

controlled trials of therapeutic hypothermia in 1,505 term and late preterm infants with intrapartum asphyxia showed significant reduction in mortality and neurodevelopmental disability at 18 months old ([Jacobs, Berg, Hunt, et al, 2013](#)). Erythropoietin, a hormone that increases red blood cells (RBCs) and oxygen in the blood is being studied alone and in combination with therapeutic hypothermia treatment in preterm infants with the hope of improving outcomes when exposed to hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy (HIE).

### **Nursing Alert**

The use of mobile infant walkers and door frame jumping seats should not be used; they pose a risk of injury to normal children and are especially hazardous for children with CP. Safer alternatives are available (e.g., stationary musical activity jumper).

## **Nursing Care Management**

Because children with CP expend so much energy in their efforts to accomplish ADLs, more frequent rest periods should be arranged to avoid fatigue. Meeting the child's nutritional needs may be a challenge because of gastroesophageal reflux, feeding and swallowing difficulties, chronic constipation and subsequent anorexia, and absence or diminished ability to independently feed himself or herself. The diet should be tailored to the child's activity and metabolic needs. Gastrostomy feedings may be necessary to supplement regular feedings and ensure adequate weight gain, particularly in children at risk for growth failure and chronic malnutrition, those with severe CP and subsequent oral feeding difficulties, and children whose well-being is affected by illness and decreased fluid or medication intake ([Rogers, 2004](#)). Oral feedings may be continued to maintain oral motor skills as tolerated. Weight gain is perceived as an important measure of adequate oral feeding efficiency.

Parents may need assistance and advice with medication administration through a gastrostomy tube to prevent clogging. A skin-level gastrostomy is particularly suited for children with CP. Because jaw control is often compromised, more normal control can be achieved if the feeder provides stability of the oral mechanism