



THE DIETITIAN IN THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM (MDT) IN ONCOLOGY: EXPERIENCE AT THE PISA UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

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Background and aims

Malnutrition during hospitalization is a recurrent problem, which remains frequently underestimated and often goes untreated. It is a cause of higher rate of infection, longer length of hospital stay and worsening of the quality of life.

In Italy malnutrition in the patients with gastroesophageal cancer is between 15-26%. The aim of this study is to evaluate the role of dietitian in the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) in oncology.

Methods

In order to assess the level of NL, the validated Italian version of the Nutrition Literacy Assessment Instrument (NLit-IT) was used. NLit-IT allow identifying three levels of NL: i) probability of low NL; ii) possibility of low NL; iii) possibility of good NL. The study included ICs of both sexes, aged 18-80, responsible for the diet of the assisted cancer patient.

Results

31 out of 71 were diagnosed with malnutrition (14 moderate malnutrition, 17 severe) and 10 of them had already started chemotherapy. 16 out of 31 were following a free diet, 7 of them were on a modified diet and 6 were using DNS.

Conclusions

The presence of the dietitian in the MDT was important to recognize and treat malnutrition in gastroesophageal patients and to complement the interest in malnutrition and reinforce the sensitivity in other health professionals.

Bibliography

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