Measurement of glycogen in these patients that glycogen had been stored in their muscles together with the necessary potassium. The concomitant increase in respiratory exchange ratios implied a change to glucose substrate oxidation.

Although the effect of short term (seven to ten days) preoperative nutritional support on postoperative morbidity and mortality is conflicting,\(^{13,15}\) its major effect in depleted patients seems to be the restoration of liver and muscle glycogen stores.\(^ {13,15}\) We showed in this study that abnormal variables of muscle function can be improved by a short course of high carbohydrate and potassium loading with restoration of muscle glycogen content. This implies that if muscle power can be regarded as a yardstick for preoperative nutritional rehabilitation then a simple regimen of energy-electrolyte repletion may be cost effective in preparing undernourished patients for major surgery. Further studies are needed to elucidate the bioenergetics of glucose-potassium loading on muscle function.

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**References**


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**Correction**

Splenectomy in patients with autoimmune haemolytic anaemia

We regret that an error occurred in this paper by Dr H Markus and Dr J C Forfar (4 October, p 839). The fifth sentence of the second paragraph of the case report should be read: "Sixty days after admission a blood film showed appearances similar to those after splenectomy, with Howell-Jolly bodies."