



ABSTRACT

Ethics and clinical nutrition practice challenge in Covid-19 patientsDian Permatasari¹^{1.} South Tangerang City General Hospital, Banten Indonesia.**Abstract : Nutrition Virtual Symposium 2021 - Speaker**

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Covid-19, a disease caused by a novel coronavirus, became a major global human threat that has turned into a pandemic. Pandemics present difficult logistical, medical and ethical challenges to the medical workforce. Pandemics require incorporating public health ethics with clinical ethics. Recent ethical considerations regarding allocation of scarce resources, such as mechanical ventilators, have been proposed. These can apply to other disciplines such as nutrition support, although decisions regarding nutrition support have a diminished potential for devastating outcomes. Covid-19 is an infectious disease characterized by inflammatory syndrome, itself leading to reduced food intake and increased muscle catabolism. Therefore Covid-19 patients are at high risk of being malnourished, making the prevention of malnutrition and the nutritional management key aspects of care. Urgent, brutal and massive arrivals of patients needing urgent respiratory care and artificial ventilation lead to the necessity to reorganize hospital care, wards and staff. In that context, nutritional screening and care may not be considered a priority. The implementation of international guidelines on nutritional screening and care may appear difficult. These leads to many challenges for clinical nutrition practice in Covid-19 patients. One of the practical challenges of nutritional management with Covid-19 is the lack of clear guidelines, as the emerging coronavirus and its impacts on health are constantly evolving. Moreover, nutrition practitioners should be concerned about nutrition support prescriptions that require repeated contact with the patient. Clinical nutrition care protocols may need to be adapted based on the international guidelines to take account of the challenges/barriers to providing nutrition support during the coronavirus pandemic and the use of degraded procedures could unfortunately be the only way. Nutrition support clinicians should make appropriate recommendations regarding nutrition interventions, based on anticipated benefit, availability of products, cost, and risk to providers.

Keywords: covid-19, ethics, clinical nutrition support, challenge

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