Pediatric Palliative Care in El Salvador: ADAPT Profile

- The Assessing Doctors’ Attitudes on Palliative Treatment (ADAPT) study was conducted in 2020, in collaboration with local stakeholders.
- The study identified physician access, knowledge, and perceptions on palliative care integration for children with cancer as outlined by the World Health Organization (WHO) guide in 2018.
- The study received 874 physician responses from 17 countries (for published references, see p.2.).

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

- 27% reported no access to palliative care consultation in their practice
- 5% indicated that palliative care consultation is not available when they feel it is needed for children with cancer
- 18% felt that palliative care was involved too late in the treatment of a child with cancer
- 100% believe palliative care reduces suffering for a child with cancer
- 71% 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

Barriers to Early Palliative Care Integration

Physicians in El Salvador indicated that limited physician knowledge, lack of home-based services, and physician discomfort are the most significant barriers to palliative care consultation for children with cancer.

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Regional Implementation of ADAPT in El Salvador

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References and Additional Information

