



REDUCED AVAILABILITY OF MULTIVITAMINS FOR PARENTERAL NUTRITION (PN): STRATEGIES TO GUARANTEE VITAMIN SUPPLY IN INFANTS

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Background and aims

Parenteral vitamins should be administered to infants receiving PN admixture; whenever possible, vitamins should be directly added to this.¹ However, water-soluble vitamins for PN used in our hospital are declared currently lacking by AIFA. This work tries to identify similar products that can be used to guarantee the correct vitamin supply in infants.

Methods

Using GALLERY® BDF2.0 database, data concerning multivitamins for PN (ATC codes A11 or B05) commercially available in Italy was collected. As there are no products available for infants, a second research including multivitamins nutritional supplements (GMP code 4AA2F15) formulated in drops for oral administration that can be given to children was realised. The compositions (reported in data sheets) of the most interesting products was subsequently evaluated and compared with ESPGHAN guidelines.¹

Results

There are no commercially available parenteral water-soluble vitamins for infants. Therefore, we found 48 multivitamin nutritional supplements for liquid oral administration in children. Only 11 of these were considered as suitable substitutes.

Conclusions

A sufficient supply of vitamins is essential for infants growth.¹ The unavailability of parenteral vitamins for infants made it necessary to search for nutritional supplements for oral administration. It is important to consider that the quality of nutritional supplements may be lower than that of pharmaceuticals. Nevertheless, careful evaluation of multivitamin supplements composition by physicians and pharmacists has made it possible to identify best products for our intensive care patients.

Bibliography

1. Bronsky J et al. ESPGHAN/ESPEN/ESPR/CSPEN guidelines on pediatric parenteral nutrition: Vitamins. Clin Nutr. 2018;37(6):2366–78

