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## Intravenous fluid management from indiscriminate and empirical use to rational and sci-entific management

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The basis of fluid therapy is to increase cardiac output, improve perfusion and tissue oxygenation to ensure proper organ function, the amount of fluids administered is critical to the prognosis and there is controversy over which fluid is better over the others. Globally, there is great variation in the prescription of intravenous fluids, the choice seems to be based on local customs, marketing, costs and availability of the solutions. The global records of health care demonstrate the indis-criminate use of this therapeutic resource in an empirical way mainly in the adult population, the adverse effects attributed to water overload, chloride rich solutions and the impact this leads to in hospital costs, morbidity and overall mortality, results from multiple studies across diverse pa-tient populations have clearly demonstrated that aggressive fluid resuscitation is associated with increased risk of complications and death. This presentation analyzes all these factors and the new management guidelines based on the scientific evidence.