

Table 1. Features of the Subjective Global Assessment¹

Height: _____ Admit weight: _____ Body mass index: _____

A. History

1. Weight (wt) change :

In the past 2 weeks, weight has: Increased / Decreased / Not changed

Overall weight loss in the past 6 months: _____ kg: _____%.

2. Change in dietary intake (relative to normal intake): circle

No change Borderline/poor Unable to eat

If intake has decreased, for how long: _____ weeks.

3. Gastrointestinal Symptoms (>2 weeks): circle all that apply

None Nausea Vomiting Diarrhea Anorexia

4. Functional capacity: circle

No change Decreased activities of daily living Bed ridden

5. Metabolic stress: circle

No stress Low/moderate stress High stress

B. Physical Examination: check all that apply

_____ Triceps and chest subcutaneous fat loss

_____ Quadriceps and deltoid muscle wasting

_____ Ankle edema

_____ Sacral edema

_____ Ascites

C. SGA rating: check one

_____ A = well nourished

_____ B = moderately malnourished

_____ C = severely malnourished

¹ Adapted from Detsky et al. (1987).

Table 2. Admission clinical characteristics for participants requiring mechanical ventilation

Variable	All patients N=57	Normally nourished n=28	Moderate or Severely malnourished n=29
Females – n (%)	30 (53)	14 (50)	16 (55)
Age (years) – mean \pm SD range	50.4 \pm 14.2 (19.1-76.0)	51.3 \pm 12.5 (19.1 – 68.3)	49.6 \pm 15.8 (21.7 -76.0)
Race/Ethnicity			
White- n (%)	24 (42)	15 (54)	9 (31)
Black- n (%)	22 (39)	11 (38)	11 (38)
Hispanic- n (%)	7 (12)	1 (4)	6 (21)
Other- n (%)	4 (7)	1 (4)	3 (10)
Diagnosis			
Respiratory failure - n (%)	36 (63)	17 (60)	19 (66)
Sepsis - n (%)	10 (18)	5 (18)	5 (17)
Stroke/Seizure - n (%)	9 (16)	6 (21)	3 (10)
Pneumonia - n (%)	4 (3)	0 (0)	2 (7)
APACHE II - mean \pm SD range	24 \pm 10 (5 - 43)	24 \pm 9 (5 - 39)	24 \pm 10 (5 - 43)
APACHE IV - mean \pm SD range	87 \pm 29 (30 - 153)	88 \pm 34 (30 - 153)	87 \pm 24 (50 - 141)
Diabetes history - n (%)	14 (25)	5 (18)	9 (31)
Cancer history - n (%)	23 (40)	7 (25)	16 (55) ¹
Body mass index mean \pm SD range	29.0 \pm 9.2 (12.0 – 65.5)	31.1 \pm 9.4 (21.2 – 65.5)	27.0 \pm 8.6 (12.0 – 54.3)
Direct ICU admission - n (%)	25 (44)	16 (57)	9 (31)
Pre-ICU length of stay - n (%) mean \pm SD - days range - days	32 (56) ² 6.3 \pm 11.3 (0-59)	12 (43) 6.4 \pm 4.8 (1-16)	20 (69) 14.0 \pm 15.6 ³ (1-59)

Abbreviations: Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation (APACHE); standard deviation (SD); Intensive care unit (ICU)

¹ p=0.02

² p=0.05

³ log transformed for normality; p=<0001

Table 3. Frequency of Subjective Global Assessment characteristics on admission to the medical intensive care unit in patients requiring mechanical ventilation

Variable	All patients N=57	Normally nourished n=28	Moderate or Severely malnourished n=29
In the past 2 weeks weight has:			
No change - n (%)	28 (49)	7 (61)	11 (38)
Decreased - n (%)	17 (30)	5 (18)	12 (41)
Increased - n (%)	4 (7)	1 (4)	3 (10)
Unable to obtain/assess changes - n (%)	8 (8)	5 (18)	3 (10)
Weight loss in the last 6 months			
No – n (%)	22 (39%)	18 (64%)	4 (14%)
Yes – n (%)	18 (30%)	3 (11%)	15 (52%) ¹
Unable to obtain/assess changes - n (%)	17 (31%)	7 (25%)	10 (34%)
Change in dietary intake			
No change - n (%)	17(30)	12 (43)	5 (17)
Borderline/poor - n (%)	33 (58)	13 (46)	20 (69) ²
Unable to eat - n (%)	2 (3)	0 (0)	2 (7)
Unable to obtain/assess changes- n (%)	5 (9)	3 (11)	2 (7)
Gastrointestinal Symptoms			
None - n (%)	23 (40)	19 (68)	4 (14) ¹
Nausea - n (%)	11 (19)	4 (14)	7 (24)
Vomiting - n (%)	5 (9)	1 (4)	4 (14)
Diarrhea - n (%)	13 (23)	3 (11)	10 (34) ³
Anorexia - n (%)	11 (19)	2 (7)	9 (31) ⁴
Unable to obtain/assess changes- n (%)	5 (9)	2 (7)	3 (10)
Functional capacity			
No change - n (%)	11 (19)	10 (36)	1 (3)
Decreased ADLs - n (%)	32 (56)	15 (54)	17 (59)
Bedridden - n (%)	10 (18)	1 (4)	9 (31) ⁵
Unable to obtain/assess changes - n (%)	4 (7)	2 (7)	2 (7)
Metabolic Stress			
Low/Moderate - n (%)	47 (82)	23 (82)	24 (83)
High - n (%)	10 (18)	5 (18)	5 (17)
Physical Exam			
Signs of muscle wasting - n (%)	15 (26)	2 (7)	13 (45) ⁶
Signs of fat loss - n (%)	17 (30)	2 (7)	15 (52) ⁶
Signs of edema (ankle, sacral or ascites) - n (%)	24 (42)	10 (36)	14 (48)

¹ p<.0001

² no change vs. borderline/poor/unable to eat, p=0.02

³ p=0.05

⁴ p=0.03

⁵ no change vs. decreased ADL/bedridden, p=0.002

⁶ p<0.001