

Children with acute lymphocytic leukemia on YouTube

Background/Objectives:

YouTube is one of the most popular social media channels on the Internet. This exploratory study examines YouTube videos of young children with acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL) in terms of information provision, personal experience, and psychosocial support.

Results:

The six YouTube videos of young children with acute lymphocytic leukemia produced by American hospitals are narrated primarily by the patient’s parents with participation from the cancer patient, siblings and hospital clinicians. Several symptoms are noted by the parents but are not consistently mentioned. Treatment with chemotherapy is consistently mentioned. Parental feelings of concern are mixed with their confidence in the skills of the clinicians and the hospital. Children and parents mention caring hospital staff while clinicians express confidence in the treatment regimen and prognosis.

Design/Methods:

A fixed phrase search, "acute lymphocytic leukemia", was entered in the search box on the YouTube site home page, <https://www.youtube.com/> on April 5, 2016. A wide range of videos on this form of cancer were retrieved. The search results were narrowed by including additional search terms – children, living, fighting, parents, care, and caring – to retrieve cancer narratives and exclude clinical education videos about ALL.



Six YouTube videos on children with ALL produced by American hospitals in the past five years were selected and viewed online. Details concerning video production (video length, narrators and settings); biomedical aspects of cancer (symptoms, diagnosis and treatment); psychosocial support (parents, siblings, and clinicians); personal experience (e.g. feeling worried) were recorded and examined for themes.

Conclusions:

YouTube videos of children with acute lymphocytic leukemia produced by American hospitals reveal common themes. The overall message is that current treatments for this childhood cancer administered in the hospital by experienced and caring clinicians can provide a positive outcome.

No.	Name of YouTube Video	URL of YouTube Video	Video Producer(s)
1	Caring for Lulu: Child with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWAKf45QA_Q	Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
2	Four-Year-Old Fights Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4szXwfRMsU	Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Columbus Ohio
3	Grant's Cancer Survival Story: Beating Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YgsmIhbWA84	Texas Children’s Hospital Cancer Center
4	Avery's Story: Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ff5H-6pZPdE	Children’s Hospital at Dartmouth (CHaD) Dartmouth-Hitchcock, New Hampshire
5	Lurie Children's Stories of Hope: Chloe's Leukemia Journey	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjhYAKKMgs8	Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago
6	Emily Whitehead First Child Treated in Trial of T Cell Therapy for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTQuZ2hWa-0	The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

No.	Subject	Date of publication	Narrator(s)	Views	Duration	Likes	Comments
1	5 year-old girl	May 27, 2014	Parents, brother, patient, clinicians	25,201	2:58 min	30	2
2	4 year-old boy	Apr 10, 2015	Parents, patient, physician	25,205	3:08 min	148	14
3	3 year-old boy	Jan 2, 2013	Parents, patient, older sister	8,718	3:29 min	41	5
4	4 year-old boy	Jun 9, 2011	Mother, patient, father, sister	8,067	5:15 min	32	10
5	1.5 year-old girl	Jul 8, 2014	Parents, clinician (nurse practitioner)	3,931	4:46 min	17	0
6	7 year-old girl	Dec 9, 2012	Parents, oncologist	71,613	6:44 min	396	9