

abstract

Epidemiological Profile of Childhood Cancer Worldwide, Lubumbashi University Clinic in the Republic of Congo

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Epidemiological Profile of Childhood Cancer Worldwide, Lubumbashi University Clinic in the Republic of Congo

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Introduction: Cancers in children under 17 years of age have specific epidemiological and management characteristics. The objective of this study was to determine the epidemiological profile of childhood cancers in Lubumbashi.

Methodology: A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted in the University Clinics of Lubumbashi from 2018-2019. Data collection was carried out using a statistical form with a number of parameters.

Results: In this study, 99 of the 3024 cases of children who visited the paediatric ward during the study period were diagnosed with cancer with a prevalence rate of 3.27%. Only (71.7%) of the cases had consulted a general practitioner at the first signs of the disease. Retinoblastoma being the first childhood cancer with 29.3%, followed by kidney tumors (23.2%), lymphomas (13.1%) and leukemias (12.1%) all forms combined. 87.9% had easy access to chemotherapy. Of these (28.7%), chemotherapy treatments and childhood tumor surgeries show remission (20.7%), 35.6% of deaths and nearly (27.6%) remain disease-modifying treatment.

Conclusion: Early diagnosis and treatment continue to play a crucial role in reducing infant mortality from cancer.