



Philippine Children's Medical Center

MODIFIED PEDIATRIC NUTRITION SCREENING TOOL TO IDENTIFY MALNUTRITION AND THOSE AT RISK FOR MALNUTRITION AMONG PATIENTS AGED 6 TO 18 YEARS OLD ADMITTED AT PHILIPPINE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER

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Introduction

Malnutrition is one of the leading cause of morbidity and mortality and is correlated to risk of complications among admitted patients. Prevalence of malnutrition among patients is underreported resulting to delay in diagnosis and management. Thus, nutritional screening tools were developed to determine malnutrition and identify risk of malnutrition. Locally, a Pediatric Nutrition Screening Tool was developed to cater patients aged 1 to 5 years old. In this study, the previously developed tool was modified to assess patients aged 6 to 18 years old. The tool aims to promote early identification and management of malnutrition and active surveillance for those at risk for malnutrition.

Objective

To determine the reliability and validity of the pediatric nutrition screening tool in identifying malnutrition and risk of malnutrition among admitted patients aged 6 to 18 years old

Methodology

The Modified Pediatric Nutritional Screening Tool (PNST) was assessed among 130 patients aged 6 to 18 years old. Intraclass correlation coefficient was used to determine reliability of the tool among different raters while chi square test was used to determine correlation of the tool with Screening Tool for the Assessment for Malnutrition in Pediatrics (STAMP).

Result

The comparison of the PNST measurements by two observers showed no significant difference with p value of 0.078. All PNST criteria except clinical condition were associated with risk of malnutrition based on STAMP. The overall PNST criteria is significantly associated with risk of malnutrition.

Conclusion

The modified PNST identifies malnutrition and risk of malnutrition among admitted patients aged 6-18 years old. The criteria used in the PNST were associated with risk for malnutrition measured using previously validated tools and demonstrates a good interobserver reliability. It is recommended to be used as routine screening in the hospital setting for early identification of malnutrition and risk for malnutrition.

Keywords

- Malnutrition
- Risk of Malnutrition
- Nutrition Screening Tool
- Pediatrics