Evaluation of urinary chloride dipsticks for the rapid estimation of hydration status in patients receiving artificial nutrition

Key Words: Dehydration, parenteral nutrition, PN, urinary sodium

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Abstract

Patients with Intestinal Failure (IF) have insufficient bowel function to maintain their fluid, electrolyte or nutritional status. They therefore require long term intravenous support at home. This study aims to evaluate the ease of use of a near patient urine chloride dipstick test and its accuracy in estimating urine sodium levels and thus dehydration status in patients with intestinal failure by the use of a cross over trial. Outcome measures will be a validated quality of life score and a range of physiological parameters.