Reviewer's report

Title: First results of a refeeding program in a psychiatric intensive care unit for patients suffering from extreme severe anorexia nervosa

Version: 1
Date: 27 October 2014
Reviewer: Emilio Gutierrez

Reviewer's report:

This is a very interesting draft that I have enjoyed reading it. In the draft is reported the outcome of treatment for severe anorexia nervosa patients. I think the paper is of interest for the community although it would be very much improved if the authors would meet the following suggestions:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

Introduction

In the text and in Table 1 there is a reported difference between restrictive and ANR and ANBP subtypes (line 209-211. “This indicated that patients with ANBP had a longer duration of illness until admission to our unit and they needed more time to gain weight. Nevertheless, their BMI at admission was slightly higher.” These are interesting differences in the light of data in a recent paper reporting seasonal differences on BMI at hospital admission between ANR and ANBP patients (Fraga et al., BMI differences between restrictive and purging anorexia nervosa subtypes. Int J Eat Disord. 2014 Oct 18. doi: 10.1002/eat.22357). In this recently published paper differences in BMI at admission between ANR and ANBP were only due to differences during the colder months of the year.

Furthermore, regarding “days of treatment”, ANBP patients stayed longer in the hospital than ANR patients although their mean BMI increase was lower than that of ANR patients (BMI from admission to discharge; 12.6 to 16.4, and 11.9 to 16.9 for ANBP and ANR patients respectively). It would be interesting to know if differences of days of treatment were associated to seasons as in the Fraga et al’s paper, the duration of treatment was associated differently for AN subtype across seasons.

I think it would be appropriate to comment the work of Rigaud


- Minor Essential Revisions

Abstract,

Line 53. Correct “showinghigh”

Line 70. “magnet resonance imaging (MRI)”, why not magnetic resonance imaging?

Introduction:

Line 90. Correct “too fed” in the paragraph: “This might correspond to results of an epidemiological study which found about 25% of normal weighted girls, who were estimating their body as being too fed and about 50% were found to use unhealthy methods to control their body weight [4].

Lines 162-165 “The participation in physiotherapy must consider that energy is first needed for gain of body weight and moreover, most underweighted patients are restless by reasons of their physical condition which might be a problem in psychotherapeutic sessions”. Please check if the term “physiotherapy” is correct.

Results

Line 192, correct “time and”

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests