Hierarchical clustering methods are frequently used in nutrition research to describe the dietary habits of the population under study. Each resulting set of individuals is then characterized by certain levels of food (or nutrient) intakes forming a dietary pattern. In a large longitudinal diabetes prevention and prediction nutrition study, we are interested in relating the dietary habits of the mothers and the children to the risk of the type 1 (childhood) diabetes. In this framework, we propose a method for using the dendrogram in the detection of risk patterns.