

Challenges and Obstacles to Optimum Delivery of Childhood Cancer Awareness

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Challenges and Obstacles to Optimum Delivery of Childhood Cancer Awareness

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Introduction: The epidemiology of Childhood cancer in Jordan shows geographic variation. Prior studies suggested underreporting and detection. A national initiative to raise awareness on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) has launched a community outreach project that focuses on childhood cancer screening and detection in underprivileged and marginalized communities. The project aims to shed light on the barriers and challenges of childhood cancer care through direct communication with the community.

Methodology: This is an outreach project involving multidisciplinary stakeholders from all Jordanian health sectors targeting marginalized communities in underserved and rural areas in Jordan. There were pediatric screening clinics led by pediatricians, primary healthcare physicians, medical students, and nurses. The team assessed the visitors, and appropriate referrals were made. A presentation by the pediatric neurooncologist on brain tumors was conducted.

Results: This is an ongoing project that has captured national media recognition with positive feedback. We describe the experience of one of the projects focusing on childhood cancer awareness and early detection. The project has emphasized that many of the issues surrounding NCDs are women and child related. It showed the geographic variation in the awareness of childhood cancer and the knowledge gap amongst primary healthcare providers. It outlined the social challenges that children with cancer and their families face.

Conclusion: A Childhood cancer awareness project as part of a novel national healthcare initiative that focuses on NCDs. The project revealed the wide knowledge gap in the field of NCDs and childhood cancer in particular, and uncovered regional variation in the care provided.