



## Vietnam Report

69 Physician responses from Vietnam.

97% of respondents practice in hospital settings.

621 Physician responses from 18 countries.



Among the 20 million children globally in need of palliative care, 27% live in Asia-Pacific.



In Vietnam, there are 4,140 new childhood cancer cases each year.



The ADAPT study aims to assess physician perceptions towards palliative care integration for children and adolescents diagnosed with cancer.

## Palliative Care

Defined by the WHO as the prevention and relief of patient suffering and the ethical responsibility of health systems that should be integrated with and complement prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment.



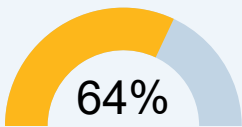
Palliative Care integrated into health care systems at all levels:

- ✓ Is cost-effective
- ✓ Improves resource utilization
- ✓ Decreases patient suffering, parental psychological distress

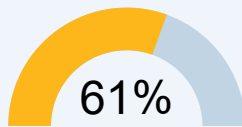
Additional Information:  
*Integrating Palliative Care and Symptom Relief Into Pediatrics: A WHO Guide for Health Care Planners, Implementers and Managers. WHO; 2018.*

## Access to Pediatric Palliative Care

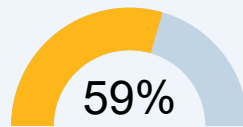
Reported **access** to palliative care in their clinic or hospital



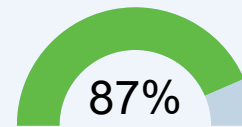
Indicated that **palliative care consultation is available** when they felt it was needed.



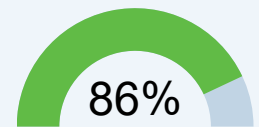
Felt that **palliative care** was involved **too late**.



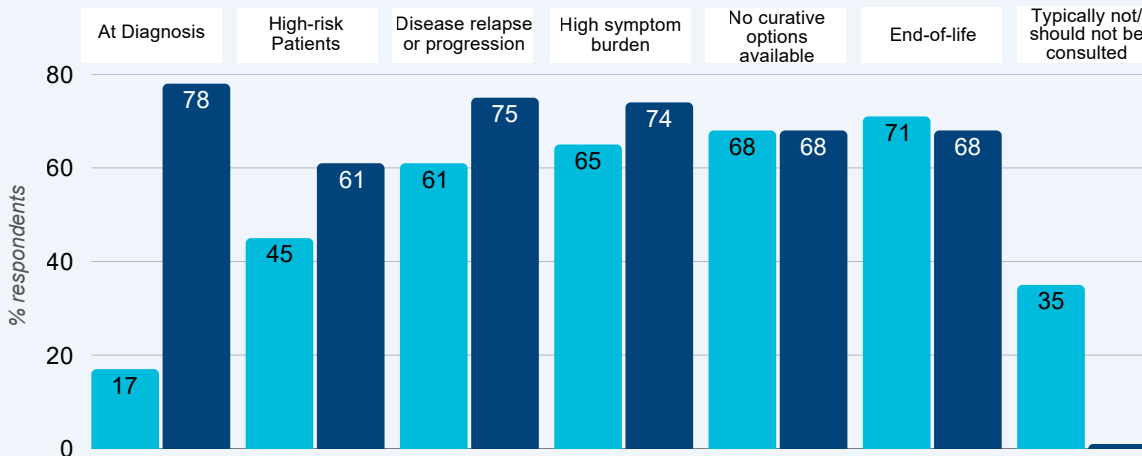
Believe palliative care is **appropriate at any stage of treatment** in a child with high-risk cancer.



Believe **palliative care integration reduces suffering**.



## Ideal Timing of Initial Palliative Care Consultation

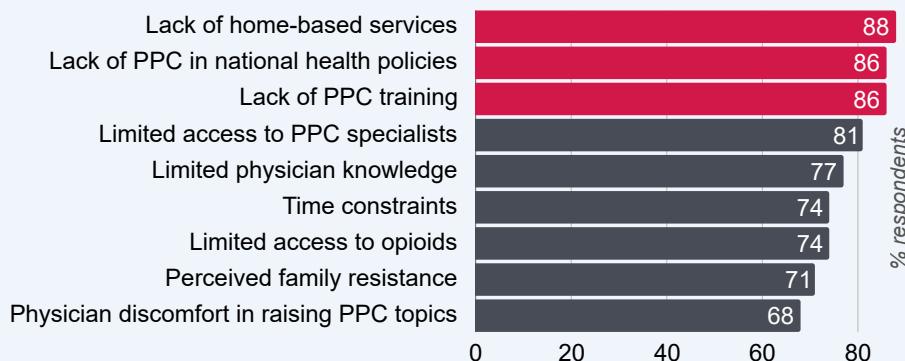


Actual timing of Palliative Care Consultation  
Ideal timing of Palliative Care Consultation

According to the WHO, early integration of palliative care is critical to improve the quality of life of children with cancer.

Physicians in Vietnam report that palliative care is often introduced late in the treatment of children with cancer, even though earlier integration would be beneficial.

## Barriers to Early Palliative Care Integration

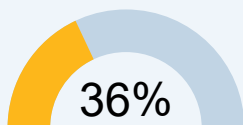


Physicians in Vietnam were asked to indicate which barriers impacted pediatric palliative care (PPC) provision in childhood cancer care delivery."

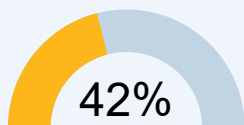
The most significant barriers reported were:

- #1 Barrier:** Lack of home-based services.
- #2 Barrier:** Lack of PPC in national health policies and advocacy efforts.
- #3 Barrier:** Lack of PPC training.

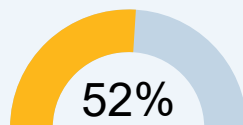
## Physician Confidence in Delivering Palliative Care



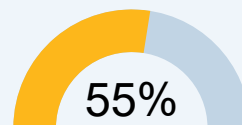
Do not feel confident addressing **physical needs** of children.



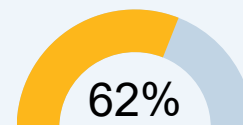
Do not feel confident addressing **emotional needs** of children.



Do not feel confident addressing **spiritual care needs** of children.

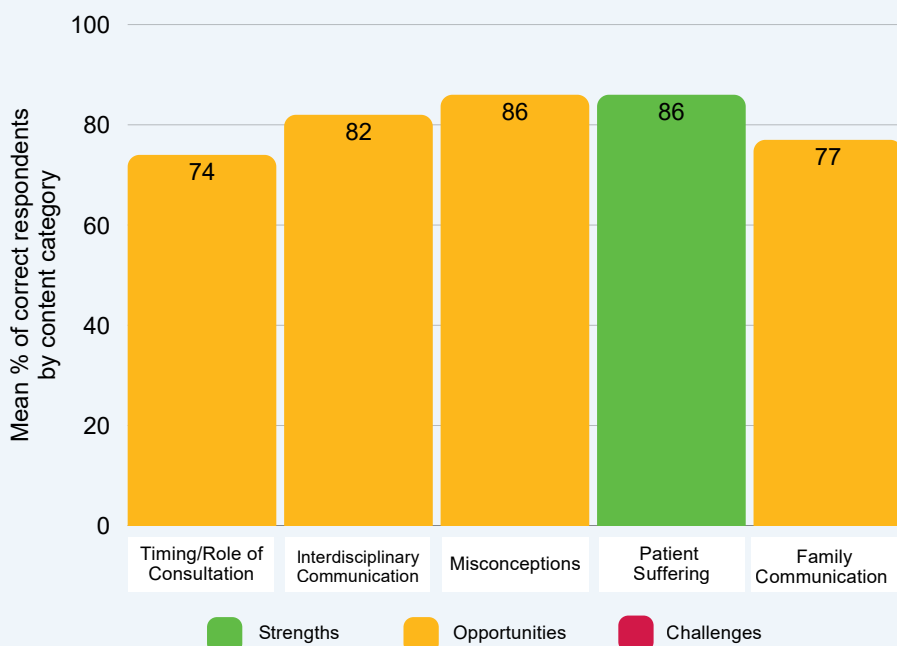


Do not feel confident providing **grief and bereavement support**.



**Feel burdened** by their inability to control the suffering of children at end-of-life.

## Physician Understanding of Pediatric Palliative Care



Opportunities to strengthen palliative care (PC) knowledge include clarifying when to consult PC and its role in facilitating communication.

**80%** median score for palliative care knowledge in accordance with WHO guidance.

**62%** reported no previous palliative care education.

**93%** desired more education on how to provide palliative care to their patients.

### Strengths



General alignment with WHO guidance (80%).



Access to pediatric palliative care consultation (48%).



Recognized need for palliative care training of clinicians to improve access (94%).

### Recommended Next Steps for Vietnam



Advance pediatric palliative care evidence through coordinated multicenter research, maximizing impact and optimizing resource efficiency.



Implement a 3-tiered pediatric palliative care education model (basic, advanced and specialized), in collaboration with national and international training institutions.



Align oncology centers by designating leaders to advance early pediatric palliative care integration through a collaborative network.



Ensure equitable access to essential, supportive medicines, such as oral morphine, for children diagnosed with cancer.



### Regional Implementation of ADAPT in Vietnam

Country-adapted pediatric palliative care curriculum based on identified knowledge gaps.

Collaborate with the WHO Regional Office and partner organizations on initiatives aimed at strengthening access to palliative care services for children across the region.

## References and Additional Information

Cuviello A\*, Salek M\*, Handayani SA, Blair S, Lam CG, on behalf of the ADAPT-AP Study Group. Survey Adaptation and Distribution for Physicians Caring for Children Diagnosed with Cancer in Asia Pacific: Unique Study Challenges and Lessons Learned. JCO Global Oncology. 2024.

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Lam, C.G. (2025). Estimates derived from CureAll Country Progress Dashboard (2025), GLOBOCAN 2022 (2025), IICC - 3 (2017), UN World Population Prospects 2024 (2025), and World Bank Open Data Catalog (2025).



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