

Multi-disciplinary team (MDT) feedback in hepato-pancreato-biliary (HPB) dietetic service within a district general hospital

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Introduction

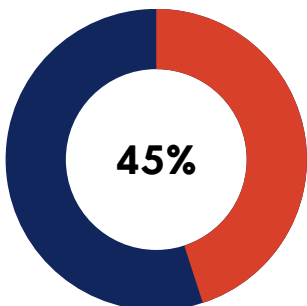
The nutritional management of the pancreatic disease is complex and patients frequently have significant nutritional complications related to their conditions. Nutrition is a key component of care with dietitians a core member of the MDT, however previously there was no previous dietetic provision within the HPB MDT at our Trust.

Aim

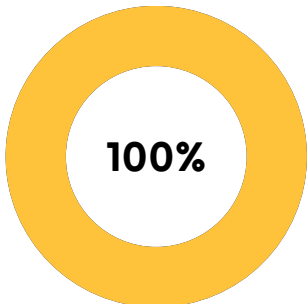
The aim of this project was to evaluate feedback from the HPB MDT following the introduction of a part time funded Specialist HPB dietitian.

Results/Findings

- 11/11 (100%) questionnaires were returned. Results were as follows:
- 5/11 (45%) were very likely or likely to refer pancreatic cancer patients to the dietetic service prior to the introduction of a HPB Dietitian, increasing to 11/11 (100%) post introduction.
 - 3/11 (27%) were very likely or likely to refer benign pancreatic patients to the dietetic service prior to the introduction of a HPB Dietitian, increasing to 10/11 (91%) post introduction.
 - 5/11 (45%) had very good or good understanding of PERT prior to a HPB Dietitian in the MDT, increasing to 11/11 (100%) post introduction.
 - 4/11 (36%) were very confident or confident in giving PERT advice and making alterations to dosage prior to a HPB Dietitian in the MDT, increasing to 11/11 (100%) post introduction.
 - 9/11 (82%) had looked at the HPB dietitian written Trust Guidelines on 'Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy (PERT) in Adults', with 9/9 (100%) finding them very useful or useful.
 - 10/11 (91%) respondents found Specialist HPB Dietitian sitting within the MDT clinics very beneficial or beneficial for them professionally, and 9/11 (82%) very beneficial or beneficial for the patients.



Likelihood of referrals of pancreatic cancer patients preintroduction of HPB Dietitian



Likelihood of referrals of pancreatic cancer patients post introduction of HPB Dietitian

Methodology

A web-based survey (Google forms) was sent to 11 members of the HPB MDT (including medical, surgical and nursing staff). The survey was open for 2 weeks from December 2024, with reminder emails sent after 1 week.

The survey contained 12 multiple choice questions and 4 free text questions and was estimated to take 5 minutes to complete.

Further Results/Findings

Free text comments were made around how the 'great service' was 'very professional and highly respected' and provided 'holistic approach to patient care' having 'positive outcome on wellbeing and improvement in patients symptoms'.

Other feedback included that 'coordinating and availability can be challenging', and having further funding for more time and clinics to evolve the service into a full time role would be beneficial to the service.

Conclusion

Responders feel that nutrition is important in the care of HPB patients and have found a HPB Dietitian to sit within the service to be a positive experience for both patients and professionals.

Aspects highlighted in free text questions confirm how vital a HPB Dietitian is within the service, and that funding provisions are required to make this a full time role.