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GRUPPO DI STUDIO  
TESTA COLLO

# IL RUOLO DELLA NUTRIZIONE ENTERALE

Alessandria, 23 Marzo 2015

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# INTRODUCTION:

- Head and neck cancer and its treatment may have serious functional consequences for patients.
  
- Nutritional compromise
  - at diagnosis due to dysphagia or odynophagia from the primary tumor
  - during RT malnutrition rises to 41-88%
  - sequelae of RT and weight loss may continue for several weeks after RT

1340 pts

FULL PAPER

# BJC

British Journal of Cancer (2013) 109, 1093–1099 | doi: 10.1038/bjc.2013.458

Keywords: head and neck cancer; weight loss; radiotherapy; overall survival; disease-specific survival; malnutrition

## Critical weight loss is a major prognostic indicator for disease-specific survival in patients with head and neck cancer receiving radiotherapy

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70% had no WL  
16% had <5% WL  
9% had >5–10% WL  
5% had >10% WL

Five-year OS rate

71%  
59%  
47%  
42%  
(P<0.001)

# NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT:

- ▶ Dietary counseling and nutritional supplements

- ▶ Enteral nutrition

- ▶ Parenteral nutrition

# ENTERAL NUTRITION:

50%-70% of patients treated with CRT:


- ▶ will have severely impaired swallowing
- ▶ require an enteral feeding tube (FT) during or immediately after treatment
  - ➔ PEG or NGT

# RISK FACTORS:

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<u>Patient related:</u>	pretreatment weight loss and/or dysphagia BMI, age, PS heavy tobacco/alcohol use
<u>Tumour related:</u>	large T primary site (hypopharynx and larynx cancer)
<u>Treatment related:</u>	accelerated or hyperfractionated RT cc CT use of post CRT neck dissection

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# TIMING: PROPHYLACTIC vs REACTIVE

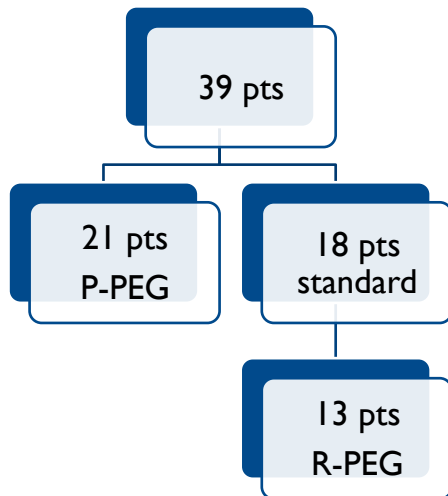


- 2 randomized trials
  
- Retrospective studies

Randomized trial

**Impact of the prophylactic gastrostomy for unresectable squamous cell head and neck carcinomas treated with radio-chemotherapy on quality of life: Prospective randomized trial**

Sébastien Salas<sup>a,1</sup>, Karine Baumstarck-Barrau<sup>b,\*,1</sup>, Marc Alfonsi<sup>c</sup>, Laurence Digue<sup>a</sup>, Danielle Bagarry<sup>a</sup>, Nasreddine Feham<sup>d</sup>, René Jean Bensadoun<sup>e</sup>, Thierry Pignon<sup>f</sup>, Anderson Loundon<sup>b</sup>, Jean-Laurent Deville<sup>a</sup>, Michel Zanaret<sup>g</sup>, Roger Favre<sup>a</sup>, Florence Duffaud<sup>a</sup>, Pascal Auquier<sup>b</sup>



Endpoint: QoL

**Patients evaluation:**

- T0
- 4<sup>th</sup> week
- RT end
- 6 months

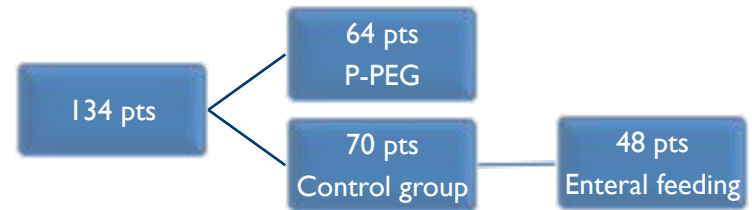
**Results:**

- No differences in BMI at RT end and at 6 months
- Better QoL at 6 months with P-PEG



# IMPACT OF PROPHYLACTIC PERCUTANEOUS ENDOSCOPIC GASTROSTOMY ON MALNUTRITION AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN PATIENTS WITH HEAD AND NECK CANCER—A RANDOMIZED STUDY

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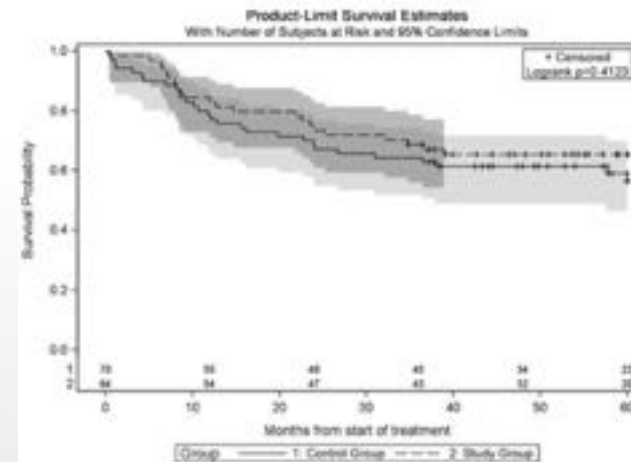
Evaluation: T0, 1-2-3-6-12-24 month

## RESULTS:

- Use of enteral feeding: 177 vs 122 days (p < 0,0001)
- QoL at 6 months > P-PEG

Weight loss	6 months	1 year	2 years
P-PEG	11,2%	11,1%	8,9%
Control	12,4%	9%	6,6%

Malnutrition	2 months	6 months	1 year	2 years
P-PEG	6%	62%	52%	48%
Control	19%	71%	56%	37%



# TIMING:

Study	% weight loss	Comments
Nugent 2010 (76 pts)	ONS: 6.1%	No difference
	NGT: 8.5%	
	R-PEG: 8.7%	
	P-PEG: 8.5%	
Chen 2010 (120 pts)	P-PEG: 14% R-PEG: 8%	P < 0,001 RT end
Williams 2012 (104 pts)	P-PEG: 6.1%	No difference
	R-PEG: 7.1%	
	NGT: 6.2%	
Olson 2013 (445 pts)	P-PEG: R-PEG:	No differences
Lewis 2013 (109 pts)	Control: 10.5% P-PEG: 4.3% R-PEG: 10.1%	P < 0,001 RT end
Kramer 2014 (86 pts)	P-PEG: 5.6% R-PEG: 7.6%	No difference

# PEG vs NGT:

## Evaluate:

- Weight loss
- Complications
- QoL
- FT dependance
- Cost



# PEG vs NGT:WEIGHT

Study		Weight loss
Magnè 2001	NGT 40 pts PEG 50 pts	Weight and BMI comparable at 3 and 6 weeks
Corry 2009- prospective	NGT 73 pts PEG 32 pts	At 6 weeks greater with NGT >% pts with NGT had loss> 10% body weight
Sadivan 2012- prospective	NGT 50 pts PEG 50 pts	Weight, HB level, mid-arm circumference at 1-6 weeks and 6 month better with PEG

# PEG vs NGT: QOL

Study		Results
Magnè 2001	NGT 40 pts PEG 50 pts	Better QoL with PEG
Corry 2009- prospective	NGT 73pts PEG 32pts	1 week: Worse pain with PEG vs NGT ( $p < 0.001$ ) 6 week: NGT 'more inconvenient' and interfere with social activities
Sadivan 2012- prospective	NGT 50 pts PEG 50 pts	Better QoL with PEG ( $p < 0.01$ )

# PEG vs NGT: FT DEPENDENCE

Study		Results
Mekhail 2001	NGT 29 pts PEG 62 pts	Dysphagia more persistence with PEG at 3 and 6 months
Corry 2009- prospective	NGT 73 pts PEG 32 pts	57 vs 146 days ( $p < 0.001$ ) 8% vs 25% dysphagia G3 ( $p = 0.07$ )

# PEG vs NGT: COMPLICATIONS

Study		Dislodgements	Infections
Magnè 2001	NGT 40 pts PEG 50 pts	67% vs 8%	52% vs 16%
Corry 2009- prospective	NGT 73 pts PEG 32 pts	62%vs 19% p<0,001	30% vs 66% p=0.001
Sadivan 2012- prosp	NGT 50 pts PEG 50 pts	36% vs 0% P<0.001	64% vs 4% p<0.001

## PEG:

- Colonic ileus
- Bowel perforation
- Gastrointestinal hemorrhage
- Fistula

## NGT:

- Tube uncomfortable
- Tube blocking
- Pharyngeal ulceration
- Refusal of reinsertion
- Bleeding

# CONCLUSIONS:

## TIMING:

### Prophylactic approach:

- Preventing treatment related weight loss
- Reducing rates dehydration
- Reducing rates hospitalizations
- Avoiding treatment breaks

### Reactive approach:

- Limited to pts unable to maintain nutritional status
- Spare patients who do not need enteral nutrition
- Shorter duration of tube dependence
- Better functional long term outcomes

# CONCLUSIONS:

## PEG vs NGT:

### PEG:

- More aesthetic
- Less discomfort
- Fewer dislodgements
- Better weight preservation
- Better QoL

### NGT:

- Easier to place
- Smaller risk of serious complication
- Lower cost
- Less late dysphagia
- Shorter duration of tube dependence
- Less need for pharyngoesophageal dilatation



# OUR EXPERIENCE.....

- Multidisciplinary discussion
- Patients with supraglottic larynx, hypopharynx and tongue basis tumour
- Patients with severe loss weight
  - ↳ nutritional and phoniatic evaluation -> prophylactic ?
- All patients -> Dietary counseling
  - Nutritional supplements
  - R-NGT

