Poor nutrition status associated with cancer is often an indicator of poor prognosis. Patients may suffer from involuntary weight loss due to cachexia, fatigue and anorexia. Parenteral nutrition is often indicated in cancer patients when malnutrition, gastrointestinal obstruction are present, and as adjuvant support with oncology treatment. Total parenteral nutrition in some patients may be life preserving and even life prolonging depending on the patient’s disease state and/or progression. An established history of home parenteral nutrition (HPN) allows convenience and comfort for patients and is a safe alternative to hospital care. HPN appears to prevent further weight loss in some cancer patients. Limitations of this study include sample size, reliance on and potential variation of data from medical records and weight documentation.

The purpose of this project is to determine whether adult cancer patients achieve a positive nutritional response when placed on HPN. 14 patients met inclusion criteria and were included in this study. Females represented 64% overall. Mean age was 57 years. Most common HPN indication was intestinal malabsorption (10 patients). Nine out of fourteen (64%) patients that were included in this study experienced no weight loss after being on service for HPN after sixty days. All patients included in the study received greater than 60% of macronutrient needs based on the facility’s registered dietitian nutritional assessments.

A majority of adult cancer patients served by this organization experienced no weight loss after sixty days of HPN start of care. 100% of patients had more than 60% of their estimated daily caloric needs provided by HPN. For patients not achieving a successful response, barriers to maintaining weight were most commonly disease progression and reported decreased oral intake as a result of disease progression.

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The author of this presentation has nothing to disclose.