

Defining the role of colloids in critical care

Intravenous fluid resuscitation is an integral part of the critical care. Colloid as a fluid was designed to limit the volume of fluid used as a plasma expander. However, numerous studies over the past decade had cast a shadow over its use, fueling enthusiastic and often times fiercely contested ongoing debates. The choice of fluid used should be evidence base and individualised to the physiologic demands of the critically ill. However, there exists a wide variation in the choice of fluid used amongst intensivists even within an institution. This presentation will explore the evidence supporting / refuting the use of colloids in critical care, the limitations of the data and its applicability to our practice.