

RISK OF CHILD UNDERNUTRITION IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH LIFE-LIMITING DISEASE IN RAYS OF HOPE

HOSPICE JINJA CATCHMENT AREA, BUSOGA REGION, UGANDA

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ABSTRACT



BACKGROUND

Diagnosis of a household member with a life limiting illness directly affects food security in the home and general economy of the family. This could result into scarcity of food in the family which predisposes children to malnutrition

OBJECTIVE

To examine the risk of development of malnutrition among children below 5 years living in households with a household member diagnosed with a life limiting illness as compared to children below 5 years living in households with no member suffering from a life limiting illness.



METHODS

A comparative study design between families with a household member having a life limiting illness and enrolled on RHHJ program and the neighboring household with no person having a life limiting illness

RESULTS

Table 1. Characteristics of Households

	RHHJ (N=145)	Neighbours (N=145)	p value
Disease reason for enrollment on RHHJ's program			
Cancer	89 (61.4%)		
HIV/AIDS	17 (11.7%)		
HIV/AIDS and cancer	4 (2.8%)		
Chronic wounds	5 (3.4%)		
Others	29 (20.0%)		
Respondent to questionnaire is one responsible for preparing food			
Number of missing data	1	2	
No	25 (17.4%)	4 (2.8%)	
Yes	119 (82.6%)	139 (97.2%)	
Number of household members			
Number of missing data	1	0	
Mean (SD)	8.15 (4.79)	6.32 (3.24)	< 0.001
Range	2 – 35	2 – 32	
Household economy score			
Number of missing data	3	0	
Mean (SD)	6.59 (2.42)	5.66 (2.48)	0.001
Range	2 – 15	0 - 13	

RESULTS

Table 2. Characteristics of children >5 years

	RHHJ (N=226)	Neighbour (N=213)
Age (months)		
Number of missing data	5	5
Mean (SD)	32.56 (15.98)	28.93 (15.16)
Child gender		
Number of missing data	0	1
Male	118 (52.2%)	101 (47.4%)
Female	108 (47.8%)	112 (52.6%)
MUAC		
Mean (SD)	15.27 (1.40)	15.00 (1.30)
Bilateral pitting oedema		
Presence of oedema	3 (1.3%)	4 (1.9%)
No presence of oedema	223 (98.7%)	209 (98.1%)
Weight -for-height z-score		
Mean (SD)	0.15 (0.99)	0.06 (0.92)
Height-for-age z-score		
Number of missing data	5	5
Mean (SD)	-1.26 (1.47)	-1.42 (1.37)
Acute malnutrition identified by MUAC		
Acute malnutrition	7 (3.1%)	5 (2.3%)
No acute malnutrition	219 (96.9%)	208 (97.7%)

CONCLUSIONS

There was no statistical significant difference between households with members having a life limiting illness under care of Rays of Hope Hospice Jinja and neighboring households with no family member with a limiting illness regarding child nutrition.