NUTRITION FOR LBSL AND OTHER LEUKODYSTROPHIES

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TOPICS

General Principals for Nutrition Health Common Nutrition Concerns for Patients Altered nutrition needs Oral-motor difficulties Swallow safety GI dysfunction Constipation Picky eating Specialized diets

TOPICS

Supportive Nutrition Approaches Micronutrient therapy (mito cocktail) Ketogenic diet Antioxidant-rich diet

GENERAL NUTRITION PRINCIPLES

Adequate but not excess calories, macronutrients, vitamins, minerals and FLUID

Balanced: fruits, vegetables, proteins, carbohydrates including whole grains, dairy or dairy substitutes



ALTERED NUTRITION NEEDS

Higher calorie needs/chronic underweight

Caloric supplements, increased meal frequency, avoid fasting, enteral or parenteral feeding

- Metabolic dysregulation
 - May need restrictions of carbohydrates, protein or fat
- Excess weight gain

Limited/decreased mobility, poor dietary choices, medications

Oral-motor difficulty (may be progressive): chewing, fatigue

Include soft foods, decrease texture, small, frequent meals, high-calorie liquid supplements; may require a feeding tube

Swallow safety: choking, aspiration

Swallow study

modify drink consistency or food texture, avoid risky foods (nuts, grapes, hot dogs); may be advised to limit volume, avoid drinks, or perhaps eat only for pleasure; may require a feeding tube

Oral-motor therapy (OT or SLP)

GI dysfunction:GER:

pain, throat discomfort, food coming back up, vomiting
treat with positioning, medications, avoiding trigger foods
Slow esophageal or gastric motility:
food "gets stuck," full after a small volume, vomiting
small frequent meals, emphasize liquids/chase solids with drinks, modify texture, pro-motility medicines

Constipation

infrequent stools, small hard stools or large painful stools, smearing, bloating, nausea, vomiting, poor intake
 manage with adequate fluid, dietary fiber, exercise/movement.

may require medication because of poor tone/motility: stool softeners, laxatives, suppositories, enemas; bowel program

Picky eating:

Imited variety, food refusal, poor fluid intake

- caution for specialized diets that limit variety even more
- refusal to eat a medically recommended diet
- dietary non-compliance
- Treatment: behavioral therapy, food chaining, creative presentation of foods

- Specialized diets (ketogenic, low-fat/low saturated fat)
 - May be unappetizing
 - May create other health risks (nutrient deficiencies, abnormal blood lipids or glucose)
 - Further limits already picky eaters
 - Difficult to maintain compliance
 - Extra cost and/or preparation

SPECIALIZED NUTRITION

 Ketogenic diet: high-fat diet, primarily used to treat seizures refractory to medication
 Contraindication: errors of fatty acid metabolism
 Pharmacologic treatment: "Mito cocktail" – goal is to replace or increase compounds that metabolize energy

Some of the compounds are disease specific, or their efficacy has not been elucidated

OTHER DIETARY STRATEGIES

Antioxidant supplements: goal is to reduce reactive oxygen molecules. There is such a thing as "too much of a good thing."

Healthy eating plans: DASH diet, Mediterranean diet, avoiding processed foods, avoiding sugar. Goal is to support optimal health, manage symptoms, avoid secondary mitochondrial dysregulation

FAQ

Should certain foods be avoided?
Should certain foods be emphasized?
Will eating organic foods improve health?
Should sugar be avoided? If so, how stringently?
What about the sugar content in nutrition supplements?
What are the pros and cons of probiotics?

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

This is your time



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