

Malnutrition in a tertiary care hospital

Sir,

The recent report on malnutrition in a tertiary care hospital is very interesting.^[1] Chakravarty *et al.*, concluded that “almost two-fifth of patients admitted were malnourished in this tertiary care hospital and that there is an urgent need to develop a comprehensive nutritional care program in many such Indian intensive care units.”^[1] In fact, the nutritional problem is a common thing, but forgotten for the admitted patients in any settings. The important issue is the concern on the care provider on the nutritional status of patients.^[2] A recent report by Kowanko *et al.* showed an important problem that “although nurses considered nutritional care to be important many had difficulty in raising its priority above other nursing activities, as a result of time constraints and multitasking issues.”^[3] There should be a system for nutritional assessment of all admitted patients and special individualized plan should be set. Reid and Allard-Gould reported that “adequate nutritional screening and interventions have been demonstrated to be cost-effective resulting in fewer complications, faster recovery, shorter hospital stays and reduced hospital expenditures.”^[4]

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