PEDIATRIC 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 improves treatment outcomes such as:
- Improved quality of life
- Better pain control and symptom management
- Decreased hospitalizations and fewer days in the intensive care unit

Palliative care integrated into health care systems at all levels and home care reduce health care costs by:
- Decreasing unnecessary resource utilization
- Being less expensive
- Yielding better outcomes.


Access to Pediatric Palliative Care

- 20% reported no access to palliative care consultation in their practice
- 28% indicated that palliative care consultation is not available when they feel it is needed for children with cancer
- 35% felt that palliative care was involved too late in the treatment of a child with cancer
- 96% believe palliative care reduces suffering for a child with cancer
- 74% believe palliative care should be integrated earlier than typically occurs in their childhood cancer setting

Physician Perspectives on Actual vs. Ideal Timing of Initial Palliative Care Consultation

- Physicians in Chile indicated that lack of home-based services, limited physician knowledge, and cultural differences are the most significant barriers to palliative care consultation for children with cancer.
Regional Implementation of ADAPT in Chile

Country-adapted pediatric palliative care curriculum based on identified knowledge gap

Working with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) on their initiatives in palliative care

References and Additional Information

