## Role of Nutrition in the Context of an Aging Population



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## Chronic Disease and Malnutrition



## Malnutrition :

- A common consequence of chronic disease
- 38\% of community dwelling elderly are at risk of malnutrition or malnourished


## Malnutrition in the Elderly



## Factors Impacting Nutrition Intake with Aging

- Altered taste and smell
- Results in decreased appetite
- Oral health problems (chewing, dry mouth)
- Results in poor diet quality; avoidance of protein sources
- Decreased physical activity and mobility
- Decreased appetite thus less food to retrieve needed nutrients
- Impaired ability to shop, carry groceries, prepare meals
- Illness / Chronic Disease
- Decreased appetite
- Use of multiple medications
- Impairs appetite
- Interfere with nutrient absorption
- Psychosocial Issues (depression, isolation)
- Decreased appetite and stimulation to eat
- Impaired ability to shop
- Financial Issues
- Fixed income restricts access to high quality foods


## Malnutrition Impacts Outcome




## Maintaining Functional Capacity Over the Life Course



Maintaining functionality \& independence in the elderly population is considered as a \#1 priority
to prevent decline \& institutionalization

## Cost of Malnutrition

- In Europe
- 33 million people are at risk of malnutrition
- Estimated cost: €170 billion
- With malnutrition there are higher costs of hospitalisation

- Disease related malnutrition costs in the UK are estimated at €15 billion / year
- $10 \%$ health \& social care expenditure
- Economic costs of obesity \& overweight are only about $1 / 2$ of the cost of disease related malnutrition
" Nutritional intervention holds the promise of mitigating the growing burden of chronic disease and disability and improving the quality of life of the rapidly growing older population. "

Geriatric Nutrition, ed. Morley, Thomas, 2007

