

A Cross-Sectional Study of Emotional and Behavioural Problems in Children Recently Diagnosed with Cancer

Swati Bhagchandani¹, Shweta Singh², Archana Kumar³,
Vivek Aggarwal⁴, Amit Arya⁵ and Eesha Sharma⁶

^{1,2,3,4}Dept. of Psychiatry K.G.M.U., Lko,U.P.

^{5,6}Dept. of Psychiatry K.G.M.U., Lko, U.P.o,U.P.

E-mail: ¹sharma.b.swati@gmail.com

Abstract

Title: *A Cross-Sectional Study of Emotional and Behavioural Problems in Children Recently Diagnosed with Cancer*

Background: *Worldwide, cancer is one of the leading causes of childhood deaths, after infections and accidents. Children with cancer suffer from behavioural and emotional problems, which are often neglected in clinical practice given the priority of treatment of cancer per se. However, behavioural and emotional adjustment would be vital in the long-term outcomes.*

Aim: *To study emotional and behavioural problems in children recently diagnosed with cancer.*

Materials & Method: *Over 3 months, all inpatient admissions (n=41; age 6-15 years) under pediatric oncology, at a tertiary care hospital in north India wererecruited for the study. Child Behaviour Checklist (CBCL) for ages 6-15 years-Parent Report Form- was used to identify problem behaviours in these children.*

Results & Conclusions: *46% children with cancer had borderline/clinical scores on CBCL. Internalizing problems were more common than externalizing problems. Clinical work-up of children with cancer should routinely include assessments for emotional and behavioral problems, in order to ensure holistic care and intervention.*

Keywords: *Childhood Cancer; Behavioural problems; CBCL*