

“Management of patients in enteral home nutrition (ONS-NED) during Covid-19 pandemic. Telephone interview: our experience”

M.Rattazzi¹, C. Ivaldi¹, E. Sferrazzo¹, L. Arieta¹, S. Bongiovanni¹, A.Ghirardo¹, F.Leuzzi¹, E.Natta¹, L. Panizzi¹, S. Demontis¹

¹Nutritional Unit, ASL-1 Imperiese, Giovanni Borea Civil Hospital, Sanremo, Italy

Introduction: The Covid-19 pandemic has suspended all non-urgent in-person and unrelated to the Covid-19 infection activities. Many patients located at home with pathologies at risk of malnutrition were unable to carry out checks at the dedicated clinics or at their homes with healthcare professionals.

Background: The work is inspired by the National Chronicity Plan and strives to the goal of guaranteeing the continuity of care and treatment for patients at home or in health facilities during the period of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Objective: Structured telephone interview with patients affected by neurological, oncologic and IBD diseases to monitor home enteral nutrition (ONS - NED) at the time of Covid-19.

Methods: Structured telephone interview, using an "ad hoc" questionnaire, with patients under care with subsequent nutritional counselling, interaction with caregivers, general practitioners, specialist doctors and other health professionals involved, and also by email for sharing data, exams and reports.

Resources used: S.S.D. Territorial Nutrition and DCA treatment: 3 MD expert Clinical Nutrition and n 7 Dieticians.

Period: from May 2020 to May 2021

Results: 591 telephone contacts were made out of 204 follow-up patients; overall, 111 changes to the nutritional plans were made in the period considered.

Conclusions: Structured telephone follow-ups enabled monitoring patients' clinical progress from the nutritional point of view and making changes in the prescription of ONS e NE when appropriate.