

Dependent Variable	Comparator/ independent variable	Effect measure	Potential sources of heterogeneity
<i>Outcome measure</i>	<i>Intervention/ exposure</i>	<i>How will the overall effect be analyzed? Is risk ratio, mean difference or standardized mean difference</i>	<i>Why might the studies not show the exact same result?</i>
Primary outcome			
Postoperative infectious complications (POIC)	Enteral immune-enhancing formula (Arg, w-3, RNA) Vs usual care Standard enteral formula (isonitrogenous-isocaloric)	For continuous The proportion of patients experiencing POIC mean differences mean/median and SD, 95%CI Dichotomous RR, 95% CI, fixed effect size from total number of participants that got POIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Risk of bias, differences (blinding, performance, reporting) ✓ Low methodological quality of trials present ✓ Age (age/ adult versus elderly) ✓ Type of surgery (invasive or less invasive) ✓ Baseline nutritional status ✓ Dosage of IEF ✓ Timing of IEF provided
Secondary outcomes			
Health-related costs/cost-effectiveness	Enteral IEF (Arg, w-3, RNA) Vs isonitrogenous-isocaloric usual care SEF	% of savings or mean difference (MD) + P value if available, economic analysis and cost-effectiveness summarized in a narrative form (relationship with Postop morbidity and LOS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Nutritional status at baseline ✓ Age (age/adult versus elderly) ✓ Type of surgery (invasive or less invasive) ✓ Baseline nutritional status ✓ Dosage & timing of IEF
Healthcare Use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Length of stay (LOS) ✓ Readmissions to acute care, sub-acute care or ICU ✓ Reoperations 	As above	Number of cases/days represented by their mean+ mean difference + SD/95% CI effect size (ES) (random or fixed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Low methodological quality of trials present ✓ Age (age/ adult versus elderly) ✓ Type of surgery (invasive or less invasive) ✓ Baseline nutritional status ✓ Dosage of IEF ✓ Timing of IEF provided
Survival/mortality	As above	Dichotomous: RR , hazard ratios 95% CI, overall size effect fixed Or Number of cases/days represented by their mean + SD/SEM/95%CI and p value narrated form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Age (age/ adult versus elderly) ✓ Type of surgery (invasive or less invasive) ✓ Baseline nutritional status ✓ Dosage of IEF ✓ Timing of IEF provided
Quality of life (QoL)	As above	Continuous: Number of cases represented by the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Risk of bias, differences

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As assessed by any validated tool		SD/SEM/95%CI + p value Dichotomous: RR , 95% CI and p value	(blinding, performance, reporting) ✓ Low methodological quality of trials present ✓ Age (age/ adult versus elderly) ✓ Type of surgery (invasive or less invasive) ✓ Baseline nutritional status
Nutritional status	As above	Mean and mean difference Categories prevalence, p value Reporting on p value or confidence intervals for change	✓ Risk of bias, differences (blinding, performance) ✓ Low methodological quality of trials present ✓ Age (age/ adult versus elderly) ✓ Pre-operative diet and Socioeconomic status of patients ✓ Assessment tool used – interpretation subjective ✓ Stage of disease of patients
Weight loss	As above	Dichotomous RR or OR from total number of participant's loss wt >5% + p value Effect size Continuous: Mean of FFM loss (kg) + p value	As above
Biochemical changes	As above	Mean, SD, mean difference (MD), p value May be reported in a narrative form if few studies report it	✓ Risk of bias, differences (blinding, performance) ✓ Type of surgery (invasive or less invasive) ✓ Diagnostic tool used-method ✓ Stage of disease/stress of patients

RR: risk ratio; OR: odds ratio; SD: standard deviation; FFM: fat free mass; CI: confidence interval