

Invited Speaker Abstract

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Title of Presentation The new GLIM definition of malnutrition – hopes and challenges

1. Abstract: Where applicable, please use the structure of Introduction / Objectives / Methodology / Results / Conclusion. Otherwise, please provide a narrative summary.

One year ago a new construct for the diagnosis of malnutrition was released, in order to try to unify the global nutrition community around one common concept of malnutrition. The Global Leadership Initiative on Malnutrition (GLIM) suggests that a two-step approach is used. First step is screening by any validated tool, and in Step 2 subjects identified as being at risk, the diagnosis is confirmed if one of three phenotypic criteria (weight loss, underweight, low muscle mass) and one of two etiologic criteria (reduced food intake or inflammation/high disease burden) are simultaneously fulfilled. The reception of the GLIM construct has been very positive by the nutrition community. Obviously, validation studies are needed to secure the acceptance from regulatory and financing bodies. Still there are uncertainties in the construct that need to be clarified, e.g. how to measure and assess low muscle mass, as well as how to evaluate inflammation and disease burden. Other pending issues are to expand the embracement of the construct to societies beyond ESPEN, ASPEN; PENZA and FELANPE, for example EFAD. Further challenges are to involve WHO in the effort to increase the awareness of disease-related malnutrition, and to up-date the ICD system with modern concepts of malnutrition. The GLIM definition of diagnosis is a dynamic concept open for reconsideration and updates every 3-5 years.

2. key references

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- Cederholm T, Barazzoni R, Austin P, Ballmer P, Biolo G, Compher C, Correia I, Bischoff SC, Higashiguchi T, Holst M, Jensen GL, Malone A, Muscaritoli M, Nyulasi I, Pirlich M, Rothenberg E, Schindler K, Schneider SM, de van der Schueren MAE, Sieber C, Valentini L, Yu JC, Van Gossum A, Singer P. ESPEN Guidelines on Definitions and Terminology of Clinical Nutrition. *Clin Nutr* 2017;36:4964.

3. Key messages

- The GLIM criteria for malnutrition are three phenotypic (weight loss, underweight, reduced muscle mass) and two etiologic (reduced food intake, Inflammation/disease burden) whereof one of each is required for the diagnosis of malnutrition.
- Validation studies are needed for global embracement of the GLIM construct
- The GLIM format for diagnosing malnutrition is a dynamic process; current issues to solve are how to measure and assess muscle mass as well as inflammation/disease burden.