Title: Competencies of Czech dietitians in the field of food allergies and intolerances

1. Introduction / Objectives / Methodology / Results / Conclusion

This research dealt with the subjective assessment of the competencies of dietitians in food allergies (FA) and intolerances (FI). 32 dietitians (university graduates) took part in an online questionnaire spread via e-mail and social media. Concerning the subjective assessment, the respondents rated their competencies in the IgE/non-IgE differentiation the poorest, whereas the education of the patients and nutrition plan development the highest. 30 respondents answered they learnt about FA and FI for the first time during bachelor studies, 1 during master studies and 1 did not learn about FA and FI during studies at all. 87.5 % of respondents would choose academic publications and advocacy articles and websites and 81 % would like to attend conferences and lectures to improve their knowledge in FA and FI. 91 % of respondents think there should be multidisciplinary approach when treating allergic or intolerant patient. In practice, 57 % of respondents meet allergic patients at least once a month and 18 % at least once a week. When it comes to intolerant patients, 50 % of respondents see them at least once a month and 32 % at least once a week. In the last part of the questionnaire, respondents identified struggles with the treatment of allergic or intolerant patients. The most frequent answers were doctors wrongly interpreting the results of the diagnostic tests, not referring the patient to the dietitian...
and also patients only guessing they should avoid certain food without being diagnosed previously. These findings are going to serve as a background for further research aimed at particular weak points in the education of dietitians in Czech Republic and the care of the patients with FA and FI.

2. three key references:


3. three specific key messages:

- Czech dietitians are not satisfied with the treatment of allergic or intolerant patients, especially with cooperation with doctors
- Dietitians struggle in the IgE/non-IgE differentiation, while they are good at education of the patients and nutrition plan development
- Further research is needed in this field to specify weak points and to identify ways how to improve them