

Reviewer's report

Title: Nutritional Therapy and Infectious Diseases: A Two-Edged Sword

Version: 1 **Date:** 14 May 2006

Reviewer: Phillip Peterson

Reviewer's report:

General

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

This review would benefit from:

- 1) Tables designed to summarize the author's assessment of the evidence from RCTs showing benefit, no apparent benefit, or increased risk of nutritional therapy in non-hospitalized subjects (Table 1) and hospitalized patients (Table 2).
- 2) Some discussion of the potential pathophysiological basis for why nutritional therapy would be harmful beyond the obvious risk of parenteral therapy-related intravascular line-associated infections. The potential benefit of nutritional therapy as it may relate to bolstering immune defenses is mentioned but additional references would be valuable.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Use of probiotic approaches to prevention of infection is mixed in with nutritional therapy which is somewhat confusing. It might be worthwhile to separate the probiotic therapies out (or to eliminate them altogether).

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.