

# ENHANCED RECOVERY PROTOCOLS (ERPs): IMMUNONUTRITION & CARBOHYDRATE LOADING

## Complementary Protocols for Major Elective Surgery

**PREOPERATIVE IMMUNONUTRITION**



**ORAL:**  
2 cartons/day  
for 5 days

**OR**



**TUBE FED:**  
1 UltraPak®/  
day\* for  
5 days


**Regular diet as appropriate**

**CARBOHYDRATE LOADING\*\*  
(as part of ERPs)**

Clear Liquid Beverage


100 grams carbohydrate		50 grams carbohydrate
<b>and/or</b>		
12 hours before surgery		2-3 hours before surgery

**POSTOPERATIVE IMMUNONUTRITION**



**ORAL:**  
2 cartons/day  
for 5 days

**OR**



**TUBE FED:**  
1 UltraPak®/  
day\* for  
5 days

**Resume regular diet as appropriate**

**Immunonutrition and Carbohydrate Loading are complementary practices.  
Society recommendations include perioperative immunonutrition and preoperative carbohydrate loading.<sup>1</sup>**

\*Initiate IMPACT® tube feeding and advance to ≥1000 calories/day to meet nutritional needs for 5 days. Also available in open system.

\*\*No recommendation can be given for the use of carbohydrate loading in patients with diabetes.<sup>2</sup>

These are suggested guidelines based on clinical references and should not be construed as a substitute for medical advice or existing facility protocols.

# IMPACT<sup>®</sup> Formulas and Enhanced Recovery Protocols (ERPs)

1

## PRE-OPERATIVE

- Preadmission counseling
- **Fluid and carbohydrate loading**
- No prolonged fasting
- No/selective bowel preparation
- Antibiotic prophylaxis
- Thromboprophylaxis
- No premedication



2

## INTRA-OPERATIVE

- Short-acting anesthetic agents
- Mid-thoracic epidural anesthetic/analgesia
- No drains
- Avoidance of salt and water overload
- Maintenance of normothermia (body warmer/warm intravenous fluids)

3

## POST-OPERATIVE

- Mid-thoracic epidural anesthesia/analgesia
- No nasogastric tubes
- Prevention of nausea and vomiting
- Avoidance of salt and water overload
- Early removal of catheter
- **Early oral/enteral nutrition**
- Non-opioid oral analgesia/NSAIDs
- Early mobilization
- Stimulation of gut motility
- Audit of compliance and outcomes

## ERPs that include IMPACT Advanced Recovery<sup>®</sup> drink have shown:

- ✓ Reductions in length of stay (LOS)<sup>3-5</sup>
- ✓ Reductions in 90-day readmissions<sup>4</sup>
- ✓ Reductions in infection rates<sup>5,6</sup>
- ✓ Reductions in postoperative CRP values<sup>3,5</sup>
- ✓ Improved diet advancement<sup>4</sup>
- ✓ Improved time to flatus/bowel movements<sup>4</sup>

These are suggested guidelines based on clinical references and should not be construed as a substitute for medical advice or existing facility protocols.

ERPs may have 20+ types of interventions across multiple functions.

# IMPACT® Formulas Improve Patient Outcomes and Support Cost Savings

	IMPACT® Formulas	Carbohydrate Loading <sup>7,8</sup>
Reductions in preoperative thirst, hunger and anxiety		✓
Studied as part of an ERP bundle of protocols with improved clinical outcomes <sup>3-6</sup>	✓	✓
Two RCT meta-analyses show a 51% reduction in risk of infectious complications after major elective surgery <sup>9,10</sup>	✓	
RCT meta-analysis shows 2-3 day reduction in LOS after major elective surgery <sup>10</sup>	✓	
Studied to incrementally support hospital cost savings <sup>11,12</sup>	✓	



## Immunonutrition with IMPACT® Formulas

- Proven to reduce infectious complications when compared to isonitrogenous, isocaloric standard nutrition.<sup>9,12</sup>
- Improved clinical outcomes associated with use of immunonutrition (**arginine, omega-3 fatty acids from fish oil, and nucleotides**), do not require the adoption of ERPs<sup>9,10,13</sup>, but may be enhanced by them<sup>3-6</sup>

## Carbohydrate Loading

- Shown to improve clinical outcomes when an ERP bundle<sup>14</sup> of protocols are in place<sup>15</sup>
- Limited clinical benefit as a separate intervention<sup>16</sup>
- No difference in length of stay (LOS) when compared to water or placebo<sup>17</sup>

## USE UNDER MEDICAL SUPERVISION

### References:

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