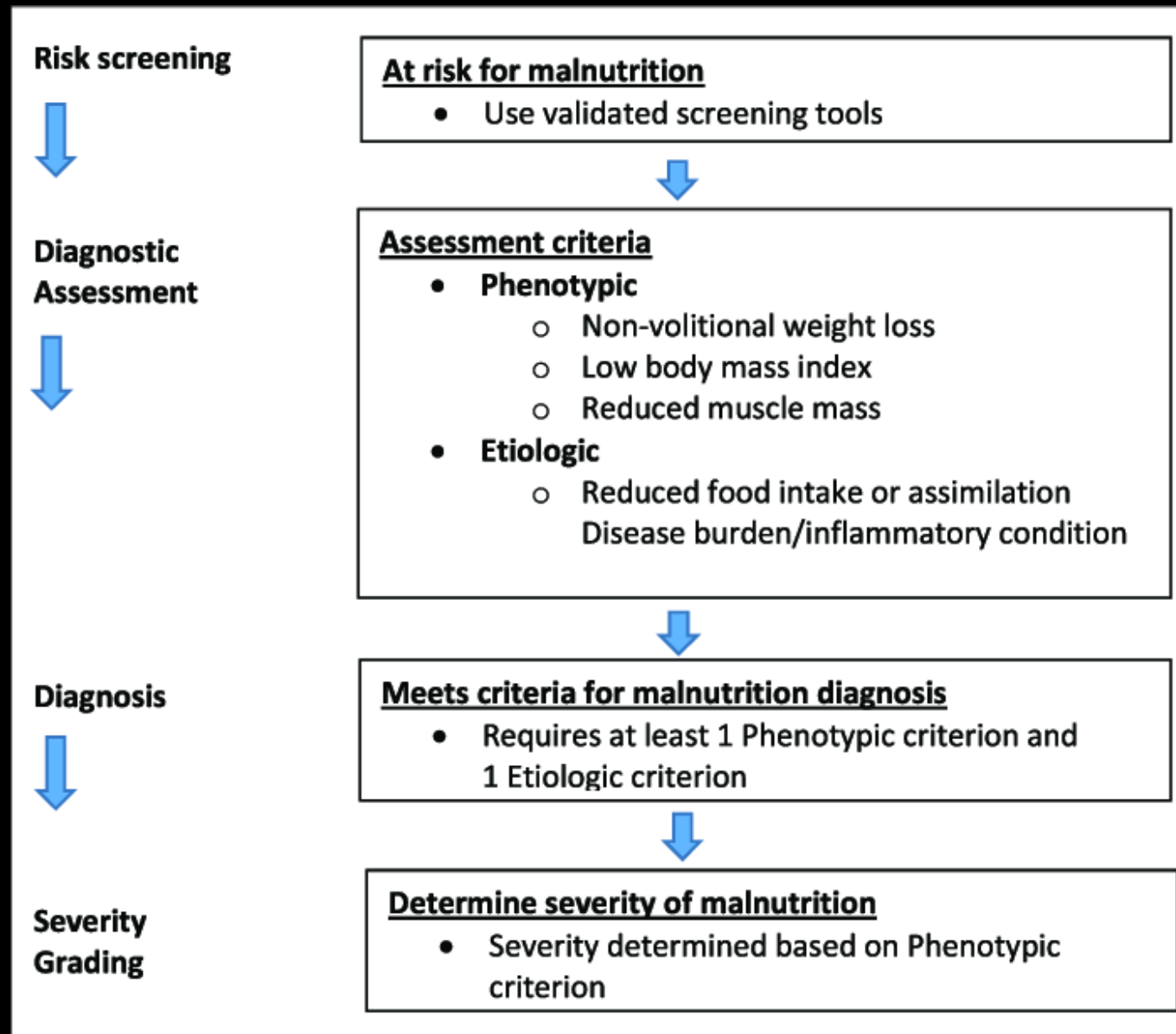
# NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT ALGORITHM



EFFORT = Effect of early nutritional support on Frailty, Functional Outcomes, and Recovery of malnourished medical inpatients Trial (1); GLP-1 = glucagon-like peptide-1; NRS 2002 = Nutritional Risk Screening 2002 (6); SGLT2 = sodium-glucose cotransporter-2.



# NUTRITIONAL ASSESSMENT: GLIM CRITERIA TO DIAGNOSE MALNUTRITION



# NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT ALGORITHM

## 1. Malnutrition screening

Nutrition risk screening within 24–48 h of hospital admission using a validated screening tool (e.g., NRS 2002)

If increased risk is identified

## 2. Patient assessment

Individual assessment of the patient to establish the diagnosis of disease-related malnutrition or any underlying conditions such as:  
 Illnesses directly leading to malabsorption (e.g., chronic pancreatitis)  
 Metabolic diseases (e.g., diabetes, hyperthyroidism) or other hypercatabolic states (e.g., malignancy, HIV)  
 Depression and other conditions leading to decreased appetite  
 Drug-related effects on weight (e.g., GLP-1 agonists, SGLT2 inhibitors)

## 3. Definition of nutritional plan

In addition to addressing the identified underlying cause (when possible), engage nutrition team to establish individual nutritional targets on the basis of the patient's condition

Calorie requirements

Protein requirements

Micronutrient requirements

Other nutritional targets

## 4. Nutritional support and patient monitoring

Establish a nutritional strategy to reach the nutritional targets

Level I:  
Oral nutrition

Oral nutrition, including oral nutritional supplements and multivitamin and multimineral supplements

Reassessment every 24–48 h: If after 5 d not meeting  $\geq 75\%$  of calorie and protein targets, escalate to Level II

Level II:  
Enteral nutrition

Enteral nutrition (plus oral nutrition as tolerated)

Reassessment every 24–48 h: If after 5 d not meeting  $\geq 75\%$  of calorie and protein targets, escalate to Level III

Level III:  
Parenteral nutrition

Parenteral nutrition (plus oral and enteral nutrition as tolerated)

EFFORT = Effect of early nutritional support on Frailty, Functional Outcomes, and Recovery of malnourished medical inpatients Trial (1); GLP-1 = glucagon-like peptide-1; NRS 2002 = Nutritional Risk Screening 2002 (6); SGLT2 = sodium-glucose cotransporter-2.

# Summary

- There is increasing evidence that malnutrition is a modifiable risk factor for hospitalized patients with multiple illnesses
- Proactive screening of patients using a validated tool and start of nutritional support protocols should be implemented in the hospital setting to reduce mortality and complications of patients
- In the future, we may need to further individualize nutrition according to the specific situation of our patients including kidney function and inflammatory status
- **Internists should play an active role for early recognition and treatment of disease-related malnutrition**