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Influence of different intravenous lipid emulsions on fatty acid status and laboratory and clinical outcomes in adult patients receiving home parenteral nutrition: A systematic review

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Running title: Lipid emulsions in home parenteral nutrition

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23 **Abstract**

24

25 **Background & aims:** Intravenous lipid emulsions (IVLEs) are a key component in long-term home
26 parenteral nutrition (HPN), providing energy and essential fatty acids (EFAs). Modification of the
27 fatty acid (FA) composition of IVLEs may lead to changes in metabolic responses and cell and tissue
28 function, providing opportunity for clinical improvements. Studies have suggested that, in place of
29 conventional pure soybean oil (SO)-based IVLEs, which have a high omega-6 FA content,
30 alternative IVLEs with different FA profiles may have beneficial effects. Our aim is to assess the
31 effects of different IVLEs in adults dependent on HPN.

32 **Methods:** A systematic literature search using specific terms was performed up to December 2015.
33 Randomised controlled trials (RCTs) comparing two or more IVLEs in adult patients receiving HPN
34 were included. The Cochrane Collaboration's tool for assessing risk of bias was employed and data
35 for outcomes of interest were extracted and collated for interpretation.

36 **Results:** Three RCTs met the eligibility criteria to be included in this review. Sample sizes ranged
37 from 13 to 75, giving a total of 110 patients. All three RCTs reported similar clinical safety for
38 alternative IVLEs compared to SO. Antioxidant status improved with SO-medium-chain triglyceride-
39 olive oil-fish oil (SMOF) but not with olive oil-SO (OO-SO). There was no effect on inflammatory
40 markers according to IVLE used. Phospholipid FA profile was modified by SMOF and OO-SO, with
41 SMOF resulting in a more preferable omega-6/omega-3 FA ratio than SO. There was no evidence of
42 essential fatty acid deficiency with any IVLE. Liver function was improved with SMOF.

43 **Conclusions:** There may be benefits in using alternative IVLEs rather than pure SO in adults on
44 HPN, but there are currently too few RCTs to reach a firm conclusion.

45

46 **Keywords:** Home parenteral nutrition; intravenous lipid emulsion; soybean oil; olive oil; medium-
47 chain triglyceride; fish oil

48 **Abbreviations used:** ALA, α -linolenic acid; ALT, alanine transaminase; AST, aspartate
49 transaminase; CIF, chronic intestinal failure; DHA, docosahexaenoic acid; EFA, essential
50 fatty acid; EPA, eicosapentaenoic acid; FA, fatty acid; FO, fish oil; γ -GT, gamma-glutamyl
51 transpeptidase; HPN, home parenteral nutrition; IVLE, intravenous lipid emulsion; LA,
52 linoleic acid; MCT, medium-chain triglyceride; OO, olive oil; PN, parenteral nutrition; PUFA,
53 polyunsaturated fatty acid; SBS, short bowel syndrome; SMOF, soybean oil - medium chain
54 triglyceride - olive oil - fish oil; SO, soybean oil.

55 **1. Introduction**

56 The delivery of nutrients by the intravenous route is referred to as parenteral nutrition (PN). Home
57 parenteral nutrition (HPN) is recommended for patients who cannot meet their nutritional
58 requirements by oral or enteral intake and who are able to receive PN outside of the acute care
59 setting. Long-term HPN is indicated for patients with chronic intestinal failure (CIF); recently the
60 European Society for Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism (ESPEN) endorsed recommendations in
61 relation to the definition and classification of intestinal failure in adults [1]. Intestinal failure was
62 defined as “the reduction of gut function below the minimum necessary for the absorption of
63 macronutrients and/or water and electrolytes, such that intravenous supplementation is required to
64 maintain health and/or growth” [1]. Causes of CIF include obstruction, surgical resection, trauma,
65 congenital defect, or disease-associated loss of absorption [1,2,3]. CIF is a disabling condition and
66 may be associated with life-threatening complications. The most common indications for HPN in
67 patients with CIF are short bowel syndrome (SBS), fistula, bowel dysmotility and radiation
68 enteropathy [1,2,3]. Recently, ESPEN published guidelines on CIF in adults [3], having previously
69 published guidelines on HPN in adults [2].

70 Patients receiving PN require a mixture of macro and micronutrients. Lipid is a very important
71 component of PN because the fatty acid (FA) constituents are very good sources of energy.
72 Indeed, intravenous lipid emulsions (IVLEs) were integrated into PN as a high energy source,
73 reducing the need for high glucose infusion rates and, therefore, contributing to the prevention of
74 hyperglycaemia and hepatic steatosis [2,4,5]. IVLEs are indispensable for the provision of essential
75 fatty acids (EFAs). EFA deficiency is associated with numerous adverse effects including
76 increased skin permeability, susceptibility to infection, impaired wound healing, hepatic fat
77 infiltration, haematological disturbances and impaired fat absorption [6]. Without lipid, EFA
78 deficiency develops within 2-6 months in patients on HPN [2,3].

79 Although HPN is a vital potentially life-saving treatment, there are inherent risks, with hepatic
80 disorders being the most significant in terms of patients’ prognosis [2,3,5]. The ESPEN guidelines
81 recommend that around 15-30% of total energy intake should come from lipid, and exceeding this

82 has been shown to be an important factor in the development of chronic cholestasis and in
83 progression to more severe liver disease [2,3]. A recent study found that two-thirds of patients on
84 long-term HPN had persistent abnormalities in liver biochemistry [7], while another study reported
85 a prevalence of complicated liver disease of 26% after two years of HPN [8].

86 Lipid emulsions contain a number of biologically active components, but the most important are
87 FAs. Different FAs are metabolized by different pathways, exerting unique biological effects [9].
88 While saturated FAs serve primarily as an energy source, a number of polyunsaturated FAs
89 (PUFAs) have important roles in the structure and function of membranes and serve as substrates
90 for mediators that have roles in inflammation and immune responses, platelet aggregation and
91 smooth-muscle contraction [9]. The simplest PUFAs of the omega-6 (n-6) family (linoleic acid (LA))
92 and of the n-3 family (α -linolenic acid (ALA)) cannot be synthesised de novo and are, therefore,
93 referred to as EFAs.

94 There are a limited number of IVLEs available for use in HPN use, and all are based on the lipid
95 sources soybean oil (SO), medium-chain triglycerides from coconut oil (MCT), olive oil (OO),
96 and/or fish oil (FO) [10]. Table 1 summarises the compositions of the IVLEs that have been used in
97 randomized controlled trials (RCTs) in adults on HPN. The traditional IVLE used in HPN is based
98 solely on SO, meeting energy and EFA requirements. However, there are indications that mixtures
99 of different oils result in a more favourable FA composition, which may translate into better
100 laboratory and clinical outcomes for patients receiving HPN. The purpose of this systematic review
101 is to assess the impact of the currently available IVLEs in adult patients receiving HPN.

102 **2. Methodology**

103 *2.1 Literature search*

104 This study was designed according to the guidelines of the 2009 preferred reporting items for
105 systematic reviews and meta-analyses (PRISMA) [11]. A systematic literature search of the Ovid
106 MEDLINE(R) without Revisions (1996 to November 2015), EMBASE (Classic+Embase 1947 to
107 December 2015) and CINAHL (up to November 2015) databases was performed to source
108 relevant articles using both Free Text and Mesh terms based on the key terms “home parenteral
109 nutrition” and “intravenous lipid emulsions”. All searches were conducted between September and
110 December 2015. The limits *Humans* and *English Language* were applied. There were no
111 restrictions on the searches for population or year of publication. Supplementary Table 1 shows the
112 search strategy carried out using MEDLINE. Reference lists of previous reviews and reference lists
113 of retrieved articles were also manually searched, but these did not yield any additional studies that
114 were not already identified through the electronic search.

115 *2.2 Study selection*

116 The eligibility of studies to be included in the systematic review was assessed using the following
117 criteria: primary research comparing two or more IVLEs; all participants dependent on HPN;
118 participants aged 18 years or above; randomised controlled trial (RCT) study design, and
119 published in the English language. Studies were excluded if there was no reference to whether
120 parenteral nutrition was administered at home or if published as abstracts, commentaries, case
121 reports or conference proceedings.

122 Using the inclusion and exclusion criteria, the vast majority of articles were rejected on the basis of
123 the title or abstract. If the abstract met the eligibility criteria, the full text article was retrieved for
124 further assessment. All studies were reviewed by two reviewers (the authors) using the selection
125 criteria to determine inclusion in the review.

126 *2.3 Publication bias*

127 Minimisation of publication bias was achieved by using a comprehensive search strategy involving

128 electronic databases as well as manual reference searches. However, a degree of bias may have
129 occurred as a result of limiting the search to papers in the English language. Also, this search
130 strategy did not allow for inclusion of studies that have not yet been published on electronic
131 databases.

132 *2.4 Data extraction*

133 The following data were extracted from the full-text articles of all included studies: first author,
134 publication year, study design, study location, study period, sample size, study population,
135 inclusion and exclusion criteria, duration of HPN treatment (stage), type of treatment (IVLE),
136 methods, outcomes measured, prevalence of adverse events and statistical analysis used.
137 Differences in data interpretation were resolved by discussion between the authors.

138 *2.5 Quality assessment*

139 Study quality was assessed using the Cochrane Risk of Bias Tool [12].

140 **3. Results**

141 *3.1 Search results*

142 The electronic literature search yielded 3568 citations and no additional citations were identified
143 through the manual searching of reference lists. Of these, 241 were duplicates and a further 3320
144 were excluded due to failure of the abstract to meet the eligibility criteria. Five prospective cohort
145 and seven case studies met all eligibility criteria except study design, being non-RCTs, and so
146 were not included in the review. Seven full text articles were examined, but on further inspection
147 two did not exclusively include participants dependent on long-term HPN, one was not an RCT and
148 one did not compare two different IVLEs. A final sample of three RCTs was included (Figure 1).

149 *3.2 Characteristics of included trials*

150

151 Table 2 shows the characteristics of the included trials. All three double-blind RCTs compared one
152 alternative IVLE to a pure SO-based IVLE using two groups of patients with comparable
153 demographics. One RCT had a cross-over design with each participant receiving both interventions
154 [13]. The emulsions used were SMOFLipid 20% (SO/MCT/OO/FO; SMOF) [14], ClinOleic 20% (OO-
155 SO) [15] and Structolipid 20% (structured SO-MCT (SO-MCT)) [13]. One RCT was a multi-center
156 study (involving 11 centers in 7 countries) [14], whereas the other two were single-center studies.

157

158 All three RCTs enrolled adults with a variety of long-term gastro-intestinal conditions, although the
159 most frequent indication for HPN across all studies was SBS or Crohn's Disease. The average age
160 of patients was also similar across all studies (between 40 and 55 years). The sample sizes were
161 small; the number of patients that received the allocated intervention – the intention to treat (ITT)
162 population – was 20, 13 and 73 respectively, although data for the latter study were only analysed
163 for 62 patients. There was an unclear risk of bias for at least one category for each RCT; a common
164 weakness was absent reporting with regards to blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) and
165 incomplete data (attrition bias) in two RCTs (see Table 3).

166

167 The average duration of HPN therapy prior to the study period was similar for the two RCTs that
168 reported these data, and was also similar between the two groups assigned different interventions
169 within the studies, the average being around 5 to 6 years [13,15]. Study duration was one [13,14] or
170 three [15] months. All three RCTs reported laboratory parameters for liver function as a primary
171 outcome. Two RCTs reported the FA profile in plasma and/or red blood cell membrane
172 phospholipids [14,15] and two RCTs reported inflammatory and/or lipid peroxidation markers [13,14].
173 Table 4 summarises the main results of the RCTs.

174

175 *3.3 Effect of intervention on liver function*

176

177 With the exception of two patients that showed significantly abnormal concentrations of liver
178 enzymes after receiving the SO-based IVLE [13], none of the RCTs found any impairment in liver
179 function with either the SO-based or the alternative IVLE. Mean concentrations of alanine
180 transaminase (ALT), aspartate transaminase (AST) and total bilirubin were significantly lower in
181 patients who received SMOF ($p=0.049$, 0.027 and 0.043 , respectively) at the end of, compared with
182 the beginning, of the treatment period [14]. In contrast, liver function test changes from the start to
183 the end of the study were not different between the OO-SO and SO groups [15]. However, when the
184 two patients in the cross-over study that developed significantly increased liver enzyme
185 concentrations with the SO-based emulsion were switched to the structured SO-MCT IVLE, liver
186 biochemical markers returned to normal ranges [13].

187

188 *3.4 Effect of intervention on fatty acid profile*

189

190 The change in FA profile in plasma phospholipids over the three month study period was
191 significantly different between the SO and OO-SO groups for oleic acid ($p=0.01$), gamma-linolenic
192 acid ($p=0.02$), and mead acid (n-9 eicosatrienoic acid) ($p=0.04$), which all increased with OO-SO
193 [15]. The difference between the two groups for change in gamma-linolenic acid over the study
194 period (day 0-90) was significant in lymphocyte membranes ($p=0.02$) as well as in plasma

195 phospholipids [15]. Additionally, there was a significant decrease for gamma-linolenic acid in
196 lymphocytes in the SO group ($p=0.03$). There was a significant correlation between daily parenteral
197 intake of LA and change in gamma-linolenic acid in plasma phospholipids ($p=0.009$) with a non-
198 significant trend seen in lymphocytes ($P=0.13$).

199
200 Excluding samples with identified lipid peroxidation (giving a reduced sample size of 14 for the
201 SMOF group and 20 for the SO group), EPA and DHA in both plasma and erythrocytes increased in
202 the SMOF group [14]. This difference was significant for change from baseline to week 4 in the
203 SMOF group and between SO and SMOF groups at end of study (week 4). Consequently, the n-6/n-
204 3 fatty acid ratio was significantly lower at the end of the treatment period in patients who received
205 SMOF compared to those who received SO ($p<0.0001$ for plasma and $p=0.003$ for erythrocytes)
206 [14]. SMOF did not affect arachidonic acid in either plasma or erythrocytes [14].

207
208 The triene:tetraene ratio, indicating EFA deficiency, was only reported in one study [15] and was
209 below the threshold of 0.2 for both the SO and SO-OO groups. There was no clinical evidence of
210 EFA deficiency in any of the study periods.

211 212 *3.4 Effect of intervention on inflammatory status*

213
214 Two studies reported inflammatory markers in plasma [14,15]. Interleukin-6, soluble tumour necrosis
215 factor receptor II and C-reactive protein concentrations remained 2-3 times above reference values
216 from baseline in both the SO and SMOF groups until the end of the study and did not differ between
217 the two groups [14]. Any change in C-reactive protein was not different between the OO-SO and SO
218 groups [15].

219 220 *3.4 Effect of intervention on antioxidant status*

221

222 Serum α -tocopherol (vitamin E) levels, indicating antioxidant status, were significantly increased in
223 patients receiving SMOF compared to those receiving SO at both week 2 and 4 (endpoint of study)
224 ($p < 0.05$) [14], whereas the change was not statistically different between the SO-OO and SO groups
225 over the 90-day study period [15]. Plasma dicarboxylic acids and 3-hydroxy FAs were similar with
226 either SO or structured SO-MCT [13].

227

228 *3.4 Adverse events*

229

230 In terms of clinical safety and tolerance, all three alternative IVLEs showed similar results to that of
231 SO. In one study, five patients in the structured SO-MCT group experienced vomiting and one
232 patient developed skin desquamation while four patients in the SO group also experienced vomiting
233 [13]. It was considered unlikely that any adverse events (AEs) were related to the treatment, and all
234 patients recovered without disruption to the course of treatment. No significant AEs occurred in the
235 SO-OO group and one acute pneumonia episode occurred in the control group, but again with no
236 disruption to the treatment course [15].

237

238 31 AEs in 15 patients (44.1%) who received SMOF were reported compared to 51 AEs in 21
239 patients (53.8%) receiving SO ($p = 0.11$) [14]. In the SMOF group, two AEs in two patients were
240 classed as serious (according to Common Terminology Criteria for AEs). Ten serious AEs in eight
241 patients occurred in the SO group ($p = 0.03$). Full recovery was reported for all cases. AEs accounted
242 for discontinuation of the study treatment for two SMOF patients and six SO patients, with five AEs
243 in two SMOF patients and six AEs in three SO patients ($p = 1.000$) assessed as being possibly or
244 probably related to the treatment, although none of these was serious.

4. Discussion

The inclusion criteria specified that only RCTs be included in this systematic review. This had the advantages of minimising the chance of bias in the results, with RCTs being the 'gold standard, and introducing consistency into the comparison of studies. However, a limitation was that this required exclusion of a large number of trials due to their study design i.e. they were not RCTs. In addition, each of the three included RCTs used SO as the control, which was useful in terms of producing comparable results but it would also be useful to directly compare one alternative emulsion against another in order to better quantify the effect. One RCT used a crossover design in which each patient acted as their own control.

Findings of two RCTs [14,15] support the hypothesis that effects of IVLEs on the FA profiles of plasma and cell membranes depend on, and are consistent with, the FA content of the IVLE. Although the finding was not significant in the RCT [15], other studies [16-20] on SO have found an association between an increase in LA exposure and an increase in arachidonic acid in phospholipids. This suggests that SO can promote the elongation and desaturation of LA to the pro-inflammatory arachidonic acid. However, one randomised crossover study in five adults found an increase in erythrocyte LA and decrease in arachidonic acid with SO [21], so the evidence is not consistent.

The RCT investigating the structured SO-MCT did not report FA profile as an outcome but some of the other studies of the replacement of SO with SO-MCT emulsions have reported no difference in PUFA levels with respect to baseline or compared between the IVLEs [22]. An RCT comparing SO to OO-SO in children [23] also observed that OO-SO use was associated with an increase in oleic acid and decrease in LA in both plasma and cell membrane phospholipids supporting the findings reported here in adults [15]. However, a non-randomised study evaluating the effects of OO-SO in adults receiving HPN over three months found that the only significant change with OO-SO was a decrease in ALA in plasma phospholipids [24]. This study and another 6-month crossover study in

273 adults on HPN [25] had consistent results regarding clinical safety and efficacy, finding that OO-SO
274 was well-tolerated, maintained a normal EFA status, and did not affect liver function. This is a
275 common finding.

276
277 An investigation of the effects of OO-based IVLEs on liver function found the OO-SO IVLE
278 preserved liver markers more effectively [26] but this was not in an HPN population. Furthermore, a
279 study in patients with HPN-associated liver disease found liver enzymes to be significantly improved
280 after treatment with an OO-based IVLE [27]. Overall, these findings suggest that, in a metabolically
281 stressed state, OO-SO may be preferable to SO in terms of improving liver function, although the
282 evidence for this in the adult HPN population is not strong.

283
284 There is a shortage of studies that have looked at inflammatory and peroxidation indices and α -
285 tocopherol status as outcomes with OO-SO emulsions, although an RCT in children reported lower
286 lipid peroxidation with OO-SO [23]. The 3-month study period of the RCT in adults [15] may not have
287 been sufficiently long enough to observe any significant change in these markers. Although OO-
288 based IVLEs have been suggested as an alternative to SO in long-term HPN, the evidence is not
289 sufficient to suggest that OO-SO is superior to traditional SO-based IVLEs in adults.

290
291 A significant and potentially clinically important finding was that treatment with SMOF led to an
292 increase in the concentration of the very long-chain n-3 FAs, EPA and DHA, both of which have
293 been strongly associated with beneficial biological and physiological effects [9]. The increased n-3:n-
294 6 fatty acid ratio in plasma and cell membranes has also been found in an RCT in children [28].
295 SMOF had the additional benefits of positively affecting ALT, AST, and total bilirubin, as well as
296 antioxidant status (alpha-tocopherol concentration). An increased concentration of n-3 PUFAs
297 associated with a significant decrease in arachidonic acid was found in a prospective study in 15
298 adults investigating the treatment of liver disease in HPN patients with fish oil [29] and in a case
299 study [30].

300

301 The findings of this systematic review may be considered in the context of the most recent ESPEN
302 guidelines on CIF in adults [3]. The guidelines suggest “in patients totally dependent on HPN, a
303 minimal supply of 1 g/kg/week of intravenous lipid emulsion containing EFA, to prevent EFA
304 deficiency” [3]. The studies included in the current systematic review indicate that use of SO, SO-
305 MCT, OO-SO or SMOF is appropriate for avoidance of EFA deficiency in adults on HPN. In the
306 context of liver disease, the guidelines suggest “that most patients on long-term HPN for CIF without
307 ongoing metabolic complications be safely treated with provision of no more than 1 g/kg/day of
308 intravenous soybean-based lipid emulsion” [3]. Further, the guidelines recommend “for prevention of
309 intestinal failure associated liver disease that_the dose of soybean-oil based lipid is limited to
310 less than 1 g/kg/day” and suggest “for treatment of intestinal failure-associated liver disease to
311 revise the lipid component of the PN admixture, in order to decrease the total amount and/or to
312 decrease the n-6/n-3 PUFA ratio” [3]. One study included in this systematic review [14] indicates that
313 SMOF, which has a lower n-6 to n-3 fatty acid ratio than the other IVLEs considered here, may result
314 in better liver function than SO-based IVLEs, but more studies are needed in this area.

315

316 **5. Conclusion**

317 Although the duration of the included studies was short, significant differences were found between
318 SO and the alternative IVLEs. The RCTs did not produce any statistically significant differences in
319 liver function tests between SO and alternative IVLEs, but SMOF appeared to improve liver function.
320 The alternative IVLEs may exert clinical benefit long-term as indicated by the improved antioxidant
321 status and FA profiles. Without more clinical data from RCTs of a longer duration, this cannot be
322 determined. Prospective studies over a number of years would give a better indication of the long-
323 term effects. Hence, larger and longer studies are needed, specifically in adults dependent on long-
324 term HPN in order to determine whether one alternative IVLE is more effective in improving patient
325 outcomes.

326

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329

330 **Conflict of Interest**

331 PCC has advised Fresenius-Kabi, B. Braun and Baxter Healthcare on the science of IVLEs. CJJ has

332 no conflicts to report.

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424 **Table 1**425 Summary of the composition of intravenous lipid emulsions used in RCTs in adults on HPN¹

Lipid emulsion	SO	Structured SO-MCT	OO-SO	SMOF
Trade name	Intralipid	Structolipid	Clinoleic	SMOFLipid
Lipid Source (% by weight)	SO (100)	SO/MCT (64:36)	OO/SO (80:20)	SO/MCT/OO/FO (30:30:25:15)
LA (% of total FAs)	53	35	18.7	37.2
ALA (% of total FAs)	8	5	2.3	4.7
EPA + DHA (% of total FAs)	-	-	0.5	9.1
Oleic acid (% of total FAs)	24	14	62.3	55.3
Ratio of n-6 to n-3 PUFAs	7:1	7:1	9:1	2.5:1
α -tocopherol (mg/L)	38	~85	32	150 to 300
Phytosterols (mg/L)	~440	~350	~270	~50

426 ¹Data are taken from reference [10]

427 **Table 2**

428 Characteristics of the three included studies



















Reference	IVLEs used	Sample size (a/b) [¶]	Sex (M/F)	Mean age (y)	Mean duration of HPN prior to study (months)	Exposure to intervention (months)	Indication for HPN
Rubin et al. 2000 [13]	SO-MCT then SO	10/9	7/3	40.8	53	2 (1 per IVLE)	SBS (n = 4) Crohn's (n = 4) Other (n = 2)
	SO then SO-MCT	12/11	7/5	45.3	60	2 (1 per IVLE)	SBS (n = 4) Crohn's (n = 8)
Vahedi et al. 2005 [15]	OO-SO	6/6	4/2	48.0	69	3*	SBS (n = 6)
	SO	7/7	1/6	53.0	77	3*	SBS (n = 4) Chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction (n = 3)
Klek et al. 2013 [14]	SMOF	35/30	20/14	53.2	NR	1	SBS (n = 22) Crohn's (n = 5) Other (n = 8)
	SO	40/32	21/18	45.2	NR	1	SBS (n = 17) Crohn's (n = 3) Malabsorption (n = 5) Other (n = 6)

429

430 *(+ 1 month run-in period with MCT-SO); [¶]a) Number of patients randomised; [¶]b) Number of patients
431 that received allocated intervention and completed whole study duration.

432 **Table 3**

433 Bias table based on Cochrane Tool for assessing bias

Reference	Vahedi et al. 2005 [15]	Rubin et al. 2000 [13]	Klek et al. 2013 [14]
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	 Randomisation list based on a blocking method prepared by third party	 Patient number in the randomization list generated in SAS code using the RANUNI procedure	 Randomisation performed by means of electronic data processing using a seed depending random number generator
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	 Performed by hospital pharmacist using numbered, sealed envelopes.	 "The Department of Drug Supply used the information from the randomization list when labelling the fat-emulsion bottles"	 "allocation to treatment groups was not known to the investigators until the completion of the study"
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias)	 Double-blind	 Double-blind	 Double-blind
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias)	 Not reported	 Not reported	 Not reported
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias)	 Insufficient reporting of attrition – no reasons given for reduced sample size in results tables	 Reasons given for 2 withdrawals	 Patients with lipid peroxidation not included in results table
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	 Exclusion of data occurred		 Exclusion of data occurred

434

435 **Table 4**

436 Summary of results from the three included studies

Reference	Study details	IVLEs used	Liver function tests	Inflammation and peroxidation indices	Clinical outcomes
Rubin et al. 2000 [13]	RCT, adults, n=22, 4 weeks	SO vs structured SO-MCT	SO: ALP, ALT, AST & γ -GT abnormal in 2 patients	Similar lipid peroxidation	Similar clinical safety and AEs (Vomiting n=5 for SO-MCT, n=4 for SO).
Vahedi et al. 2005 [15]	RCT, adults, n=13, 3 months	SO vs OO-SO	No differences	No change or difference in C-reactive protein	Similar AEs
Klek et al. 2013 [14]	RCT, adults, n=75, 4 weeks	SO vs SMOF	Normal but ALT, AST & total bilirubin lower with SMOF (p=0.049, 0.027 and 0.043)	Increase in serum α -tocopherol with SMOF (p<0.05) No change or difference in IL-6, sTNF-RII or C-reactive protein	Serious AEs more frequent with SO (p=0.03)

437 ALP = alkaline phosphatase, γ -GT = gamma glutamyl transpeptidase, AST = aspartate

438 transaminase, IL-6 = interleukin-6, sTNF-RII = soluble tumour necrosis factor receptor II

439 **Supplementary Table 1**

440 The Search Strategy using Combined Free Text and Mesh Terms in the Ovid Medline Database

1	exp Fat Emulsions, Intravenous/	1738
2	exp Parenteral Nutrition/	8011
3	(IVLE* or soy* oil or olive oil or fish oil* or MCT or lipid emuls* or lipid admixture or triacylglyceride* or triglyceride* or fatty acid* or fat emuls* or clinoleic* or intralipid* or ivelip* or lipoven* or lipofundin* or liposyn* or structolipid* or omegaven* or lipoplus* or lipidem* or SMOFlipid* or intrafat*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, keyword heading word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier]	177217
4	((intravenous* adj6 feed*) or (intravenous* adj6 nutri*) or (IV adj6 nutri*) or (IV adj6 feed*) or (intravenous* adj6 fed) or (parenteral* adj6 fed) or (IV adj6 fed) or PN or HTPN or TPN or HPN or (parenteral* adj6 nutri*) or (parenteral* adj6 infusion*) or (parenteral* adj6 solution*) or (parenteral* adj6 admixture*) or (nutri* adj6 admixture*) or (intravenous* adj6 admixture*) or (IV adj6 admixture*) or nutrition* support).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, keyword heading word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier]	30359
5	1 or 3	177217
6	2 or 4	30359
7	5 and 6	1961

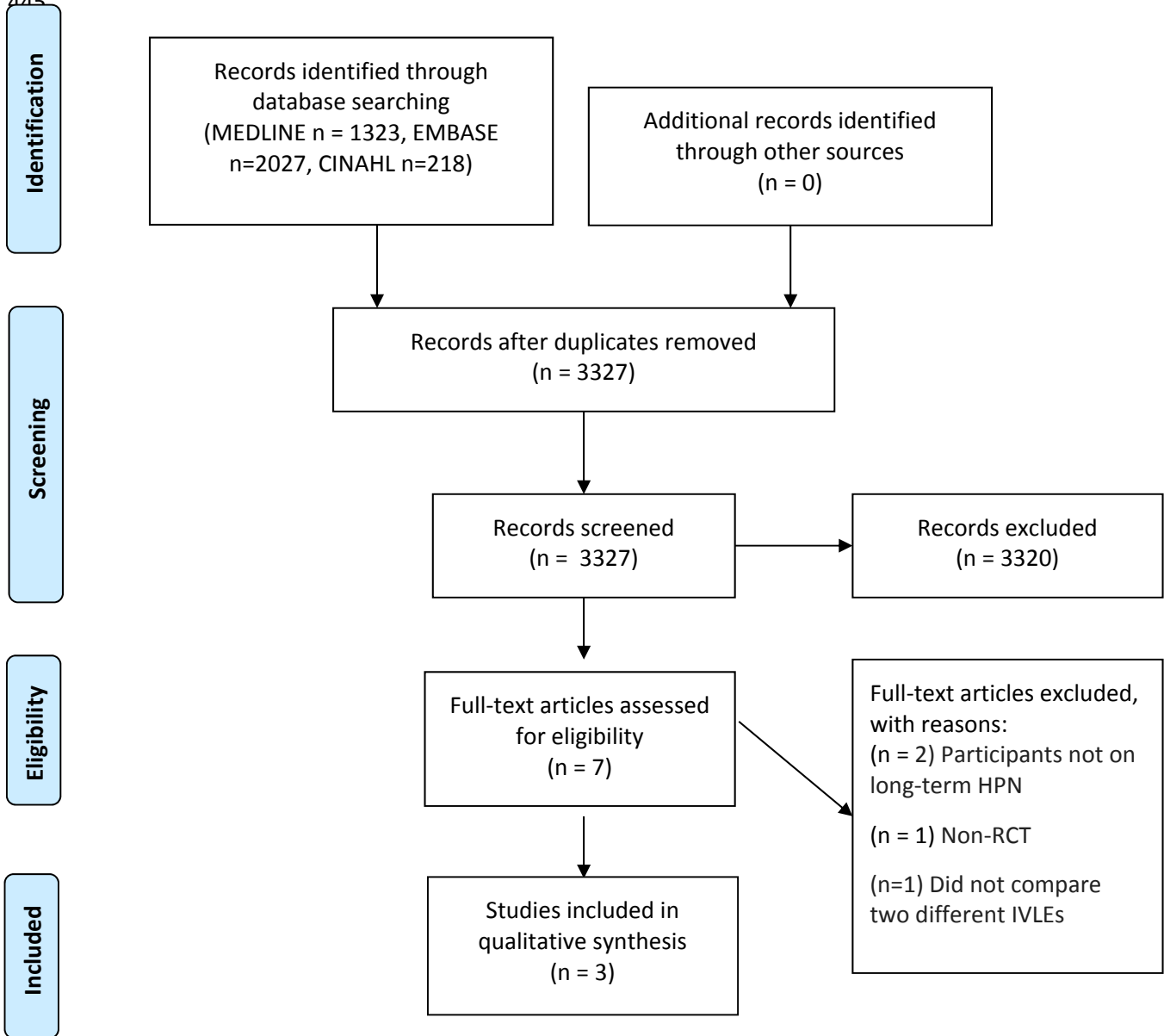
8	limit 7 to english language	1755
9	limit 8 to humans	1323

441

442 **Figure 1**

443 PRISMA flow diagram showing multistage search strategy and study selection

444
445



446