

ISSUES IN PEDIATRIC CANCER PATIENTS' HOME CARE SYSTEM

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Introduction

The demand for home care services among patients with pediatric **cancer** is increasing in Japan. However, these patients face various challenges in managing home treatments, making it difficult to maintain appropriate medical care.

This study surveyed previous works on patients with pediatric cancer receiving home care services and identified issues associated with the ongoing home treatments.

Methods

Literature review was conducted by searching Ichushi-Web, Japan's premier medical article repository, for papers published between 2000 and 2022 using "pediatric cancer" and "home medical care" as keywords.

The studies were assessed for research aims, findings, and discussions.

Results

Overall, 13 articles met the review criteria in which 9 papers focused on end-of-life and terminal care at home, 2 on the support during the transition from hospitalization to home care, and 2 investigated on family and mother care.

The need to establish a medical coordination system was highlighted for terminal and end-of-life care at home. Absence in cooperation between specialized hospitals, home visiting physicians, logistical support hospitals, and home nursing and medical facilities were identified problems. The contributing factors were insufficiently experienced pediatric home visiting physicians, limited pediatric medical facilities in rural areas, and scarcity of pediatric visiting nurses.

Despite discharge explanations, concerns about medical changes and pain management persisted among family members and patients. The impact on family caregivers, especially mothers, underscored the need for substantial support.

Conclusions

Previous studies on home medical care of patients with pediatric cancer primarily focused on end-of-life and terminal care.

Continued home care hinges on community- and home-based medical collaboration during the transition and beyond. Additionally, the lack of regional pediatric care services is a significant issue.

Hence, it is crucial to promote home medical care, strengthen home nursing, and enhance networking among medical facilities.

References

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