

# Glutamine-enriched enteral feeding in very low birth weight infants.

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VLBW infants may be susceptible to glutamine depletion as nutritional supply of glutamine is limited in the first weeks after birth. Glutamine depletion has negative effects on functional integrity of the gut and leads to immunosuppression. This...

|                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Ethische beoordeling</b> | Positief advies       |
| <b>Status</b>               | Werving gestopt       |
| <b>Type aandoening</b>      | -                     |
| <b>Onderzoekstype</b>       | Interventie onderzoek |

## Samenvatting

### ID

NL-OMON22969

### Bron

NTR

### Verkorte titel

GEEF study

### Aandoening

Gut adaptation and modulation of the immune response in very low birth weight infants.

## Ondersteuning

**Primaire sponsor:** Prof. W.P.F. Fetter

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**Overige ondersteuning:** Nutricia Nederland B.V. (Zoetermeer, the Netherlands) provided Nenatal, glutamine and placebo supplementation.

# Onderzoeksproduct en/of interventie

## Uitkomstmaten

### Primaire uitkomstmaten

Primary outcome of the study is time to full enteral feeding, defined as a feeding volume  $\geq 120$  mL/kg/day.

## Toelichting onderzoek

### Achtergrond van het onderzoek

#### Background:

Enteral feeding of very low birth weight (VLBW) infants is a challenge, since metabolic demands are high and administration of enteral nutrition is limited by immaturity of the gastrointestinal tract. The amino acid glutamine plays an important role in maintaining functional integrity of the gut. In addition, glutamine is utilised at a high rate by cells of the immune system. In critically ill patients, glutamine is considered a conditionally essential amino acid. VLBW infants may be especially susceptible to glutamine depletion as nutritional supply of glutamine is limited in the first weeks after birth. Glutamine depletion has negative effects on functional integrity of the gut and leads to immunosuppression.

This double-blind randomised controlled trial is designed to investigate the effect of glutamine-enriched enteral nutrition on feeding tolerance, infectious morbidity and short-term outcome in VLBW infants. Furthermore, an attempt is made to elucidate the role of glutamine in postnatal adaptation of the gut and modulation of the immune response.

#### Methods:

VLBW infants (gestational age  $< 32$  weeks and/or birth weight  $< 1500$  g) are randomly allocated to receive enteral glutamine supplementation (0.3 g/kg/day) or isonitrogenous placebo supplementation between day 3 and 30 of life. Primary outcome is time to full enteral feeding (defined as a feeding volume  $\geq 120$  mL/kg/day). Furthermore, incidence of serious infections and short-term outcome are evaluated. The effect of glutamine on postnatal adaptation of the gut is investigated by measuring intestinal permeability and determining faecal microflora. The role of glutamine in modulation of the immune response is investigated by determining plasma Th1/Th2 cytokine concentrations following in vitro whole blood stimulation.

### Doel van het onderzoek

VLBW infants may be susceptible to glutamine depletion as nutritional supply of glutamine is

limited in the first weeks after birth. Glutamine depletion has negative effects on functional integrity of the gut and leads to immunosuppression. This double-blind randomised controlled trial is designed to investigate the effect of glutamine-enriched enteral nutrition on feeding tolerance, infectious morbidity and short-term outcome in VLBW infants. Furthermore, an attempt is made to elucidate the role of glutamine in postnatal adaptation of the gut and modulation of the immune response.

### **Onderzoeksopzet**

N/A

### **Onderzoeksproduct en/of interventie**

Enteral glutamine supplementation in a dose of 0.3 g/kg/day between days 3 and 30 of life versus isonitrogenous placebo supplementation (alanine).

## **Contactpersonen**

### **Publiek**

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### **Wetenschappelijk**

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## **Deelname eisen**

## Belangrijkste voorwaarden om deel te mogen nemen (Inclusiecriteria)

Infants with a gestational age < 32 weeks and/or a birth weight < 1500 grams.

## Belangrijkste redenen om niet deel te kunnen nemen (Exclusiecriteria)

Major chromosomal or congenital anomalies.

## Onderzoeksopzet

### Opzet

|                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Type:            | Interventie onderzoek |
| Onderzoeksmodel: | Parallel              |
| Toewijzing:      | Gerandomiseerd        |
| Blinding:        | Dubbelblind           |
| Controle:        | Placebo               |

### Deelname

|                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Nederland               |                       |
| Status:                 | Werving gestopt       |
| (Verwachte) startdatum: | 16-09-2001            |
| Aantal proefpersonen:   | 107                   |
| Type:                   | Werkelijke startdatum |

## Ethische beoordeling

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Positief advies |                  |
| Datum:          | 12-09-2005       |
| Soort:          | Eerste indiening |

## Registraties

### Opgevolgd door onderstaande (mogelijk meer actuele) registratie

Geen registraties gevonden.

### Andere (mogelijk minder actuele) registraties in dit register

Geen registraties gevonden.

### In overige registers

| Register       | ID             |
|----------------|----------------|
| NTR-new        | NL169          |
| NTR-old        | NTR205         |
| Ander register | : N/A          |
| ISRCTN         | ISRCTN73254583 |

## Resultaten

### Samenvatting resultaten

1. Glutamine-enriched enteral nutrition in very low birth weight infants. Design of a double-blind randomised controlled trial.

Anemone van den Berg, Ruurd M. van Elburg, Jos W.R. Twisk, Willem P.F. Fetter. Biomed Central Pediatrics 2004;4:17.<br>

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2. Glutamine-enriched enteral nutrition in very-low-birth-weight infants and effects on feeding tolerance and infectious morbidity: a randomized controlled trial.

Anemone van den Berg, Ruurd M. van Elburg, Elisabeth A.M. Westerbeek, Jos W.R. Twisk, Willem P.F. Fetter. American Journal of Clinical Nutrition 2005;81:1397-1404.<br>

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3. A randomized controlled trial of enteral glutamine supplementation in very low birth weight infants: Plasma amino acid concentrations.

Anemone van den Berg, Ruurd M. van Elburg, Tom Teerlink, Harrie N. Lafeber, Jos W.R. Twisk, Willem P.F. Fetter. Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition 2005;41:66-71. <br>

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4. JPEN J Parenter Enteral Nutr. 2006 Sep-Oct;30(5):408-14.<br>