

Letters to Editor

Prevalence of Malnutrition in Orthopedic Patients in Al-Zahra Hospital, Isfahan, Iran

To the Editor:

We would like to point out that the rate of malnutrition among orthopedic patients may be abnormally high in some countries, specially those with limited medical resources. We measured four indicators of malnutrition namely arm circumference (AC), skin fold thickness (SFT), lymphocyte count (LC) and serum albumin level (SAL) of 200 adult orthopedic patients (126 male and 74 female, 20 – 40 years of age) in Al-Zahra Medical Center, to assess their nutritional status. The percentage frequency of moderate to severe malnutrition was 24%, 40%, 27% and 31% based on the AC, SFT, LC and SAL respectively. 43% of patients had moderate to severe malnutrition based on at least one of these four indicators. Jansen et al.¹ found that 42% of patients undergoing orthopedic surgeries were clinically or subclinically malnourished. With respect to susceptibility to postoperative infection, we think that the value of LC is more important than the others. When combined with SAL, LC can predict the development of malnutrition early in its course.

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Reference

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Report of Cadaveric Organ Donation in Isfahan, Iran

To the Editor:

We would like to report the result of cadaveric organ donation in the city of Isfahan during a three year period from August 2000 to November 2003. During this period patients suspected of brain death were evaluated by at least three members of brain death team and the diagnosis was documented using established brain death criteria¹. If the relatives of these brain dead patients were willing to donate their patients' organs, then these patients were referred to the transplant team. In this way, sixteen brain dead patients 13 – 50 years of age (24 ± 8 year, 4 women and 12 men) were identified as potential donors. Causes of brain death among these brain dead patients were motor cycle and car accidents (5 and 4 cases respectively), intracranial hemorrhage (3 cases), and other miscellaneous causes (epilepsy, cerebrovascular accident and falling).

After transferring these patients into the operating room a total of 38 organs were harvested for transplant. The harvested organs were thirty kidneys and four hearts which were used locally. In addition four livers were transferred to the Liver Transplant Unit in the city of Shiraz.

After approving the law of cadaveric organ donation by the Iranian Parliament in 1999 the rate of cadaveric organ donation is increasing in University medical centers.

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References

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