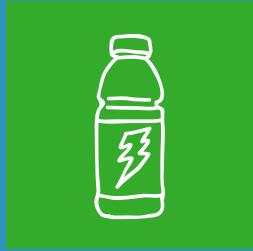


# Short Bowel Syndrome in Children

**Short bowel syndrome** is a condition when a child's small intestine is not long enough, therefore, is unable to absorb enough nutrients from food to be able to properly grow and develop.

## Malabsorption leads to:



**Electrolyte Imbalances**



**Weight Loss**



**Dehydration**



**Diarrhea**

### What causes short bowel syndrome in children:

#### A child is born with short bowel:

- Gastroschisis
- Intestinal Atresia
- Volvulus or Malrotation
- Hirschsprung's Disease

#### A child has a disorder that requires surgical resection of the bowel:

- Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC)
- Radiation Enteritis
- Trauma
- Crohn's Disease

Until a child's intestine can adapt and get proper treatment, they may not be able to eat enough by mouth and require **nutritional support**. This may be:



**Parenteral Nutrition (PN):** This is delivery of nutrients through the large veins in the body. Your child will require a special line in their chest, called a central line.



**Enteral Nutrition:** Nutrients and fluids are delivered via a feeding tube either directly into the stomach or the intestine.

# Four Important Goals in the Management of Short Bowel Syndrome:



1. Maximize the function of the existing intestinal tract through **intestinal adaptation.**



3. **Prevent complications,** whenever possible.



2. **Optimize nutritional** status to ensure appropriate growth and development.



4. **Reduce or eliminate** the need for parenteral nutrition (PN).

## Intestinal Rehabilitation for Short Bowel

### What is Intestinal Rehabilitation?

Intestinal rehabilitation is the process of restoring nutritional autonomy. This means weaning from parenteral nutrition (PN) and onto oral feedings. This allows your child to live a life free from PN and its associated complications.

### Intestinal Rehabilitation Treatment:



1. **Diet Modifications**



2. **Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT)**



3. **Vitamin and Mineral Supplements**



4. **Medications**



5. **Surgical Interventions** (Bianchi, STEP)

