

HOSPITAL PARENTERAL NUTRITION: THE EXPERIENCE OF THE CENTRALIZED TENDER OF THE PIEDMONT REGION

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Background and aims

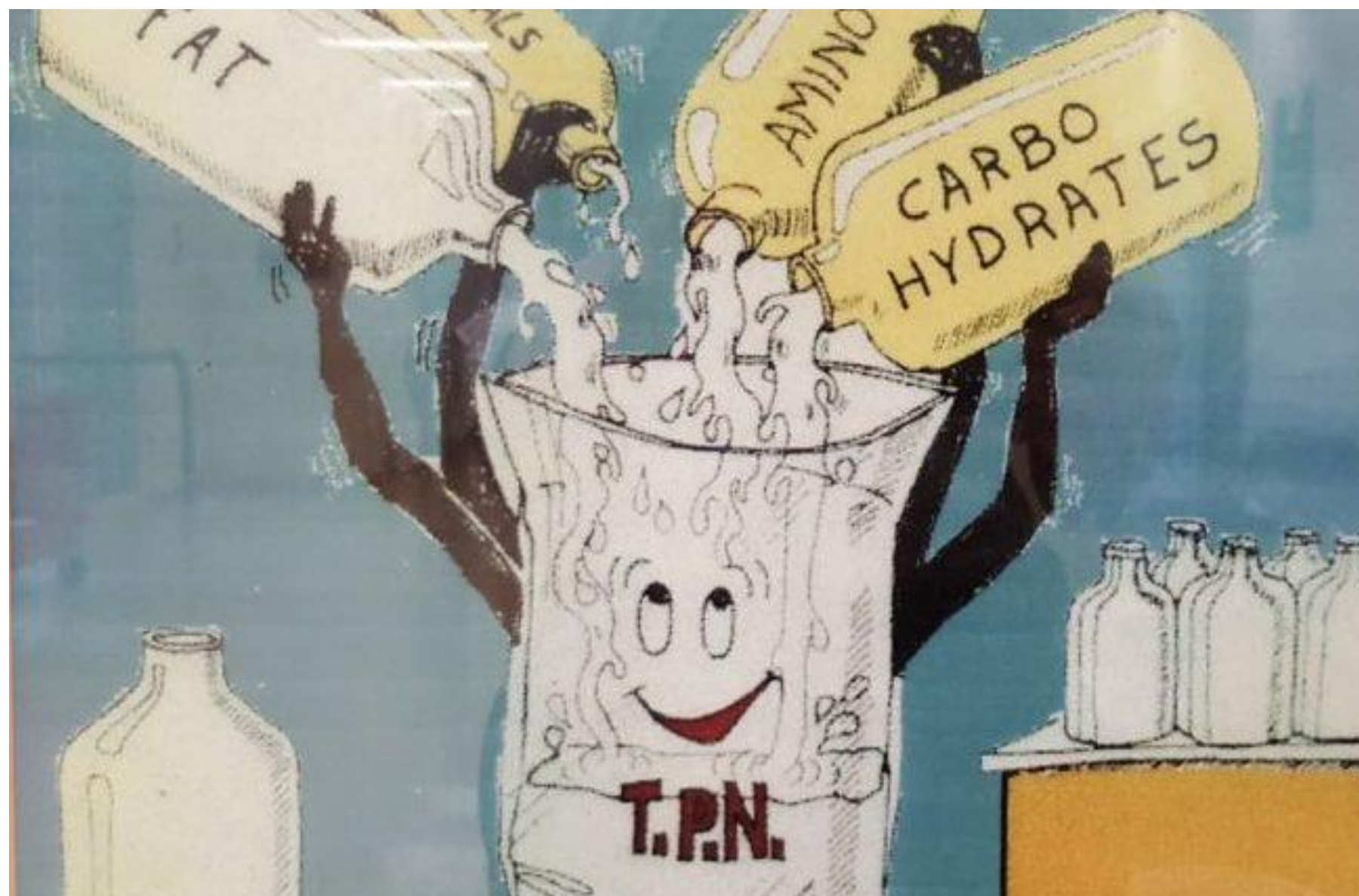
In 2022, SCR Piemonte S.p.A., the Central Purchasing Body of the Piedmont Region, with the help of a group of pharmacists and specialists in Clinical Nutrition set up a new tender procedure for 2023-2025. The goal was to ensure both quality and safety by guaranteeing fair competition and providing clinicians with the ability to have all the products needed for the proper management of clinical nutrition in the hospitalized patient.

Methods

The existing procedure was analyzed and the bidding strategy to be followed was discussed.

Results

There was a change from a tender set up with the criterion of the most economically advantageous offer to one with lowest-price award with the possibility of participation of drugs only, whose quality, safety and efficacy are demonstrated by registration studies. Lots related to amino acid and lipid infusion solutions were described by specifying their composition.



Nutritional bags were distinguished into peripheral and central, the lots constructed according to the various clinical conditions (hypercatabolism, inflammation, water restriction, supplementary/total parenteral nutrition) considering the following parameters: volume (ranges modulated to ensure maximum participation), nitrogen intake, lipid sources, total calories, presence or absence of electrolytes. Osmolarity was not included to avoid exclusion of some products. Of the 27 proposed, 26 lots were awarded, 17 of bags for parenteral nutrition.

Conclusions

Multidisciplinary has always been the trump card for achieving a good result. The work done demonstrates that even a competition set with the lowest price criterion can be a guarantee of quality. The large number of bags awarded effectively constitutes a regional handbook of clinical nutrition.

