

COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE (CAM): A SURVEY OF ITS USE IN FRENCH PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY CENTERS



TOUGHZA J. (1), COZZI P.(2), DEVOS P.(3), DELVODERE C(4), DROUINEAU MH (5), RACHIERU P.(6), RIBRAULT A.(7), SUC A.(8), THOUVENIN S.(9), MAREC-BERARD P.(1)

1) Pediatric department, IHOP/CLB Lyon 2) Pediatric oncology unit C.H.U. Nice, 3) Fondation Lenval ESPI CHU Nice, 4) Department of pediatric hemato oncology, Hôpital Sud. CHU Amiens, 5) Pediatric oncology unit, CHU Nantes, 6) Pediatric oncology unit, CHU Angers, 7) Pediatric Oncology department, CHU Montpellier, 8) Unit of Pediatric Oncology and Hematology, C.H.U. Purpan, Toulouse, 9) Unit of Pediatric Oncology and Hematology, C.H.U. Saint Etienne.
For The Pain Group of the SFCE (French Society of Children's Cancer)

BACKGROUND

Complementary and alternative medicines (CAM) are commonly used in children with cancer despite few evidence of their efficacy. More and more pediatric oncology centers offer these treatments fully integrated to conventional supportive care.

A national survey was conducted on the initiative of the Pain Group of the SFCE (French Society of Children's Cancer in Children) to assess the frequency and the type of CAM use in French centers in 2015.

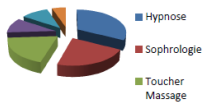
METHODS

- Survey conducted among 32 French pediatric oncology centers affiliated to the SFCE.
- An E-questionnaire was sent to physicians in charge of supportive care in each centers.
- Physicians were questioned about the use of MAC in their center, the modalities of prescription, the administrative frame, the financial management and the characteristics of practitioners.

RÉSULTS

MAC	Nb de centre /29	%
Hypnosis	25	86,2%
Sophrology	17	58,6%
Massage /Touch	15	51,7%
Musicothérapie	8	27,5%
Art therapy	8	27,5%
Osteopathy	4	13,5%
Laser therapy	3	10,3%
Reflexology	2	6,8%
Chiropraxy	0	-
Acupuncture	0	-
Magnetizer	0	-
Auriculothérapie	0	-

Table 1: MAC proposed in French centers



- 29 out of 32 centers participated (90.62%)
- All the centers declare to propose and practice one or several MACs.
- Hypnosis (86.21%), Sophrology (58.62%), and massage/therapeutic touch (TM) (51.7%) are the most frequent MAC proposed and practiced in French centers (Table 1)
- Centers declare allowing families to use food supplements (52%), homeopathy (62.7%) and vitamins (48.2%).
- 82.7% of the centers declare that more than 50% of their seniors physicians are open and in favor of these practices.
- MACs are usually provided by caregivers of the units. Most of them are graduated in the field.
- Most of the time the hospital finances the MAC practitioners..
- Hospital administrations are often informed of these practices, however, few agreements are formalized between the Hospital and the MAC practitioners.
- The Indications are clear and written in less than half of cases .
- The lack of training, fear of risk of interactions and conviction of inefficiency are the reasons for their non-prescription.
- The proportion of centers implementing assessment procedures remains low.

Type of MAC (nb of centers reporting to practice/29)	Who is prescriber? - Oncologist (1) - Nurses (2) - Physiotherapists (3)	Indication clearly formalized?	Practiced by graduated care givers?	Administration aware of this practice?	Formal agreement signed by the institution?	Assessment procedures set up?
HYPNOSIS (25)	1 = 68% 2 = 51% 3 = 6,9%	13 (52%)	22 (76%)	17 (68%)	2 (8%)	3 (12%)
SOPHROLOGY (17)	1 = 41,3% 2 = 27,5% 3 = 17,2%	5 (29%)	12 (88%)	13(76%)	4 (23%)	7 (41%)
MASSAGE/TM (15)	1 = 27,5% 2 = 24% 3 = 20,6%	4 (26%)	11 (93%)	9 (60%)	2 (13%)	4 (26%)
OSTEOPATHY(4)	1 = 17,2% 2 = 6,9% 3 = 6,9%	4 (100%)	3 (75%)	4 (100%)	2 (50%)	4 (100%)
MUSICOTHERAPY (8)	1 = 3% 2 = 17,2% 3 = 0	0	1 (12%)	7 (75%)	6 (75%)	3 (37%)
LASER THERAPY (3)	1 = 13% 2 = 3% 3 = 0	3 (100%)	0	2 (66%)	0	3 (100%)
ART THERAPY(8)	NA	0	8 (100%)	6 (75%)	4 (50%)	4 (50%)
REFLEXOLOGY (2)	1 = 6,9% 2 = 6,9% 3 = 0	2 (100%)	1 (50%)	2 (100%)	1 (50%)	2 (100%)

Table 2: main questions addressed to physicians and answers

MAC	Institution	association	patient	Volunteer
HYPNOSIS (25)	24	1	1	1
SOPHROLOGY (17)	13	6	1	1
TM(15)	13	2	1	1
OSTEOPATHY (4)	3	0	2	2
MUSICOTHERAPY (8)	2	5	1	1
LASER THERAPY (2)	2	0	1	0
ART THERAPY (8)	2	9	1	2
REFLEXOLOGY (2)	1	1	1	0

Table 3: Way of funding

CONCLUSIONS

This survey confirms that the majority of French pediatric oncology centers allow CAM practice within their units. MACs are accepted by caregivers, prescribed by doctors, financed by institutions and sometimes integrated into conventional care. Nevertheless, there efficacy is undervaluated and caregivers receive limited training. Actions should be implemented in order to improve the scientific framework of these practices.