

# Review of: "Knowledge, Perception and Challenges of Implementing Nutrition Screening: A Survey of Healthcare Professionals"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear authors,

Thank you for the opportunity to review your manuscript. As you explain in your introduction, nutrition screening is very relevant to prevent and treat malnutrition and to support optimal health outcomes in surgical patients. Therefore, the survey and the paper are relevant for health care professionals and managers.

The paper could, however, be improved by more precise writing and structure. Here are some suggestions:

- The method sections should be revised by adding relevant information, such as when the survey was conducted, what eligibility criteria were applied, and what scales were used in the questionnaire.
- Furthermore, overlaps (e.g., end of «study location» and «subjects») and discrepancies (e.g., does the questionnaire contain 3 or 4 parts?) should be reduced.
- The result section describes the results in detail. However, it would probably be easier to read and understand if the results clearly distinguish between actual behavior, knowledge, perception, and challenges. Currently, these aspects are spread over the tables, and sometimes the labels don't allow for correctly classify the items (e.g., «referral to dietitians» could be interpreted as «do you refer patients to a dietitian»; Table 3 is described as «summarises the descriptive results of the NS implementation part», but is labeled as «knowledge and perceptions»).
- The discussion section is a bit repetitive and structured near the results but does not discuss relevant topics in-depth. For example, "not perceived doctors orders" is mentioned as a barrier in dietetic practice. What reasons for this have others found, and what solutions have others investigated?