

## Three forms of malnutrition

Malnutrition is an acute, subacute, or chronic state of nutrition in which a combination of varying degrees of overnutrition or undernutrition (with or without inflammatory activity) have caused a change in body composition and diminished function.

Malnutrition occurs in three forms:

- starvation-related malnutrition, as in chronic starvation without inflammation (for instance, anorexia nervosa)
- chronic disease-related malnutrition, as in malnutrition with chronic disease and mild to moderate inflammation (for example, organ failure, pancreatic cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, or sarcopenic obesity)
- acute disease- or injury-related malnutrition with acute and severe inflammation (such as a major infection, burns, trauma, or closed head injury).