

PEDIATRIC PHYSIOTHERAPY NEEDS IN MALNOURISHED ITFC PATIENTS: A RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF SCREENING DATA

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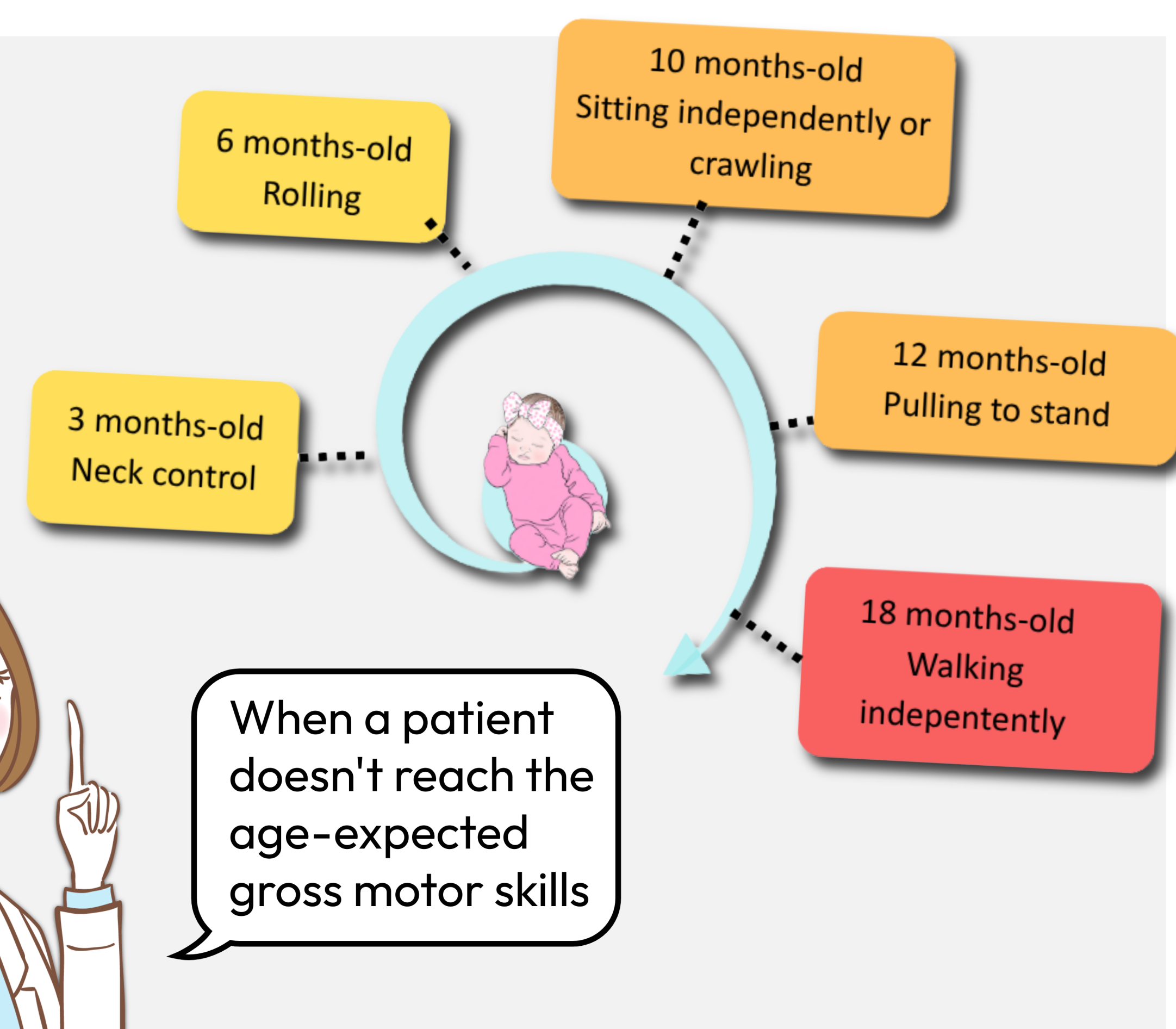
What are the conditions requiring a physiotherapy intervention in malnutrition?

#1

Neuromotor delays or regression >3 months

- Severe oedema with complications (skin damage, pain, mobility impairment)
- Orthopedic limitations
- Neurological sequelae
- Respiratory congestion

What is a neuromotor delay?



Do we see these conditions in MSF fields? In which proportions?

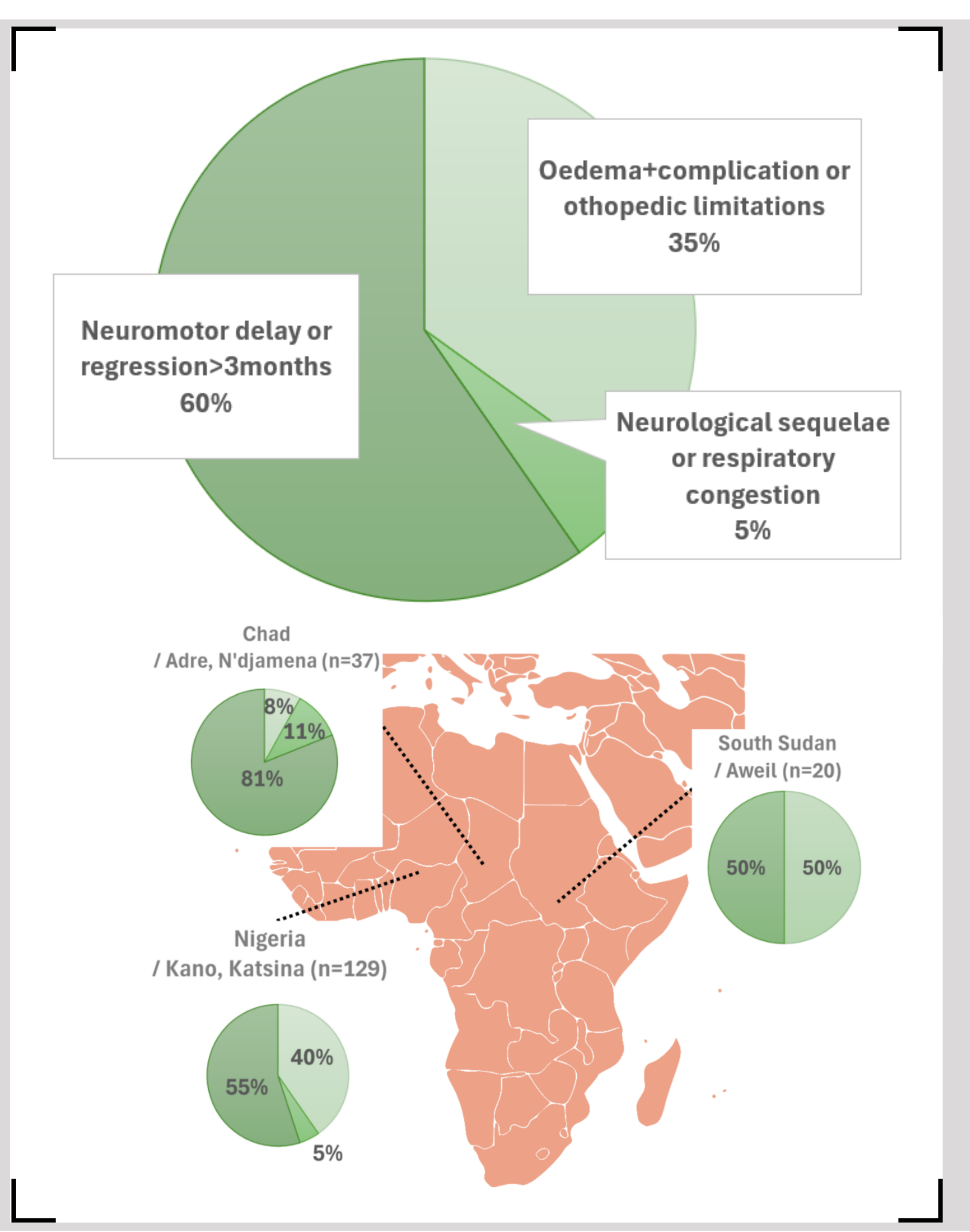
#2

YES!

In 2024, we did a screening in 5 MSF-Inpatient therapeutic feeding centers

Among 440 screened patients, 186 (42,3%) needed rehabilitation

The following diagram shows the distribution of the conditions of these 186 patients



What physiotherapy looks like for these patients?

#3

In pediatric physiotherapy we target **active movements** to allow:

- Developmental milestones
- Muscle strengthening
- Functioning: ability to perform daily tasks
- Reducing pain / Increasing comfort
- To avoid/cure joint stiffness

We involve and coach the caregiver to promote movements out of the physiotherapy sessions



Safiya, 24 months old, was admitted two weeks ago with edematous SAM. She stopped walking a month ago and is lethargic. I'm measuring edema girth as it can cause pain, discomfort, reduced movement, joint stiffness, and functional loss

Aliyu, 12 months old, has never walked and stopped crawling and standing 3 months ago. He shows muscle wasting. I'm showing his mother how to stimulate him to stand with just enough support to encourage active movement and muscle strength.

