HIGH LEVEL OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN WITH EPILEPSY IN UGANDA

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Introduction

Epilepsy and malnutrition both plague Sub-Saharan Africa but the burden of acute malnutrition among children with epilepsy (CWE) in Uganda is unknown.

Objectives

1. To determine the prevalence of acute malnutrition among children with epilepsy attending Mulago National Referral Hospital.
2. To determine the factors associated with acute malnutrition among children with epilepsy attending Mulago National Referral Hospital.

Methodology

This was a cross sectional study among children with epilepsy aged 6 months to 12 years attending the neurology clinic at Mulago national referral hospital between April and August 2021.

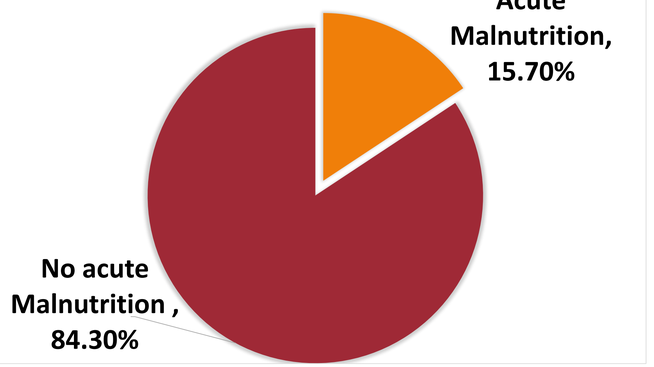
We conducted clinical examination, nutritional assessment and took clinical history.

Acute Malnutrition was defined as weight for length/height z-scores or BMI for age Z score of < -2 Standard deviation from the World Health Organization (WHO) growth reference standards.

We used multivariable regression analysis to determine associated factors. Adjusted odd ratios(aOR) as well as 95% confidence interval (CI) was used to estimate the strength of the association. A p-value of < 0.05 was considered statistically significant

Results

Prevalence of acute malnutrition



We enrolled 280 children with epilepsy. 167 966.8%) were male, while 132(57.8%) were <5years. 44 children had acute malnutrition, 9 had MAM, 25 had SAM. 65.9% were<5 years .

Multivariate analysis of factors associated with acute malnutrition

Factor	No.	aOR (95% CI)	P Value
Gross Motor Disability present	99	8.33 (2.27-34.5)	0.002
Feeding difficulty	81	3.19 (1.23-8.54)	0.018
Had Seizures in last 6 months	214	5.65 (1.34-33.9)	0.032
Caregiver with primary level of education	76	0.4(0.18-0.85)	0.018
Rural Residency	82	0.5(0.248-0.99)	0.048
Currently Attending School	98	0.12(0.03-0.41)	0.001

Conclusion

This study found a high prevalence of acute malnutrition among children with epilepsy.

Factors like feeding difficulties, motor disability, and recent seizures increase the likelihood of malnutrition.

There is need to give routine nutritional assessment and management to children with epilepsy in hospital care.

References

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