



PhD student:

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Research project: The MINUTE Study (miRNA profiling after Immune NUTritional inTERvention in patients affected by GC and ECJ): A pilot study

Abstract:

Gastric cancer (GC) and Gastroesophageal junction carcinoma (ECJ) rank fifth in incidence and fourth in mortality. Patients with cancer are at high risk of malnutrition, especially those affected by gastrointestinal cancer.

This pilot study aims to prospectively evaluate how an immune nutritional intervention may affect and modulate the immune system response in patients eligible for neoadjuvant chemotherapy, studying exosomal miRNA extracted from patients' blood samples collected at baseline and the end of chemotherapy. Medical history, clinical and laboratory data, anthropometry measurements, a quality of life questionnaire and nutritional status evaluation are also collected.

To date, 7 eligible patients have been enrolled, All of whom have undergone neoadjuvant chemotherapy. Blood samples are collected and stored in the -80°C freezer. The next step will be to extract and analyze the exosomal miRNA to profile the genome of miRNA. All the available patients' data is recorded in a database.

A different miRNA profile at the end of the immune nutritional intervention is expected to be found from this analysis.