The burden of diarrhoeal disease in malnourished children

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Diarrhoeal disease is the second leading cause of death in children, killing 1.5 million children every year. Malnourished children suffer most. Rotavirus, \textit{Escherichia coli}, \textit{Shigella}, \textit{Campylobacter}, \textit{Salmonella}, \textit{Vibrio cholerae} and \textit{Cryptosporidium} are the major pathogens that cause diarrhoeal disease in children. The tremendous incidence of diarrhoeal diseases in malnourished children underscores the urgent need for interventions, such as food-based oral rehydration salt (ORS) treatment. This review gives a summary of major pathogens that cause diarrhoeal diseases in poor nations and discusses the use of food-based ORS solutions in the treatment of dehydration in malnourished children.

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