

Home Artificial Nutrition in cancer patients at Local Health Care Unit “Napoli 3 Sud”: Survey 2020

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Background and aims: The health emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic required a great deal of effort to ensure continuity of care for Home Artificial Nutrition (HAN) cancer patients [1]. The aim of the study is to evaluate HAN prescriptions for cancer patients in 2020 at Local Health Care Unit (LHCU) “Napoli 3 Sud”, Italy. **Methods:** Data of 1387 cancer patients (M = 757; F = 630; mean age = 74 years) on nutritional support (Parenteral Nutrition, PN; Enteral Nutrition, EN; Oral Nutritional Supplements, ONS) have been collected (January 1st - 31st December 2020). **Results:** The majority of the patients were elderly (≥ 65 years; 74.9%), ≥ 85 years were 14.9%. Colorectal cancer was the most frequent diagnosis (222; 16%), followed by lung cancer (199; 14.3%) and head and neck cancer (135; 9.7%). Nutritional intervention provided for ONS in 780 (56.2%); EN in 59 (4.3%), mainly affected by head and neck cancer (39%); PN were 444 (32%) prescribed mostly to patients with cancer of the gastrointestinal tract (49.8%). **Conclusions:** In 2020 HAN cancer patients were mostly elderly on ONS, probably due to increased nutritional issues. PN was widely used as palliative care or supplemental PN in advanced cancer patients[2].

1. F. Lobascio et al. Providing nutritional care to cancer patients during the COVID-19 pandemic: an Italian perspective. *Supportive Care in Cancer* vol.28, 3987–3989 (2020).
2. D. Woodham et al. Audit of parenteral nutrition use in palliative care patients. *Clinical Nutrition ESPEN* vol. 28, 263 (2018).