THE CAMEROON BAPTIST CONVENTION HEALTH SERVICES CHILDHOOD CANCER Program: The Need for Early Diagnosis

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OBJECTIVES

• Realize the existence of childhood cancers in Cameroon

• Understand the effect of late diagnosis and benefits of early diagnosis

• Recognize the early warning signs of the most prevalent Childhood Cancers

• Know the available childhood cancer treatment sites within the CBCHS

• Effectively refer suspected Childhood cancer patients
Introduction

• Each year, approximately 300,000 children are diagnosed with cancer globally.

• Childhood cancer represents less than 5% of all cancers.

• With timely and quality care, 80% of children diagnosed with childhood cancer can survive.

• Ten percent of malignancies in Cameroon are pediatric cancers.
• Childhood cancer is a leading cause of NCDs related death in children.

• More than 80% of children with cancer live in LMICs
  • Survival rates are usually between 20% and 50%.

• In Africa, approximately 50% of pediatric cancers are lymphomas

• It is approximately that 1000 children will develop cancer in Cameroon per year.
The CBCHS Childhood Cancer Programme

• Started in
  • 2003 at Banso Baptist Hospital
  • 2006 at Mbingo Baptist Hospital
  • 2007 at Baptist Hospital Mutengene

• By December 2017, over 1500 children have been diagnosed and treated.

• The average survival rate is about 50%.
The CBCHS Childhood Cancer Programme cont.

• Its goal is quality health care.

• Access to
  • Better care
  • Affordable
  • Good quality medications
  • Healthcare coverage can help stop the dying

• Its vision is “a sustainable childhood cancer treatment programme”
The CBCHS Childhood Cancer Programme cont.

- Common childhood cancers
  - Burkitt lymphoma
  - Wilms’ Tumor (Nephroblastoma)
  - Retinoblastoma
  - Non-Burkitt Non-Hodgkin’s lymphomas
  - Kaposi Sarcoma
  - Hodgkin’s lymphoma
  - Rhabdomyosarcoma.
Early warning signs of childhood cancers

- Eye
  - White spot in the eye
  - Blindness
  - Bulging eyeball

- Lump
  - Abdomen
  - Head
  - Neck
  - Limbs
  - Testes

- Enlarged lymph nodes

- Abdominal distention
Early warning signs of childhood cancers Cont.

- Unexplained
  - Fevers over 2 weeks
  - Loss of weight
  - Pallor
  - Fatigue.

- Bones/Joints
  - Aching bones and joints
  - Easy fractures
  - Enlarged Bone

- Neurological changes and incontinence.

- Enlarge Lymph node
Early warning signs of childhood cancers pictures cont.

- High WBC of >1500000
- Enlarge Lymph node
- Enlarge Lymph node
Early warning signs of childhood cancers pictures cont.
Early warning signs of childhood cancers pictures cont.

Jaw Mass
Early warning signs of childhood cancers pictures cont.

Mass growing in the muscles

Head and Abdominal Involvement
Early warning signs of childhood cancers pictures cont.

Abdominal Involvement
Kapossi Sarcoma
BURKITT’S LYMPHOMA
WILMS’ TUMOR
OSTEOSARCOMA

Young child with large osteosarcoma involving the distal femur
RETINOBLASTOMA
SERVICES AVAILABLE TO CHILD CANCER PATIENTS AT CBC HOSPITALS

- Chemotherapy
- Surgery
- Parent support
- Social support
- Palliative care
- Palliative care home visits
- Long term follow up after treatment
Conclusion

• Nurses are at the forefront in health facilities.

• With any of the above signs and symptoms, the nurse in collaboration with their immediate supervisor needs to role out a cancer.

• Are focus should be on early identification and treatment
• Our responsibility is to promptly refer this family to a physician or any treatment center for further investigation, immediate and proper management.

• <<The time is now. There can be no more “but.” Act Now>>.
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