

POSITIVE UNDERNUTRITION SCREENING SCORE STAY IN HOSPITAL 1.4 DAY LONGER

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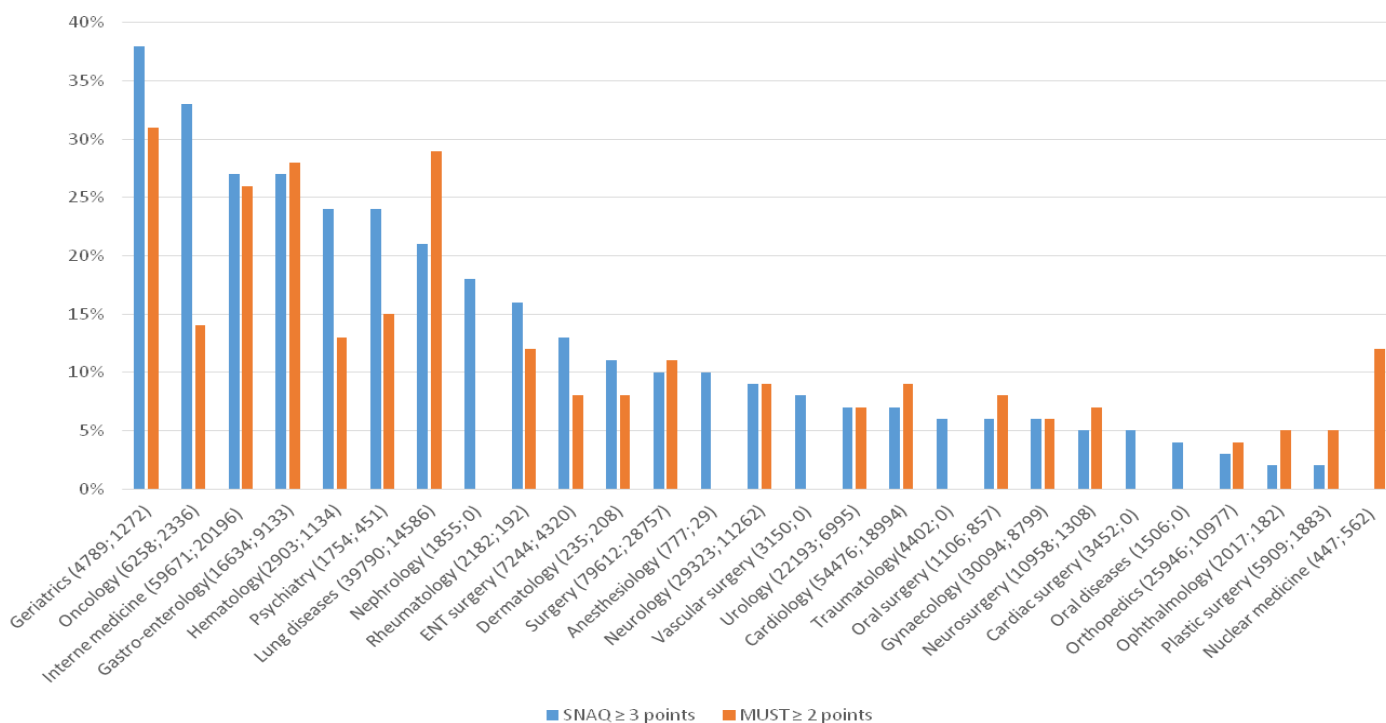


In The Netherlands, screening on undernutrition at admission is common practice in hospitals, using the Short Nutritional Assessment Questionnaire (SNAQ) or the Malnutrition Universal Screening Tool (MUST). Using the screening data of 13 hospitals of 2007-2014 two questions were answered:

1. What is the percentage of patients with screening score “undernutrition” in the general hospital population and per medical specialism?
2. Are SNAQ/MUST score and Length of Hospital Stay (LOS) related?

Results: 564.083 patients were included (48% male, age 62 ± 18). 74% (419.086) were screened with SNAQ and 26% (144.977) with MUST. 14% of the patients had a screening score “undernourished” (SNAQ 13.7%; MUST 14.9%). Medical specialisms with the highest percentage of screening score “undernourished” were Geriatrics (38%), Oncology (33%), Gastroenterology (27%) and Internal medicine (27%). Patients with screening score “undernourished” had a higher LOS (median 6.8 days vs. screening “not undernourished” median 4.0 days (P<0.001)). Regression analysis pointed out that SNAQ/MUST score is a significant determinant of LOS (SNAQ: +1.43, p<0.001; MUST: +1.47, p<0.001).

Percentage "screening result malnourished" per medical specialism



Conclusion: In a large hospital population 14 to 15% of the population had a screening score “undernourished” varying per medical specialism from 2-38%. The Geriatric, Oncology, Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology ward had the highest prevalence of screening result ‘undernourished’. LOS of these patients was 1.4 days longer than patients with screening result ‘well-nourished’.