## Nutritional Aspects in ICU Patients

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Master Degree in Anesthesia

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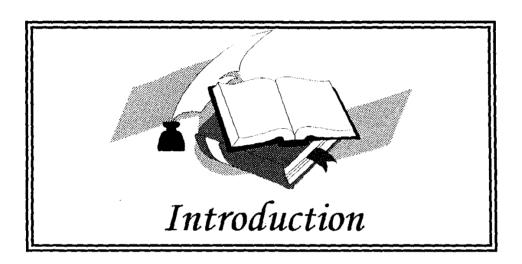
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### Introduction

No doubt, critically ill patients need a special nutritional support that suits their abnormal metabolic conditions, meets their increased metabolic expenditure and correct their negative nitrogen balance.

Aggressive nutritional support in the critically ill patients is essential if improved outcome is to be realized. An understanding of the metabolic alterations provide the foundation for a nutritional prescription for the individual patient.

Critical illness can occur in a variety of disease states and conditions including gastrointestinal, cardiac, respiratory, renal or hepatic diseases, cancer, burns, trauma and sepsis. The degree of stress associated with an illness is an indication of the level of nutritional support which may be needed. Nutritional support for critically ill patients frequently involves tube feeding, parenteral feeding or a combination of both.

Knowledge of various feeding techniques, their indications, complications and when to switch from one type to the other is of extreme importance that it can influence patient's cure and prevents in almost all cases patient's morbidity and mortality.