**A chance for life**
Fighting malnutrition in Hungarian onco-haematological paediatric patients

**DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE**
Onco-haematological patients are treated in eight different centers in Hungary. The centers are associated with Hungarian Children Oncology Network which coordinates their operation.

As a brand new initiative Hungarian Children Oncology Network set up nutritional teams at each centers in 2013 and these groups aim to fight malnutrition at paediatric onco-haematological departments in Hungarian Health-care.

**OBJECTIVE**
Our goal is to create – based on a globally unique initiative – an unified professional protocol and a screening method (questionnaire) that can support

- to stimulate the recognition of early signs of malnutrition in paediatric onco-haematological patients (31% of all patients were at risk of malnutrition)
- to organize the optimal treatment of malnutrition
- to lower the nutritional risk

We are defining:

- How many times treatments were postponed due to bad condition of a patient
- How many septic period have been occurred during treatment?
- How many days were spent in hospital during therapy?
- Compare international data with local experience by creating homogenic patient groups and following their therapy for two years.

**SCOPE OF PROJECT AND ACTIVITIES**
Protocol contains guidelines of the nutritional therapy during and after the treatment. A nutritional team consists of three members. A nurse, a dietitian and a physician (oncologist or gastroenterologist).

The goal of these teams are:

- Screening the risk of malnutrition
- In case of risk – building up the nutritional therapy
- Follow-up of the therapy
- Checking the realization of the therapy according to the protocols
- Guidance for carers

A session of the nutritional team

1. Nurse screens the patients and collects the results
2. Dietitian evaluates the data and consultes with a physician
3. The nutritional team creates a plan for the nutritional therapy according the risk level of malnutrition

Resources have been used

- BIA device
- Person who processes data (screening documentation, patient charts)
- Team-work (medical students are also involved)

**MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS**
- National protocol that rules nutritional therapy for onco-haematological patients
- All children patients admitted to the hospital with onco-haematological disease were screened which gains a total picture of the nutritional status of these patients in Hungary
- Questionnaire has been accepted by the Hungarian Children Oncology & Haematology Association
- Educational program on tumors related malnutrition for onco-haematological departements’ nurses, assistances and parents
- Educational program and information material to parents about the necessity and types of nutritional therapy
- Research work to develop a cost effective, sensitive and all departements’ accessible method by checking the change of the nutritional risk and the efficiency of nutrition
- It can support others:
  - Gives a guidance where screening and nutritional intervention plan is not available
  - Supports those whose budget is low as it helps to determine which tools to select
  - Offers a questionnaire (currently under validation process) that has been used more than thousand times
  - Ensures a tool which does not require to be controlled by a physician as a nurse can execute it

**Why this questionnaire better than a BMI-score?**
This cannot be revealed by a BMI-score! These problems happen more often than conventional Grade-effect (vomiting, diarrhea)

**Distribution by diagnosis**

**Resources**

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**Title of Project:**
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