

END OF LIFE CARE EXPERIENCE AT THE PAEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY UNIT AT THE UGANDA CANCER INSTITUTE: WHAT ROLE CAN ONCOLOGY NURSES PLAY?

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Background: The majority of childhood cancers are curable; but this is not yet true for low resource countries. In Uganda, cancer care is only at the Uganda Cancer Institute. The institute receives averagely 4,300 patients annually with approximately 8% being a proportion of children. The mortality rate is about 70% annually that is every three in five children diagnosed with cancer will not survive past one year after cancer diagnosis. Here, we reviewed the factors contributing to poor outcomes and potential solutions.

Objectives: The objective of this study is to determine the role of oncology nurses at the end of life care of children diagnosed with cancer.

Findings: Majority of the children were present with advanced diseases at cancer diagnosis. The chemotherapy is prescribed for palliative intent more frequently and high rates of complications are observed. Family involvement in decisions regarding the role of palliative chemotherapy at end of life is undocumented. The concept of quality of life for cancer patients with advanced cancer is not well perceived among care takers and some clinicians at UCI. Nurses play an integral role, identifying symptoms, providing care coordination, and assuring clear communication.

Conclusions: Educational initiatives for patients, families and health-care providers are essential. The oncology nurses play a key role in the multidisciplinary team approach to paediatric patients at end of life care.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SYSTEM AND NURSING HOME PATIENTS: IS THERE A WAY TO BETTER USE EXISTING RESOURCES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF CARE?

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Background: Our population is aging. There is a growing number of nursing home (NH) residents who benefit from ambulance