

Propositions related to the thesis

**Life After Critical Illness:
Neurocognitive Functioning and Health-Related Quality of Life of Children After PICU Admission, and
the Role of Late Parenteral Nutrition**

José Hordijk, 16 December 2020

1. Long-term development of children surviving critical illness can be modified during pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) admission with nutritional interventions. (Chapter 4 and 7, this thesis)
2. For young preschoolers, parent reported outcome measurements completed by parents can offer valuable, additional information to neuropsychological test results assessing the same neurocognitive domains. (Chapter 4 and 7, this thesis)
3. As parents experience mental health problems up to six months after PICU admission of their child, a psychosocial care program for parents has to be set up. (Chapter 3, this thesis)
4. After pediatric critical illness, neurocognitive impairments in children can persist over time, which emphasizes the importance of structural screening for these problems to identify those children that need help in order to intervene early. (Chapter 4, 7, and 8, this thesis)
5. Studies investigating the PICU population vary widely with regard to outcome measurements used, and should use more cross-cultural standardized ways of assessment to improve the interpretation of outcomes. (Chapter 2, this thesis)
6. Randomized controlled trials are like democracy; fallible and imperfect, but better than the uncontrolled alternatives. (Adapted from Hollon et al., 2009)
7. Studies usually focus mainly on developmental impairments in children, but in line with positive psychology the focus should be on the strengths of the child instead of the weaknesses. (Adapted from Peterson, 2008)
8. When children experience developmental problems such as neurocognitive problems, psychologists tend to soften this news when explaining this to parents and children, but they should use clear terms as this will lead to acceptance of these impairments. (Adapted from Wijnberg, 2013)
9. Poor relationships between the parents and children in general can have long-term somatic and mental health consequences, which highlights the need for early interventions to improve these relationships. (Adapted from Alm et al., 2020)
10. Parents experience pressure to be perfect both at home and at work, which leads to stress and underlines the importance of support such as flexible work hours. (Adapted from Meeussen et al., 2018)
11. It always seems impossible until it is done. (Nelson Mandela)