

N°: MON-P163



## **Hospital food service and dietary intake** A comparative analysis of a cook-serve buffet trolley food system and a cook chill pre-plated food system

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Insufficient dietary intake is common among hospitalised patients and may affect prognosis negatively (1, 2). Hence hospital meals are central in the treatment, and their efficacy in ensuring adequate intake is crucial. This study aimed to compare patients' dietary intake from a cook-serve buffettrolley serving system (BTS) to a new cook-chill preplated concept (CCP) allowing patients to choose from a static menu 24/7.



An energy intake ≥75 % of requirements was



The results do not show a significant increase in

achieved in 74 % of patients on CCP compared to 58 % on BTS (p=0,116) and a protein intake  $\geq$ 75 % of requirements was achieved in 55 % of the patients on CCP compared to 53 % on BTS (p=0,801). An energy intake  $\geq$ 75 % of requirements was achieved in 67 % of the patients at nutritional risk on CCP compared to 33 % on BTS (p=0,130) and 58 % reached  $\geq$ 75% of the protein requirements on CCP compared to 33 % on BTS (p=0,256).

energy and protein intake among all patients or patients at nutritional risk. In future research on foodservice concepts at hospitals, there is a need for exploring dietary intake among patients at ward level and there is a need for focusing on patients at nutritional risk. Furthermore, there is a need for studying organisational and communicational aspects when implementing a new food-service concept.



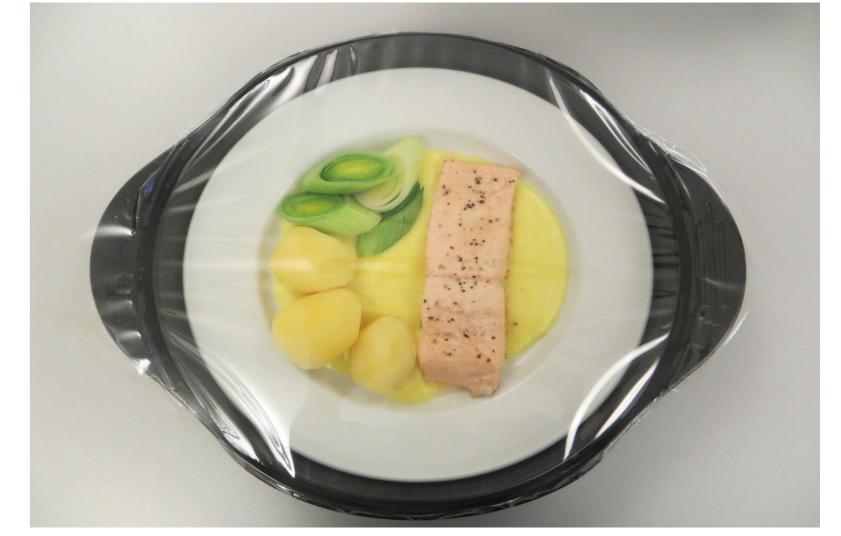


Figure 1. Picture of the buffet-trolley servering system (BTS).

Table 1. Number of patients and measurements included before and after the implementation of CCP on the wards.

	Original concept	New diet concept Pre plated concept	
	Buffet trolley system		
	(BTS)	(CCP)	
Number of patients	57	38	
Number of measurements	114	44	
Gender			
- Women	49,1 %	47,4 %	
- Men	50,9 %	52,6 %	
Distribution of patients at wards			
<ul> <li>Orthopedic surgical ward(09-4)</li> </ul>	29,8 %	26,3 %	
<ul> <li>Orthopedic surgical ward(12-4)</li> </ul>	38,6 %	39,5 %	
<ul> <li>Gynecological ward(12-5)</li> </ul>	31,6 %	34,2 %	
Distribution of measurements at			
wards	34,2 %	27,2 %	
<ul> <li>Orthopedic surgical ward (09-4)</li> </ul>	35,1 %	39,5 %	
<ul> <li>Orthopedic surgical ward (12-4)</li> </ul>	30,7 %	33,2 %	
<ul> <li>Gynecological ward (12-5)</li> </ul>			
Patients at nutritional risk according to NRS 2002 (3)	34,6 %	31,6 %	

## <u>Methods</u>

A quasi-experimental study was conducted at an

orthopaedic surgical and a gynaecological surgical

ward at a Danish Hospital. 57 patients (expected

admittance  $\geq$ 3 days) were served meals from BTS

and the dietary intake was measured. After

implementation of CCP on the wards, dietary

intake was measured on 38 patients. Intake at

mealtimes was assessed through a visual portion

size assessment method and intake in-between

meals was measured using a self-reported dietary

record (4). The number of patients achieving an

intake of ≥75 % of energy and protein

Figure 2: Picture of the new cook-chill preplated concept (CCP).

Table 2. Percentage of patients achievieng a dietary intake of minimum 75% of requirements before and after the implementation of CCP on the wards and the corresponding p-values.

	Original concept	New diet concept	p-value
	Buffet trolley	Pre plated concept	
	system	(CCP)	
	(BTS)		
All patients			
An energy intake ≥75 % of	58 %	74 %	0,116
requirement	(33/57)	(28/38)	
All patients			
A protein intake ≥75 % of	53 %	55 %	0,801
requirement	(30/57)	(21/38)	
Patients at nutritional risk			
An energy intake ≥75 % of	33%	67 %	0,130
requirement	(3/9)	(8/12)	
Patients at nutritional risk			
A protein intake ≥75 % of	33 %	58 %	0,256
requirement	(3/9)	(7/12)	

requirements was compared between groups

using a pooled two-proportion z-test (5).

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DOI: 10.3252/pso.eu.ESPEN2016.2016

Poster presented at:



