

#### Description of the initiative:

This is an educational project created by KEPAN Radiation Oncology Study Group to increase awareness in medical nutrition and recognise it as a part of patient management. A trainer team with permanent staff to educate oncologists in different clinics in different hospitals and cities is organized. The trainer team consists of 4 KEPAN study group radiation oncologists, 2 KEPAN board members and 1 dietician of the trainee's hospital. The education is an half day on-site program. All radiation oncologists will be educated at their own hospital. This education has a standard theoretical program for all hospitals, but practical part depends on the patient profile of the visited hospital.

- **Background / context:** Less than 600 radiation oncologist are working in Turkey. Most of them are working very hard at their departments. In their routine, they are planning the patient's cancer treatment, and their routine is different from the medical oncologist. Although radiation oncologist are heavily involved in the treatment of malnourished patients, awareness for nutritional care among radiation oncologists is limited.
- **Rationale for the initiative:** During the course of radiotherapy, about half of the patients are malnourished. For the management of these patients, nutrition screening and assesment are crucial.
- **Objectives and scope:** For this purpose KEPAN decided to initiate this education project to increase the awareness among radiation oncologists and accept the idea of incorporating clinical nutrition as a part of the cancer treatment.

#### Planned activities & deliverables:

- **Outline the steps to be taken:** National radiation oncology education group is launched. Trainers took T-LLL course and some LLL courses. They visited radiation oncology departments country wide for on-site education. For this year a total of 12 on-site education programs are planned and 4 of them are completed till now. A webinar education will also be incorporated into the program and after this first year we will reevaluate the program for future planning.
- **What are the concrete deliverables of the project?** Radiation oncologist will be aware of the medical nutrition concept and will learn how to do screening and assessment. Thus will be able to give nutrition treatment to patients who are malnourished or under the risk of malnutrition.
- **What achievements are possible in the next 12 and 24 months?** Two major outcomes can be expected; To identify patients who at risk of malnutrition, to give appropriate nutrition treatment

#### Resources & enablers

- **Describe personnel, financial needs:** Travelling expenses for the trainer group of 4 radiation oncologist and 2 board members and webinar costs. No accomodation fee is needed.
- **Specify how the grant will be spent:** The team has already organized 4 education meetings until this date. These meetings will continue and the cost of a meeting is approximately 2500 Euro. The grant will be spent for continuing this education and montly webinar programs.
- **What factors will make it successful?** High participation rate of radiation oncologists country-wide, high penetration of this training to each and every clinic countrywide

#### Results/outcomes & expected impact

- **How will the findings be implemented?** Radiation oncologists who learn the screening and assesment methods, can apply these in their daily practice.
- **How will this project advance patient care / contribute to optimal nutritional care?** With identification of malnourished patients and appropriate nutrition treatment, compliance of patients to radiation treatment will increse.
- **What makes the project innovative?** On-site education and colloboration with local healthcare givers to improve nutrition treatment specially for radiation oncologists.
- **Will the project be likely to influence national nutrition policy?** Yes. If this project will result in more patient compliance and less complications, we will develop a manual with Ministry of Health for future practice.
- **Is the project transferable to other settings / countries?** Yes, this project is not complicated and is reproducible. It can be used in other countries.