Contents

Chapter 1  General Introduction and outline of the thesis 9
Chapter 2  Glutamate reduces experimental intestinal hyper-permeability and facilitates glutamine support of gut integrity 41
Chapter 3  Accurate perioperative flow measurement of the portal vein, hepatic artery and renal vein: a role for preoperative MRI? 53
Chapter 4  Enteral administration of alanyl-[2-15N]glutamine contributes more to the de novo synthesis of arginine than intravenous infusion of the dipeptide in humans 73
Chapter 5  Intravenous glutamine supplementation enhances renal de novo arginine synthesis in humans; a stable isotope study 101
Chapter 6  Enteral glutamine administration in critically ill non-septic patients does not trigger arginine synthesis 121
Chapter 7  Enteral glutamine supplementation in optimally fed critically ill patients does not affect protein metabolism 149
Chapter 8  Imbalance of arginine and asymmetric dimethylarginine is associated with markers of circulatory failure, organ failure and mortality in shock patients 169
Chapter 9  Taurine concentrations decrease in critically ill patients with shock given enteral nutrition 189
Chapter 10  Published letters, briefly introduced 211
Chapter 11  Summary of the main results, conclusions and future perspectives 233
Chapter 12  Dutch summary - Nederlandse samenvatting 245
              Dankwoord 251
              Curriculum Vitae 257
              Publications and Awards 263