

## **The world experience of Pediatric Intestinal Failure Program: Successful outcomes from intestinal rehabilitation**

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**S**hort bowel syndrome is a condition whose treatment requires advanced knowledge and techniques and a multidisciplinary approach. SBS is the endpoint of many intestinal diseases and may result in full recovery, in life-long parenteral nutrition, or in the death of the child. Management of children with SBS is optimized by interdisciplinary coordination of parenteral and enteral nutrition support, medical management of associated complications, surgical lengthening procedures, and intestinal transplantation. Pediatric Intestinal Failure Centers were established in 14 pediatric hospitals throughout the United States and Canada and Pediatric Intestinal Failure Consortium has been developed and is implementing prospective, multi-institutional studies to better define the specific aspects of

intestinal failure management that optimize long-term outcomes. The published data from these studies suggest that intestinal failure in pediatric patients is quite treatable and provide further evidence that all infants at risk for intestinal failure should be treated aggressively and referred early to a dedicated intestinal rehabilitation center. Improved communication and integration with the transplant service have resulted in earlier assessment, increased rates of transplantation, and decreased mortality from liver failure. The presented data demonstrate that a newly established intestinal failure program can achieve excellent survival in a cohort of chronically ill and complicated children that has historically been associated with substantial mortality.

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