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A Qualitative Study of Caregivers of Children Living with HIV/AIDS in Ghana: Diagnosis History, Health-seeking Behaviour, and Care Expectations

Caregivers of Children Living with HIV/AIDS experience severe burdens in Africa amidst unmet needs while seeking care from hospitals. This study aimed to explore the diagnosis history, health-seeking behaviour, and care provided by hospitals and whether the services meet caregivers' expectations. We used a qualitative approach and conducted individual in-depth interviews among purposively sampled caregivers of children living with HIV/AIDS from three hospitals. We achieved data sufficiency after interviewing nine participants. Audio-recorded interviews were transcribed verbatim and thematically analyzed manually through Collaizi's steps. Four themes developed including; history of pregnancy and poor HIV testing, effective care for caregivers and CLWH, attitude of healthcare providers, and unmet expectations of care. Healthcare providers showed positive attitudes towards caregivers and provided services (counselling, dispensing Anti-retrovirals, health monitoring, and coordination of clinical care). Expectations bordered on financial support (for food, education, health care), and treatment for opportunistic infections. Findings indicate gaps in HIV voluntary testing for pregnant women, enrollment in Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT), and unmet needs. It is imperative to improve coverage of testing for pregnant women and efforts made to meet their needs. Financial support, provision of food security, and assistance for caregivers are essential for care.

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Preparation of Healthy Cookies from Germinated Flour Blends of Finger Millet and Pearl Millet Sweetened with Jaggery

Millets are physiologically and therapeutically healthy with high nutritious value and are in rising demand in emerging markets like India, China, Africa, and other developing countries including the Western world. Germinated Millets have high digestibility and are used as healthy food for children's growth and development. Climate change resilience technology, high nutritional value, and the announcement of the year 2023 as "International Millet Year" have made it very popular. Bakery items based on Millet, particularly cookies, are becoming more popular in both urban and rural areas. Jaggery is raw sugar prepared from sugarcane juice and is considered superior to white sugar. It offers numerous nutritional and therapeutic benefits, including anti-carcinogenic with antitoxic actions. Hence, this study aimed to prepare healthy food items with germinated finger and pearl Millets for better nutritional quality that are attracting the attention of health-conscious people on a worldwide scale. Cookies made from blends of germinated wheat flour (GWF), germinated finger millet flour (GFMF), and germinated pearl millet flour (GPMF) were examined for their physicochemical qualities, in vitro digestibility, antioxidant activity, and overall acceptability by consumers. In vitro protein digestibility (62.24-82.34%), starch digestibility (47.48-62.41%), total phenolic content (11.45–49.12 mg GAE/100 g), and antioxidant activities significantly increased as the proportion of GFMF and GPMF flour increased in the cookie samples, whereas total starch, dietary fiber, carbohydrate, and phytic acid decreased. The physical qualities of the cookies were also improved by the addition of GFMF and GPMF flours. Cookies with acceptable sensory properties, including taste, aroma, appearance, mouthfeel, crispiness, and overall acceptability, were produced by blending 60% GWF, 20% GFMF, and 20% GPMF (T2). This study demonstrated that GFMF and GPMF flour blends may be used as functional ingredients to create superior goods.

Perspective Published Date:-2024-03-08 15:44:16

Pets and Pediatrics, Friend and Foe: Companionship Masking Illnesses

Animals are companions that have continued to hold importance in the average American household. Traditional animals like dogs and cats are often treated as family members due to the human-animal bond. Although it seems as if there are many benefits to having animals in the home, it comes at a price—pet-borne illnesses. Compared to adults, the pediatric population is at a greater risk for these types of illnesses. Animals are natural reservoirs for many bacteria that may be passed to children, especially those who are immunocompromised. The goal of this article is to educate parents on the risks and symptoms of common pet-borne illnesses that are difficult to prevent from coming into the home.

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An Individual Rehabilitation and/or Habilitation Program for Children with Disabilities (IPRH)

Introduction: The individual program of rehabilitation and (or) habilitation of children with disabilities (IPRH) is mandatory for execution by the relevant state authorities, local self-government bodies, as well as organizations regardless of organizational-legal forms and forms of ownership.

Objective: To conduct a pilot analysis of the implementation of the IPRH contingent of patients of children with disabilities in an urban children's clinic.

Patients and methods: There were 366 reports on the implementation of measures provided for by an IPRH for a disabled person (disabled child) of 222 disabled. The organization of the study was in the nature of a continuous sample. The criterion for the inclusion of patients in it was the passage of an IPRH in a disabled child within a specified time frame. The following techniques were used: grouping, absolute and relative values, average values, detailing, and generalization. The threshold error probability for statistically significant differences was set at a level of 0.05.

Results: The structure of the results of the control of the performance of IPRH in 222 disabled children according to the classes of diseases that caused the onset of disability (ICD) was as follows 1) G00-G99 - $35.47 \pm 3.13\%$; 2) Q00-Q99 - $23.50 \pm 2.77\%$; 3) 11.11 $\pm 2.05\%$; 4) C00-D48 - $10.25 \pm 1.98\%$; 5) H60-H95 - $7.26 \pm 1.67\%$; 6) M00-M99 - $2.99 \pm 1.11\%$; 7-8) H00-H59 and P00-P96 - $2.14 \pm 0.95\%$; 9-10) K00-K93 and S00-T98 - $1.29 \pm 0.74\%$ each; 11-12) I00-I99 and N00-N99 - $0.85 \pm 0.60\%$ each; 13-14) J00-J99 and L00-L99 - $0.43 \pm 0.42\%$ each. Conclusion: 1. In the structure of IPRH in 222 disabled children, according to the classes of diseases that caused disability (ICD), the following prevailed: 1) VI Diseases of the nervous system G00-G99 - 35.47%; 2) XVII Congenital anomalies, chromosomal disorders Q00-Q99 - 23.50%; 3) IV Diseases of the endocrine system, nutritional disorders, and metabolic disorders E00-E90 - 11.11%; 4) II Neoplasms C00-D48 - 10.25%; 5) VIII Diseases of the ear and mastoid process H60-H95 - 7.26%; 6) XIII Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue M00-M99 - 2.99%; 7-8) VIII Diseases of the ear and mastoid process H60-H95 - 2.14% each.

- 2. The effectiveness of medical rehabilitation of disabled children was as follows: 1) Improvement 23.26%; 2) Stabilization 74.88%; 3) Deterioration 1.86%. Dynamic observation was carried out on 94.26% of disabled children, drug therapy 77.32%, non-drug therapy 66.93%, and other types of medical rehabilitation were received by 14.48% of patients. Reconstructive operations were performed on 11.26% of disabled children.
- 3. Prosthetics and orthotics were performed on 38.74% of disabled children. 32.43% of disabled children in need received sanatorium treatment, and 30.18% are currently in line to receive a voucher. For various reasons, 24.32% refused this type of rehabilitation; 3.60% of patients had contraindications at the time the voucher was provided.
- 4. The obtained research results become the initial everyday statistical tool for objectifying the process of rehabilitation of patients and determining the strength and means of a medical institution to monitor and successfully implement an individual rehabilitation/habilitation program for a disabled person.

Case Report Published Date: -2024-01-18 09:43:17

Delayed Diagnosis of Early-onset Sarcoidosis: A Case Report and Literature Review

Background: Early-onset sarcoidosis is a rare systemic inflammatory granulomatous disease, distinguished by onset before the age of 4 and notably lacking pulmonary involvement. Unfortunately, the condition often shows clinical features similar to juvenile idiopathic arthritis, resulting in the misdiagnosis of numerous patients. This case report delves into the challenges associated with the delayed diagnosis of early-onset sarcoidosis, with a particular focus on the diagnostic methods employed to address this delayed recognition.

Case presentation: A 15-year-old girl presented with a history of recurrent fever since infancy, accompanied by rash, arthritis, and joint deformity. Previously misdiagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis, she underwent management with steroids and methotrexate, yielding no improvement. The diagnosis of early-onset sarcoidosis was made during adolescence based on serial examinations, comprehensive laboratory and radiological evaluations, and subsequent histopathology findings. Presently, the patient is receiving treatment with low-dose steroids and biologic therapy (Tocilizumab) and experiencing no disease progression.

Conclusion: This case report underscores the importance of considering early-onset sarcoidosis in the differential diagnosis of pediatric patients exhibiting persistent arthritis from an early age. Early detection and treatment are crucial in averting complications and enhancing the overall quality of life.