

Special Interest Group in Clinical Malnutrition

Terms of Reference

Introduction

The interest to create a SIG focussing on Clinical Malnutrition arose out of the need for further involvement of health professionals and scientists with a research and clinical interest in this thematic area. The original WG, hereby referred as SIG, felt that while there was a lot of interest within ESPGHAN in aspects pertinent to nutrition in early life and breastfeeding there was a lack of activities and interest in the area of disease associated malnutrition.

Description and aims

The Special Interest Group in Clinical Malnutrition is a Nutrition working group that is interested in the effect of acute and chronic illness on nutritional status and the effect of nutritional interventions. It has a particularly interested in the following thematic areas

- 1) Definition, screening and assessment of malnutrition
- 2) The effect of nutritional status on clinical outcomes
- 3) The effect of nutritional interventions on clinical outcomes

Members and officials

- The SIG Chair and Secretary are elected by the members at the annual SIG meeting for a term of 3 years, with potential re-election for a second term of 3 years.
- All ESPGHAN members with a proven interest in Clinical Malnutrition, confirmed by a short CV sent to the SIG Secretary, may apply to become a Member of the SIG.
- New members are approved at the annual SIG meeting during the ESPGHAN Annual meeting.
- Members are invited to attend open meetings and to propose working groups and/or research projects to the SIG Steering Committee. They can be invited to collaborate in ongoing or new activities.

Current Chair: From May 2018: Konstantinos Gerasimidis, PhD, MSc, BSc. Senior Lecturer in Clinical Nutrition and Dietitian; School of Medicine, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom

Secretary: From June 2019: Dr Koen Huysentruyt (elected at the 2019 annual meeting).

Objectives

The specific objectives of this SIG are:

- 1) To create an international network among professionals interested and involved in clinical malnutrition among children.
- 2) To write position statements or clinical guidelines together involving the Committee on Nutrition and other professional organisations.
- 3) To carry out collaborative basic and clinical research with other members of the group.
- 4) To deliver education sessions on assessment, screening and management of disease associated malnutrition in paediatric patients

Meetings

- The working group meets regularly at the annual meeting of ESPGHAN.
- Ad-hoc meeting will take place according to the activities of the SIG and following approval by the CoN.

Reporting

- The SIG reports their activities annually to the Committee on Nutrition and the Chair of the CoN reports the SIG activities to the ESPGHAN Council.

Budget

- An annual budget will be allocated by the CoN upon presenting an annual action plan.

Ongoing projects

- Definition of disease associated malnutrition; health professionals' opinions.
- Position papers on the assessment and screening of disease associated malnutrition.
- Electronic and hard copy survey among the ESPGHAN members on the objectives of the SIG group in Clinical Malnutrition.

Proposed projects under consideration

- Creation of a SIG members database.
- Exploring relationships between body composition, anthropometry and functional markers in paediatric patients using existing datasets.
- Experts' opinions on disease associated malnutrition. A qualitative study.

Past projects

- **2012:** European Multicenter Study on Malnutrition and Screening for Malnutrition among Hospitalized Children. The study was initiated by the Working group and was led by Professor Berthold Koletzko from Munich (Dr. Von Hauner Children's Hospital), funded by a grant from ESPEN. Fourteen centers from 12 countries were involved, and since many collaborators were also member of the Working group, this study was the focus of the Working group during the last years. The major goals of this project were (1) to study the prevalence of malnutrition at hospital admission, (2) to study the effect of malnutrition on outcome, (3) to compare different diagnostic criteria for malnutrition and their predictive value on outcome, and (4) to compare proposed paediatric screening tools.
- **2012:** This study aimed to develop a novel equation (Children's European Estimator of Weight-CEEW) using measurements of mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) and other predictors in multinational groups of sick children in Europe. The study was conceived and co-ordinated by Dr Gerasimidis, University of Glasgow with the participation of SIG members from The Netherlands and Greece.
- **2014:** International survey among pediatric gastroenterologists and pediatric dieticians/nutritionists on definition and measurement of undernutrition in paediatric patients. Survey initiated by Dr K. Gerasimidis, University of Glasgow Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, UK) and Jessie Hulst with involvement of various professionals joined in the working group.

Publications from ongoing and past activities

- 1) Huysentruyt K, Hulst J, Bian F, Shamir R, White M, Galera-Martinez R, Morais-Lopez A, Kansu A, Gerasimidis K. Opinions and practices of healthcare professionals on assessment of disease associated malnutrition in children: Results from an international survey. Clin Nutr. 2018 Apr 5. pii:S0261-5614(18)30127-4. doi: 10.1016/j.clnu.2018.03.015. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 29653864.
- 2) McVey L, Young D, Hulst J, Bradley S, Raudaschl A, Karagiozoglou T, Daskalou E, Choudhery V, Macleod I, Joosten K, Spenceley N, Gerasimidis K. Development and validation of a novel paediatric weight estimation equation in multinational cohorts of sick children. Resuscitation. 2017 Aug;117:118-121. doi:10.1016/j.resuscitation.2017.04.025. Epub 2017 Apr 29. PubMed PMID: 28465140.
- 3) Chourdakis M, Hecht C, Gerasimidis K, Joosten KF, Karagiozoglou-Lampoudi T, Koetse HA, Ksiazek J, Lazea C, Shamir R, Szajewska H, Koletzko B, Hulst JM.

Malnutrition risk in hospitalized children: use of 3 screening tools in a large European population. *Am J Clin Nutr.* 2016 May;103(5):1301-10. doi:10.3945/ajcn.115.110700. Epub 2016 Apr 20. PubMed PMID: 27099244.

- 4) Hecht C, Weber M, Grote V, Daskalou E, Dell'Era L, Flynn D, Gerasimidis K, Gottrand F, Hartman C, Hulst J, Joosten K, Karagiozoglou-Lampoudi T, Koetse HA, Kolaček S, Książyk J, Niseteo T, Olszewska K, Pavesi P, Piwowarczyk A, Rousseaux J, Shamir R, Sullivan PB, Szajewska H, Vernon-Roberts A, Koletzko B. Disease associated malnutrition correlates with length of hospital stay in children. *Clin Nutr.* 2015 Feb;34(1):53-9. doi: 10.1016/j.clnu.2014.01.003. Epub 2014 Jan 11. PubMed PMID: 24461472.