NUTRITION IN PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY A PROSPECTIVE STUDY

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The term "childhood cancers" refers to all malignant tumors occurring in children under 15 years of age. In 2013, nearly 908 cases were diagnosed on the national territory.

The cancer and its treatment are accompanied by variable: a reduction in food consumption, an increase in energy expenditure and various metabolic and functional disturbances. The whole is therefore a situation of high nutritional risk in children. This most often results in progressive protein-energy malnutrition combined with deficiencies in different nutrients. This increases the morbidity and mortality associated with the disease, while threatening growth..

a prospective study was interested 100 children (6 months-15 years) with cancer, treated in the wilaya of Algiers (1 pediatric oncology unit and 4 units) from 1st of December 2015 to 15th of May 2016. Among the 100 children, 40% are underweight, 29% stunted, 37% wasted and 37% undernourished more or less pronounced depending on the level of pre-albumin (<0%). 14 g / L), while 23% were overweight or obese.

The factor that significantly (p <0.01) influenced the onset or development of malnutrition in pediatric oncology was found to be the nature of neoplastic pathology.

Several factors can influence the assessment of nutritional status in pediatric oncology including: the heterogeneity of the sample, the individual's sensitivity to malnutrition and anti-cancer regimes, sensitivity and tolerance treatments and the markers and criteria used for its evaluation. In our study, the prevalence of undernutrition, whatever its intensity, is estimated at between 16 and 40%.

Nutritional intervention must be an integral part of the overall therapeutic project of the child; Especially since we are talking to growing organisms, and the therapeutic protocols are often aggressive. Ideally, every child should have a nutritional assessment early on after the diagnosis has been announced to quickly adapt the management. The latter aims to ensure the qualitative and quantitative nutritional intake necessary for specific needs and to reduce the side effects of chemotherapy.

Distribution according to pathology

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