

- 27 Lewis MI, Belman MJ, Door-Uyemura L. Nutritional supplementation in ambulatory patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. *Am Rev Respir Dis* 1987;135:1062-8.
- 28 Knowles JB, Fairbairn MS, Wiggs BJ, Chan-Yan C, Pardy RL. Dietary supplementation and respiratory muscle performance in patients with COPD. *Chest* 1988;93:977-83.
- 29 Efthimiou J, Fleming J, Gomes C, Spiro SG. The effect of supplementary oral nutrition in poorly nourished patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. *Am Rev Respir Dis* 1988;137:1075-82.
- 30 Otte KE, Ahlburg P, D'Amore F, Stellfeld M. Nutritional repletion in malnourished patients with emphysema. *Journal of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition* 1989;13:152-6.
- 31 Whittaker JS, Ryan CF, Buckley PA, Road JR. The effects of refeeding on peripheral and respiratory muscle function in malnourished chronic obstructive pulmonary disease patients. *Am Rev Respir Dis* 1990;142:283-8.
- 32 Covelli HD, Waylon Black J, Olsen MS, Beekman JF. Respiratory failure precipitated by high carbohydrate loads. *Am Intern Med* 1981;95:579-81.
- 33 Dark DS, Pingleton SK, Kerby GR. Hypercapnia during weaning. A complication of nutritional support. *Chest* 1985;88:141-3.
- 34 Gieseke T, Gurushanthaiah G, Glauser FL. Effects of carbohydrates on carbon dioxide excretion in patients with airway disease. *Chest* 1977;71:55-8.
- 35 Angelillo VA, Bedi S, Durfee D, Dahl J, Patterson AJ, O'Donohue WJ. Effects of low and high carbohydrate feedings in ambulatory patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and chronic hypercapnia. *Am Intern Med* 1985;103:883-5.
- 36 Wilson DO, Rogers RM, Sanders MH, Pennock BE, Reilly JJ. Nutritional intervention in malnourished patients with emphysema. *Am Rev Respir Dis* 1986;134:672-7.
- 37 Donahoe M, Rogers RM. Nutritional assessment and support in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. *Clin Chest Med* 1990;11:487-504.

Thorax 1992;47:143

Editorial note

Supplements for *Thorax*

The *British Medical Journal* Publishing Group (which is the co-owner of *Thorax* with the British Thoracic Society) is willing to consider publishing supplements to the regular issues of *Thorax*. The British Thoracic Society executive committee has supported these proposals and has granted permission for *Thorax* to publish up to four supplements a year.

The purpose of these supplements would be to deal in depth with important or "hot" topics. They might also originate from a meeting on a particular topic organised by the editor or editorial board or a learned society. A sponsoring organisation, often a pharmaceutical company, that wishes to arrange a symposium may plan to have the proceedings published as a supplement. The venture of supplements has been successful in other journals, and we believe that this is a step forward for *Thorax*.

Supplements will be considered for publication only when their contents are unbiased and of educational value or a professional service to readers—that is, where the contents have quality and independence. No supplements that would be merely for promotional purposes will be considered. Papers will be considered for publication only if they deal with original work or review previous studies. Any supplement submitted will be subjected to editorial review by the editor of *Thorax* or an elected member of the editorial organisation.

An initial request to commission a supplement should always be either to the editor of *Thorax* or to the specialist journals publishing director of the *BMJ*.

STEPHEN SPIRO

Editor