Promoting systematic nutritional assessment in hospitalized children

de Luca A, Hankard R. The Pediatric Nutritional Assessment Network.
National Society: Société Francophone de Nutrition Clinique, Métabolisme (SFNEP)

Brief summary

We organized for the third year a “Nutrition Week” in pediatrics aiming at promoting systematic hospital nutritional assessment and created a web based tool available 24/7. This year, 47 centers in 6 countries and 2882 patients were included. The standardized diagnostic procedure will become the French National Guidelines this year (Nutrition Committee of the French Pediatric Society). We obtained the SFNEP label in 2012 for this initiative.

Rationale

Hospital malnutrition is seldom reported in pediatric medical files. We are convinced that only a simple tool will improve malnutrition detection in children.

This project aims at promoting malnutrition awareness in pediatric wards, identifying patients requiring nutritional support and evaluating the impact of nutritional support on the outcome.

A simple standardized procedure

Every child must be weighted and measured at admittance and BMI reported on currently available standards (Figure 1).

A web based tool available 24/7 (http://82.239.89.108/epinut)

Website in French and English (Spanish pending). Anonymous data. (Figure 2)

Activities

For the third consecutive year, we conducted a malnutrition screening campaign called “The Pediatric Nutrition Week”. This study was even larger than previous ones (Histogram).

1. French national studies in 2010 and 2011
We demonstrated our ability to mobilize pediatric teams toward hospital malnutrition screening conducting a pilot study in 2010 (3 centers and 133 patients), a large scale multicenter study in 2011 (14 centers, 956 patients, late breaking news, ESPEN 2011).

2. International study
In 2012, participation of European as well as DR of the Congo, Tunisia, Canada and Colombia (submitted, late breaking news, ESPEN 2012) (See logo collection at the bottom).

3. Simple standardized procedure will become French national guidelines in 2012 (Figure 1).

4. Web based diagnostic tool: computer program using FileMaker Pro server 11 (Apple inc., Cupertino, California USA) (Figure 2).

An increasing number of participants

This initiative developed the awareness of hospital malnutrition in children within an every year growing number of health professionals from medical and surgical wards in France and other countries.

To gather 47 centers (38 centers from France and 9 abroad) around malnutrition screening was our major result. 2882 children were analyzed.

3. This study allowed a standardization of diagnostic procedure for malnutrition in different centers and countries, using our web tool.

4. The whole procedure will help to better prescribe nutritional care.

Implementation

1. Pediatric Nutritional Assessment Network
   - Initiative was conducted through a network of pediatric wards that participated in the previous studies and extended to more centers (see Map and Logo collection)
   - Seven phone conferences were performed to train participating teams. Coordination was done during and after campaign to help physicians and collect data.

2. Nutritional tools
   - Server (Figure 1 & 2). A printed report can be inserted in the patient’s medical record.

3. Expert committee
   - Guidelines written by the Nutrition committee of the French Pediatric Society
   - Experts included in the writing of the 3rd axis (task force on Nutritional indicators) within the French National Nutritional program

4. Initiative supported by the SFNEP (Acticlan prize 2011 and label 2012)

Results/outcomes

1. This initiative developed the awareness of hospital malnutrition in children within an every year growing number of health professionals from medical and surgical wards in France and other countries.

2. To gather 47 centers (38 centers from France and 9 abroad) around malnutrition screening was our major result. 2882 children were analyzed.

3. This study allowed a standardization of diagnostic procedure for malnutrition in different centers and countries, using our web tool.

4. The whole procedure will help to better prescribe nutritional care.

Conclusions

• Present initiative is followed by a growing number of pediatric wards in France, Europe, Africa and the Americas
• Initiative led to a simple procedure that became the National standard for Nutritional screening in France (SFNEP and the French Pediatric Society). Standardized diagnostic procedure allows :
  - Comparisons between countries
  - Estimates of patients requiring nutritional care

Next steps

• Make this annual initiative being permanent
• Increase the number of participants all over the world
• Nutritional intervention studies in a follow up design
• Research to determine innate or acquired factors of hospital malnutrition
• Actions promoting nutritional assessment and care toward national health policies