Approximately 2 million patients acquire an infection in the hospital each year\textsuperscript{1}

- Surgical site infections cost $39,858,268 annually\textsuperscript{1}
- In the last decade, hospital-acquired infections have increased by 36%\textsuperscript{2}
- Hospital-acquired infections increase average length of stay by 20 days\textsuperscript{3}

**GI surgery patients receiving oral nutritional supplementation and tube feeding showed a 63% reduction in postoperative complications**\textsuperscript{4}

**Complications included:** wounds, respiratory and other infections, postoperative ileus, wound dehiscence, respiratory complications, and unresolved peritonitis with relaparotomy.

**Next steps**
- Include the dietitian in infection committees
- Enhance current infection care practices to include nutritional intervention

**Expert guidelines on perioperative nutrition**\textsuperscript{5}

- Use nutritional support in patients with severe nutritional risk for 10–14 days prior to major surgery, even if surgery is delayed
- Encourage patients who do not meet their energy needs from normal foods to take oral nutritional supplementation during the preoperative period
- Initiate normal food intake or enteral nutrition early after gastrointestinal surgery

**References:**