



St. Jude Global Scholars Projects: Liliana Vasquez Ponce



Self-efficacy among Parents and Caregivers of Children with Cancer and Febrile Neutropenia in Peru

This project explored the impact of parental self-efficacy and psychosocial factors on the timely access to emergency care for pediatric cancer patients experiencing febrile neutropenia (FN). Through qualitative research, semi-structured interviews with parents and caregivers of children with cancer who had experienced FN were conducted. Thematic analysis was applied to identify barriers and facilitators to timely care, with the goal of developing targeted interventions to improve care outcomes.

Building on these insights, the project developed a draft self-efficacy questionnaire tailored to parents of children with cancer and FN and designed communication materials to improve parental knowledge and confidence. The findings contribute to the evidence base for interventions that can shorten pre-hospital delay and improve survival. The Ministry of Health, hospitals, and other stakeholders continue engagement, ensuring integration into national strategies. The project also generated international visibility, with results disseminated through conference abstracts and manuscripts, ensuring that knowledge extends beyond Peru to inform resource-limited contexts globally.

Project Details



Location
Peru



Setting
Multiple Centers
within a Country



Health Condition
Childhood Cancer



Focus Areas
Access, Equity, Timeliness



Target Age Group
All Pediatric Patients

Systems-Level Change

Participants

3,000 Children

15 Health Care Workers

30 Caregivers

UN Sustainable Development Goal

Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being

Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities

WHO Health System Building Blocks

Health service delivery



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Key Findings

The following are key findings from this Global Scholars Project which aimed to understand and improve the self-efficacy of parents and caregivers in recognizing fever and seeking timely emergency care.

- Parents face significant pre-hospital delays, with cultural, socioeconomic, and systemic barriers contributing.
- Communication gaps between healthcare providers and families reduce timely recognition and response to FN.
- Parents' self-efficacy is central to emergency decision-making; those with greater confidence act more promptly.
- Understanding parental self-efficacy is a key component of addressing pre-hospital delays; the questionnaire developed through this project could be applied to other medically emergent situations.
- The thematic analysis provided a framework for targeted policy and educational interventions, including the development of family-centered educational strategies.
- Communication materials designed to strengthen parental knowledge and support health behavior change can inform and align with national strategies, including the WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer.

Systems-Level Change

[GICC CureAll Projects](#)

10. Local/regional advocacy portfolios: case studies, awareness campaigns



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