

Response to the letter to the editor

Treatment and outcome in acute pancreatitis

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Mr. Editor:

After carefully reading Dr. Abel Salvador Arroyo-Sánchez's letter responding to "Outcomes of Three Years of Experience Managing Acute Pancreatitis at a Fourth Level Hospital in Huila, Colombia", we would like to make a few comments. (1)

First, we want to thank Dr. Arroyo for his interest in contributing to our knowledge of treatment of this disease. We agree with his assessment of the nutritional schemes recommended for acute pancreatitis by most evidence-based guidelines. (2-4) These guidelines clearly establish the benefits of enteral nutrition in patients with acute pancreatitis. As shown in Table 12, more than 80% of patients in our work received enteral or mixed nutrition. In the specific case of patients with necrosis, 62% received this type of nutrition. (1) It should be noted that the enteral route had been exhausted in patients who received parenteral nutrition.

As can be seen in Figure 2, a high percentage of patients with pancreatic necrosis in our study (62.5%) underwent surgery. These patients had complications refractory to conservative medical treatment or were not candidates for percutaneous or endoscopic management. As shown in Table 13, there were fatal outcomes in three of these cases. All of these patients had Marshall severity scores upon admission that were over four while their average APACHE II score was 16 points. From the outset, their prognoses had shadows cast over them.

Finally, we consider that all contributions of letters to the editor show interest in the article and enrich research.

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