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## Nutritional Support

**Also called:** Artificial feeding, Artificial hydration and nutrition, Hyperalimentation, Parenteral nutrition, TPN, Tube feeding

Nutritional support is therapy for people who cannot get enough nourishment by eating or drinking. You may need it if you :

- Can't swallow
- Have problems with your appetite
- Are severely malnourished
- Can't absorb nutrients through your digestive system

You receive nutritional support through a needle or catheter placed in your vein or with a feeding tube, which goes into your stomach.

### Start Here

- Artificial Hydration and Nutrition [<https://familydoctor.org/artificial-hydration-and-nutrition/?adfree=true>]  
(American Academy of Family Physicians)  
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/hidratacion-y-nutricion-artificial/?adfree=true>]
- What Is Nutrition Support Therapy? [<https://nutritioncare.org/about/what-we-do/nutrition-support/what-is-nutrition-support-therapy/>] (American Society for Parenteral & Enteral Nutrition)

### Related Issues

- Central Venous Catheter [<https://www.thoracic.org/patients/patient-resources/resources/central-venous-catheter.pdf>]  
(American Thoracic Society) - **PDF**
- Tube Feeding Troubleshooting Guide  
[[https://cdn.ymaws.com/oley.org/resource/resmgr/docs/tf\\_troubleshooting\\_guide\\_19.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/oley.org/resource/resmgr/docs/tf_troubleshooting_guide_19.pdf)] (Oley Foundation) - **PDF**

### Specifics



- Nutritional Support for People Who Are Dying or Severely Demented [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/disorders-of-nutrition/nutritional-support/nutritional-support-for-people-who-are-dying-or-have-severe-dementia>] (Merck & Co., Inc.)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/es-us/hogar/trastornos-nutricionales/apoyo-nutricional/apoyo-nutricional-para-personas-moribundas-o-con-demencia-grave>]
- Tube Feeding [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/disorders-of-nutrition/nutritional-support/tube-feeding>]  
(Merck & Co., Inc.)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/es-us/hogar/trastornos-nutricionales/apoyo-nutricional/alimentaci%C3%B3n-por-sonda>]
- Understanding Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy (PEG) [<https://www.asge.org/home/for-patients/patient-information/understanding-peg>] (American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.asge.org/home/for-patients/patient-information/c%C3%B3mo-comprender-la-gastrostom%C3%ADa-endosc%C3%B3pica-percut%C3%A1nea>]

What Is Enteral Nutrition? [<https://nutritioncare.org/about/what-we-do/nutrition-support/what-is-enteral-nutrition/>]  
(American Society for Parenteral & Enteral Nutrition)

## Images

- Gastrostomy tube placement - series [[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100125\\_1.htm](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100125_1.htm)] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [[https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/esp\\_presentations/100125\\_1.htm](https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/esp_presentations/100125_1.htm)]

## Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Nutritional Support [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?intr=%22nutritional+support%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Parenteral Nutrition [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?intr=parenteral+nutrition&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

## Journal Articles


References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Effects of FSMP on nutrition status and sarcopenia among nutritional risk... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40738724>]
- Article: Prognostic factors and nutritional support in menopausal women with chronic heart... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40738723>]
- Article: Nutritional Management of Liver Failure in the Intensive Care Unit. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40731839>]
- Nutritional Support -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Nutritional+Support%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

## Find an Expert

- Find a Nutrition Expert [<https://www.eatright.org/find-a-nutrition-expert>] (Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics)
- Food and Drug Administration [<https://www.fda.gov/>]

## Children

- Central Lines (Central Venous Catheters) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/central-lines.html>]  (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/central-lines.html>]
- Implanted Ports [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/implanted-ports.html>] (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/implanted-ports.html>]
- Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC Line) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/picc-lines.html>] (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/picc-lines.html>]
- Tunneled Central Lines [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/cv-catheters.html>] (Nemours Foundation)

## Patient Handouts

- Feeding tube - infants [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007235.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007235.htm>]
- Gastrostomy feeding tube - bolus [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000165.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000165.htm>]
- Gastrostomy feeding tube - pump - child [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000333.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000333.htm>]
- Jejunostomy feeding tube [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000181.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000181.htm>]

- Nasogastric feeding tube [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000182.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000182.htm>]
- PEG tube insertion - discharge [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000900.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000900.htm>]



## MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Central venous catheter - dressing change [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000156.htm>]

Central venous catheter - flushing [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000157.htm>]

Central venous catheters - ports [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000491.htm>]

Enteral nutrition - child - managing problems [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000164.htm>]

Feeding tube - infants [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007235.htm>]

Feeding tube insertion - gastrostomy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002937.htm>]

Gastrostomy feeding tube - bolus [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000165.htm>]

Gastrostomy feeding tube - pump - child [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000333.htm>]

Gastrostomy tube placement - series [[https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100125\\_1.htm](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100125_1.htm)]

Jejunostomy feeding tube [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000181.htm>]

Nasogastric feeding tube [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000182.htm>]

PEG tube insertion - discharge [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000900.htm>]

Peripherally inserted central catheter - dressing change [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000462.htm>]

Peripherally inserted central catheter - flushing [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000159.htm>]

Peripherally inserted central catheter - insertion [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000461.htm>]

Total parenteral nutrition [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000177.htm>]

Total parenteral nutrition - infants [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007239.htm>]

## Related Health Topics

Nutrition [<https://medlineplus.gov/nutrition.html>]

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