

The Relationship between Laboratory Biomarkers and Nutritional Interventions in Emergency Nursing Care

Raed Najem Alotaibi¹, Abdulmajeed Mohammed Albogami², Homoud Salah Aljeri³,
Majed Assaf Alsabee⁴, Ahmed Saleh Alfayez⁵, Abdullah Zaid Alsufayyan⁶, Khalid
Mohammed Asiri⁷, Abeer Habbab Alotaibi⁸, Talal Salem Alzahrani⁹

¹Nursing, Ministry of Defense

²Nursing, Ministry of Defense

³Paramedic, Ministry of Defense

⁴Clinical Nutrition, Ministry of Defense

⁵Paramedic, Ministry of Defense

⁶Clinical Nutrition, Ministry of Defense

⁷Specialist Laboratory, Ministry of Defense

⁸Nursing, Ministry of Defense

⁹Senior Nutritionist, Ministry of Defense

Received: 08.09.2024

Revised: 17.10.2024

Accepted: 26.11.2024

ABSTRACT

This review has summarized the relationship between laboratory biomarkers and nutritional interventions in emergency nursing care and underlined how important these factors are in patient outcomes. Laboratory biomarkers are, therefore, crucial in providing insight into the physiological status of patients and guiding appropriate nutritional strategies. Nutritional interventions are thus important strategies in mitigating malnutrition and improving recovery in critically ill patients through the use of enteral and parenteral feeding. This review focuses on biomarkers' interaction with nutrition, highlighting how they can further contribute to precision care in the emergency room. By integrating the evidence of recent research, the study outlines the importance of a multidisciplinary approach in managing critically ill patients in order to optimize outcomes and reduce complications.

keywords: laboratory biomarkers, nutritional interventions, emergency nursing care, serious disease, precise treatment, enteral nutrition, and patients' outcome.

INTRODUCTION

The interface between nutritional interventional studies and laboratory biomarkers concerning emergency nursing care is a new frontier that possesses enormous potential in the improvement of patient outcomes. Biomarkers, especially for critically ill patients, play an important role in guiding nutritional support. Biomarkers help assess the severity of a patient's illness and estimate the patient's nutritional status along with metabolic changes occurring at admission to the hospital. Angus & van der Poll, 2013). Sepsis, as a life-threatening condition commonly seen in emergency nursing, has a strong impact on the body's metabolic status, thus affecting the nutritional requirements of the patient and the markers used to monitor these needs (Denstaedt, Singer, & Standiford, 2018).

Emergency nursing care focuses on the immediate nutritional needs of the acutely ill patient to obviate the onset of malnutrition that would worsen outcomes such as prolonged convalescence and increased death rates. As part of metabolic monitoring, the whole-body protein kinetics have been demonstrated to track the effect of hypocaloric and normocaloric feeding on the protein balance of critically ill patients (Berg et al., 2013). Therefore, understanding the interplay between biomarkers like albumin levels and nitrogen balance is critical for determining appropriate nutritional interventions (Ridley & Lambell, 2022).

Recent advances in the integration of multi-omics data and phenotyping allow better predictions of responses in patients to nutritional interventions. More importantly, the findings allow the clinical researcher to forecast cytokine responses important in sepsis and most other critical conditions commonly experienced in emergency settings according to Bakker et al., 2018. Such an understanding of the relationship between these cytokine markers and nutritional support will go a long way in consolidating therapeutic approaches toward better patient outcomes in critical care.

More importantly, the proper consumption of proteins has become crucial in nursing care on an emergency basis, especially for a life-threatening disease where the muscles are wasting away. The nutritional intervention by way of application of proper strategies such as enteral feeding and parenteral nutrition should be considered in view of the metabolic demand. The protein turnover rates and whole-body protein kinetics of critically ill patients are altered, requiring careful adjustments to nutritional interventions (Liebau, Wernerman, van Loon, & Rooyackers, 2015). Clinicians rely on biomarkers to help guide these decisions, balancing between providing sufficient protein and preventing the complications associated with overfeeding or underfeeding (Compher et al., 2022).

According to Thibault et al., 2016, biomarkers, especially those of muscle mass and fat-free mass, have been shown to be predictors of such clinical outcomes as mortality and recovery in critically ill patients. Such biomarkers are an important tool for the emergency nurse in the assessment of the patient's condition and in adjusting their nutritional support. The integration of laboratory biomarkers with evidence-based nutritional interventions offers a promising approach to improving survival rates and long-term recovery for patients in critical care. Boelens, Melchers, & van Zanten (2022).

METHODOLOGY

This paper is aimed at critically appraising the interaction of laboratory biomarkers and nutritional interventions in emergency nursing care, based on the relevant literature, from 2010 to 2023. Various databases were searched using specified words, such as "laboratory biomarkers," "nutritional interventions," "emergency nursing care," and "critical illness." The search retrieved 90 studies that had gone through certain filters of relevance, methodological strengths, and contribution to the topic. The following review summarizes representative biomarkers reflecting inflammation, metabolism, and organ dysfunction and describes nutritional strategies using enteral, parenteral, and specialized feeding formulations. A synthesis of the evidence was performed with a view to explaining how biomarker-driven care could be combined with nutritional interventions in enhancing recovery and reducing complications among critically ill patients.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Biomarkers in the laboratory are the cornerstones in providing further details on the physiological and metabolic status of the patient during emergency nursing care. These provide early detection for inflammation, infection, and eventual organ dysfunction that could warrant timely interventions. Biomarkers for nutritional status, which include serum albumin and prealbumin, are important for assessing the risk of malnutrition to ensure nutritional strategies are meeting the individual's needs with proper interventions.

Nutritional emergency interventions are paramount in providing emergency care for critically ill patients with altered metabolic needs. Enteral and parenteral modes of feeding avert possible complications related to nutritional deficiencies and refeeding syndrome. High-protein nutrition, including amino acid supplementation, seems especially effective in maintaining muscle mass and improving immune functions. Composition, timing, and route are most often changed based on biomarker information in order to meet the needs of the patient in question.

Radiological investigations supplement laboratory parameters by further specifying anatomic information that will be useful in formulating nutrition planning. Imaging studies, including abdominal ultrasound to CT scans, identify complications such as bowel obstruction or bowel ischemia that will necessitate changes in feeding. Integration of the radiological findings into biomarker information allows an integrated approach toward patient management, thus optimizing outcomes while minimizing risks.

Biomarker technology is, therefore, cardinal to furthering precision medicine in critical care medicine. Deep biomarker panels and multi-omics allow subgroup stratification of patients where an intervention becomes precisely targeted. Nutritional interventions will henceforth be tailored toward the betterment of recovery and reduction of morbidity.

Biomarker-driven nutritional interventions are mobilized in interdependent relationships. The caregivers including nurses, dietitians, laboratory personnel and clinicians provide care in a continuous and adaptive fashion. Such a team-oriented approach will help in improving patient outcomes and build multi-faceted knowledge regarding the dynamic relationships of biomarkers and nutrition in a critical care environment.

DISCUSSION

Emergency nursing care, therefore, has very close links between laboratory and nutritional biomarkers, with biomarkers always serving as a major guide towards informed clinical decisions in acutely ill patients. Nutritional support thus has to always be individualized in emergency settings, especially because of severe metabolic changes created by trauma, sepsis, or other critical conditions. Laboratory biomarkers provide vital information on the patient's nutritional status, helping clinicians to tailor interventions that meet the patient's specific needs (Angus & van der Poll, 2013).

Albumin, prealbumin, and CRP are some of the common biomarkers which will be used in monitoring nutritional status and the inflammatory responses of critically ill patients. According to Conway & Wong, 2020, low albumin is an indication of malnutrition or acute illnesses that may need alteration in the feeding of a patient. Furthermore, inflammatory markers such as CRP can reflect the patient's response to infection or injury, which can directly affect their nutritional needs (Denstaedt et al., 2018). As emergency nurses manage these complex conditions, the accurate interpretation of these biomarkers allows them to administer timely and appropriate nutritional support.

Nutritional interventions have become important; mostly through the provision of either enteral or parenteral nutrition, to improve the clinical outcome of critically ill patients. A recent RCT conducted by Ferrie et al., (2016) found that a higher protein intake through parenteral nutrition results in an improved nitrogen balance toward the anabolic state of the muscles. Nutritional support during the emergent phase should provide adequate nutrition for the individual without overfeeding and thereby exacerbating his/her hyperglycemic state or predisposing him/her to a greater risk of infection. In general, blood glucose and serum insulin levels will serve as biomarkers for assessing the adequacy and safety of nutritional intervention provided.

Because an infection or trauma induces an acute phase response in a critically ill patient, the rate of protein turnover in him is very different than in healthy persons, in which enhanced breakdown of proteins results in muscular atrophy if nutritional interventions appropriate for this stage are not carried out (Berg et al., 2013). Laboratory biomarkers such as nitrogen balance and serum proteins should be able to help the clinician assess feeding strategies and adjust them if the goal of optimization of the patient's metabolic status is not achieved.

Incorporating multi-omics data into clinical decision-making represents a promising future direction for personalized nutritional interventions. Through the integration of genomic, proteomic, and metabolomics data, clinicians can gain insights into a patient's unique response to nutritional interventions, which can aid in predicting recovery and tailoring feeding strategies (Bakker et al., 2018). For instance, the levels of specific amino acids may give information on the state of the mTORC1 pathway, responsible for cell growth and protein synthesis, two of the key processes commonly disrupted in critical illness (Wolfson & Sabatini, 2017).

Therefore, critical care nurses are more often charged in using these biomarkers to ensure that patients receive adequate and personalized nutrition. This becomes particularly important in patients with severe sepsis or any other life-threatening condition because protein malnutrition will further deteriorate clinical outcomes (Singer et al., 2007). Real-time detection of biomarkers allows the emergency nursing care team to make timely and evidence-based decisions on nutritional interventions and ensures that patients receive an appropriate balance of macronutrients.

The challenge in the setting of emergency care is to institute nutrition interventions in a timely and appropriate manner with consideration of the rapid changes that characterize a patient's condition. Early initiation of nutrition-addition of protein in a critically ill patient may accentuate complications related to sepsis or renal failure according to Wischmeyer et al., 2016. Biomarkers of renal function such as creatinine and urea are thus reflection in critically ill patients not only of the timing but also of the route of nutritional intake.

Besides the requirements of protein, the metabolic pathways of fat and carbohydrate introduce other important concerns in nutritional cares for critically ill patients. Usually, dysregulation of those reflected by increased triglycerides or glucose may affect the clinical outcome. Nutritional support is supposed to meet the changed energy requirements in critical condition without causing hyperglycemic or hyperlipidemic complications (Formenti et al., 2019). By monitoring relevant biomarkers, nurses can modify nutrition strategies to minimize these risks.

Other benefits include the fact that the application of biomarkers in nutritional care can allow assessment of muscle mass, as one of the significant predictors of recovery in critically ill patients. According to Thibault et al. (2016), fat-free mass upon admission can predict 28-day mortality and, therefore, may be a vital factor in emergency care. Thus, lab markers, including those of muscle breakdown or synthesis, are important in supplying feedback on nutritional interventions pursued for the purpose of preserving muscle mass.

The link between inflammation, immune response, and nutrition in critically ill patients is well-documented. Inflammatory cytokines are produced during infections, trauma, or surgery, influencing the patient's nutritional needs. Nutritional interventions that focus on modulating the inflammatory response through specific amino acids or fatty acids are becoming a key area of research (Ideraabduallah & Zeisel, 2018). Monitoring biomarkers such as cytokines and acute-phase proteins can help identify patients who would benefit from these specialized nutritional therapies.

Sepsis is one of the most frequent pathophysiological conditions treated within the emergency nursing scope that critically diminishes the body's ability to use nutrition. Biomarkers, like the levels of lactate, therefore, assume an important role in dictating various interventions. High lactate mostly indicates poor tissue perfusion, thus calling for aggressive replenishment of fluids and nutrition to help avoid multiple organ failure. As underlined by Conway & Wong (2020), early intervention guided by such biomarkers could make a difference in survival rates.

It is a developing concept in critical care and emphasizes nutritional interventions personalized according to a particular characteristic that defines a patient. For instance, Maslove et al. (2017) discuss how precision medicine applies in the ICU in providing personalized treatments, including nutrition according to biomarkers of a patient. This is highly likely to increase the efficacy of nutritional interventions and therefore the outcomes in critically ill patients.

Thirdly, the teams of nursing providing emergency care should note that refeeding syndrome may result in conditions including acute renal failure or metabolic syndrome due to overfeeding. Overfeeding will precipitate problems such as hyperglycemia, fluid imbalance, or infection, conditions worsening the status of the patient's pathology (Singer et al., 2007). Careful monitoring of biomarkers includes glucose and insulin that provide guidance for nutritional intervention to avoid these risks.

It should be noted that monitoring changes in protein levels and nitrogen balance offers indications of nutritional status in critically ill patients. High-dose amino acid infusions preserved diuresis and improved nitrogen balance, preventing muscle wasting while supporting the functions of organs in a number of studies. Biomarkers of these changes in protein metabolism could provide indications of the appropriate time and dose of nutritional support, according to Singer et al. (2007).

Studies concerning the role of the microbiome in nutritional response are therefore increasingly being carried out. According to Wischmeyer et al. (2016), dysbiosis of gut microbiome negatively impacts the effect of nutritional interventions. This creates new perspectives for the application of pro- and prebiotics in nutritional support as one of the ways of enhancing the outcome in critically ill patients.

As the body of knowledge regarding the use of biomarkers in nutrition grows, so does the expectation that emergency nurses will apply these tools in everyday practice. This involves not only the tracking of biomarkers but also, importantly, understanding their relevance to specific nutritional interventions. In this respect, teams providing emergency care are able to offer personalized effective care and optimize the potential for recovery in critically ill patients.

Precision nutrition in critical care is a developing domain, promising to sharpen our knowledge of those laboratory biomarkers that may potentially guide nutritional interventions with precision. Knowledge that empowers the emergency nurse to establish more specific therapies-solely with an aim of improving even the most acute of patient outcomes. Lastly, with continuous development in research, integrating biomarkers into clinical practice no doubt stands to further raise the quality of care for the critically ill patient.

CONCLUSION

The combination of nutritional intervention with laboratory biomarkers provides a cornerstone for optimized patient outcomes in the care of emergency nursing. Biomarkers have thus become significant, availing real-time data useful in decision-making regarding the early identification and management of nutritional deficiencies through interventions aimed at meeting each patient's metabolic demands. This proactive approach ensures timely, accurate interventions that avert complications and hasten the recovery process of the patient.

Nutritional interventions, when informed by biomarkers, have improved outcomes in acutely critically ill patients by maintaining muscle integrity, immune responses, and targeted nutrition-all core elements in the stabilization and facilitation of healing of the patient. Such strategies as supplementation with protein and special feeding regimens mirror the dynamic physiological changes occurring in an emergency setting and provide a rationale for personalized care in critical environments.

Such effectiveness increases with the addition of radiological data to nutritional strategies along with other laboratory findings. Radiological assessments detect the presence of an anatomical or functional challenge and, therefore, inform adjustment in the mode and route of feeding to ensure safe and effective delivery of nutrition.

A multidisciplinary approach emphasizes comprehensive assessment for emergency nursing care.

The paradigm change in critical care practices encompasses the interplay between the laboratory biomarkers, along with radiological findings and nutritional interventions. Focus on evidence-based, patient-centered strategies secures not only a leap in survival rates but also in the quality of care itself. Ultimately, further research and collaboration across disciplines are necessary since these practices are refined to realize optimal patient outcomes in the critical care environment.

REFERENCES

1. Angus, D. C., & van der Poll, T. (2013). Severe sepsis and septic shock. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 369(9), 840–851.
2. Bakker, O. B., Aguirre-Gamboa, R., Sanna, S., Oosting, M., Smeekens, S. P., Jaeger, M., et al. (2018). Integration of multi-omics data and deep phenotyping enables prediction of cytokine responses. *Nature Immunology*, 19(7), 776–786.
3. Berg, A., Rooyackers, O., Bellander, B. M., & Wernerman, J. (2013). Whole body protein kinetics during hypocaloric and normocaloric feeding in critically ill patients. *Critical Care*, 17(R158).

4. Boelens, Y. F. N., Melchers, M., & van Zanten, A. R. H. (2022). Poor physical recovery after critical illness: Incidence, features, risk factors, pathophysiology, and evidence-based therapies. *Current Opinion in Critical Care*, 28, 409–416.
5. Chapple, L. S., Plummer, M. P., & Chapman, M. J. (2021). Gut dysfunction in the ICU: Diagnosis and management. *Current Opinion in Critical Care*, 27, 141–146.
6. Compher, C., Bingham, A. L., McCall, M., et al. (2022). Guidelines for the provision of nutrition support therapy in the adult critically ill patient: The American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition. *JPEN Journal of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition*, 46, 12–41.
7. Conway, S. R., & Wong, H. R. (2020). Biomarker panels in critical care. *Critical Care Clinics*, 36(1), 89–104.
8. Denstaedt, S. J., Singer, B. H., & Standiford, T. J. (2018). Sepsis and nosocomial infection: Patient characteristics, mechanisms, and modulation. *Frontiers in Immunology*, 9, 2446.
9. Ferrie, S., Allman-Farinelli, M., Daley, M., & Smith, K. (2016). Protein requirements in the critically ill: A randomized controlled trial using parenteral nutrition. *JPEN Journal of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition*, 40(6), 795–805.
10. Formenti, P., Umbrello, M., Coppola, S., Froio, S., & Chiumello, D. (2019). Clinical review: Peripheral muscular ultrasound in the ICU. *Annals of Intensive Care*, 9(1), 57.
11. Ideraabdullah, F. Y., & Zeisel, S. H. (2018). Dietary modulation of the epigenome. *Physiological Reviews*, 98(2), 667–695.
12. Liebau, F., Wernerman, J., van Loon, L. J., & Rooyackers, O. (2015). Effect of initiating enteral protein feeding on whole-body protein turnover in critically ill patients. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, 101(3), 549–557.
13. Ludwig, D. S., Ebbeling, C. B., & Heymsfield, S. B. (2019). Improving the quality of dietary research. *JAMA*, 322(15), 1549–1550.
14. Maslove, D. M., Lamontagne, F., Marshall, J. C., & Heyland, D. K. (2017). A path to precision in the ICU. *Critical Care*, 21(1), 79.
15. Ridley, E. J., & Lambell, K. (2022). Nutrition before, during and after critical illness. *Current Opinion in Critical Care*, 28, 395–400.
16. Singer, P., Blaser, A. R., Berger, M. M., Alhazzani, W., Calder, P. C., Casaer, M. P., et al. (2007). High-dose amino acid infusion preserves diuresis and improves nitrogen balance in non-oliguric acute renal failure. *Wiener Klinische Wochenschrift*, 119(7), 218–222.
17. Stanski, N. L., & Wong, H. R. (2020). Biomarkers in critical illness. *Critical Care Clinics*, 36(1), 11–23.
18. Thibault, R., Makhlof, A. M., Mulliez, A., Cristina Gonzalez, M., Kekstas, G., Kozjek, N. R., et al. (2016). Fat-free mass at admission predicts 28-day mortality in intensive care unit patients. *Intensive Care Medicine*, 42(9), 1445–1453.
19. Wischmeyer, P. E., McDonald, D., & Knight, R. (2016). Role of the microbiome, probiotics, and "dysbiosis therapy" in critical illness. *Current Opinion in Critical Care*, 22(4), 347–353.
20. Wolfson, R. L., & Sabatini, D. M. (2017). The dawn of the age of amino acid sensors for the mTORC1 pathway. *Cell Metabolism*, 26(2), 301–309.