## 188.00

## ACUTE PHASE PROTEINS IN CHILDREN WITH MARASMUS

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We investigated the status of acute phase proteins in 40 children with marasmus (MC) (age 10.2  $\pm$  1.7 y) and 40 healthy, well-nourished children (HC) (age 10.4  $\pm$  1.5 y). Nutritional status was evaluated with clinical, anthropometric and laboratory parameters. Following APP were obtained with turbidimetry, nephelometry and RID (Behring, Germany): c-reactive protein (CRP),  $\alpha$ 1-acid glycoprotein ( $\alpha$ 1AG), fibrinogen, haptoglobin, C3, C4,  $\alpha$ 2-macroglobulin ( $\alpha$ 2MG),  $\alpha$ 1-antitrypsin ( $\alpha$ 1-ATR), c1-inhibitor (C1INH), ceruloplasmin (CPL), albumin (AL), praalbumin (PAL) and transferrin (TR). Mean AL, PAL and TR were significantly lower in MC (32  $\pm$  3.9, 1.95  $\pm$  0.2 and 0.19  $\pm$  0.07 gr/l), compared with HC (43  $\pm$  2.4, 2.31  $\pm$  0.25 and 0.28  $\pm$  0.07 gr/l, respectively). Mean CRP, fibrinogen,  $\alpha$ 2MG, C1INH and CPL were significantly higher in MC (0.443  $\pm$  0.89 mg/dl, 3.7  $\pm$  0.9, 2.8  $\pm$  0.8, 0.27  $\pm$  0.04 and 0.391  $\pm$  0.13 gr/l), compared with HC (0.028  $\pm$  0.12 mg/dl, 3.0  $\pm$  0.5, 2.3  $\pm$  0.6, 0.24  $\pm$  0.03 and 0.328  $\pm$  0.07 g/l, respectively). Correlation between anthropometric parameters and most of the APP wasn't significant. Children with marasmus show significant changes in all groups of APP.