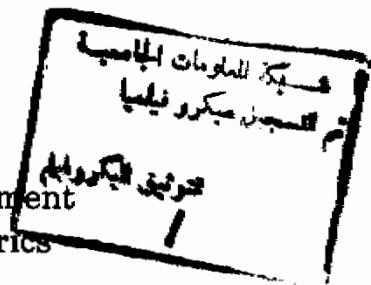


CAUSES OF DEATH IN CHILDHOOD MALIGNANCIES IN EGYPT

THESIS

Submitted in Partial Fulfilment
of M.Sc. Degree in Pediatrics



By

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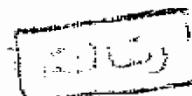
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1993



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my deep gratitude to Prof. Ahmed Samy Khalifa, Professor and Head of the Pediatric Department Ain Shams University for giving me the chance of working under his supervision and for his encouragement, help and advice throughout the whole work.

I am sincerely indebted to Dr. Inas El-Attar, Lecturer of biostatistics N.C.I. Cairo University, for her generous cooperation, expert advice and patience.

My deepest appreciation is due to Dr. Safinaz El-Habashy, Lecturer of Pediatrics, Ain Shams University for her continuous advice and help. I'am also grateful for her invaluable efforts in revising the whole study.

I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Ebtsam Mostafa and Mrs Mona Shawky for their help and cooperation.

I wish to thank Mr. Ibrahim Aun and his team who undertook the word processing of this thesis, giving it its final printed shape.



CONTENTS

	Page
List of abbreviations	i
List of figures	ii
List of tables	iii
Introduction and Aim of the Work.	1
Review of Literature	3
Causes of death in pediatric cancer.	5
I. Infection	5
Pathogenesis	6
Causative agents	13
Common infections in patient with cancer	14
II. Relapse (Recurrence)	22
In leukemias	22
In Solid tumors.	27
III. Hemorrhage	30
Bleeding disorders in patients with cancer	30
Complications of blood transfusion	38
IV. Second malignant neoplasms	42
V. Others:	46
Renal and metabolic	46
Cardiovascular	47
Radiotherapy	48
Chemotherapy	51
Subjects and Methods	54
Results	57
Discussion	82
Summary and Conclusion	89
Recommendations	93
References	94
Arabic summary	--

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADP	: Adenosine diphosphate
AIDS	: Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.
ALL	: Acute Lymphoblastic leukemia
ANLL	: Acute non lymphoblastic leukemia
BM	: Bone marrow.
CML	: Chronic myeloid leukemia
CMV	: Cytomegalovirus.
CNS	: Central nervous system
CSF	: Cerebrospinal fluid
DFS	: Disease free survival
DIC	: Disseminated intravascular coagulation
DNA	: Deoxyribonucleic acid
EBV	: Epstein Barr virus
FDP	: Fibrin degradation products.
GIT	: Gastrointestinal tract
GVHD	: Graft versus host disease.
HAV	: Hepatitis 'A' virus.
HBV	: Hepatitis 'B' virus
HCV	: Hepatitis 'C' virus
HD	: Hodgkin's disease.
HIV	: Human immunodeficiency virus
HLA	: Human lymphocyte antigen.
IgA	: Immunoglobulin A

IgG	: Immunoglobulin G
IgM	: Immunoglobulin M
ITP	: Immuno thrombocytopenic purpura
MOPP	: Methotrexate, Oncovin, Prednisone, Procarbazine.
NHL	: Non Hodgkin's lymphoma
OS	: Overall survival
PMN	: polymorphonuclear leukocyte.
PT	: Prothrombin time
PTT	: Partial thromboplastin time.
RNA	: Ribonucleic acid
RSV	: Respiratory syncytial virus.
SAS	: Statistical analysis system
SIADH	: Syndrome of Inappropriate secretion of antidiuretic hormone
TBI	: Total body irradiation.
TdT	: Terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase
TT	: Thrombin time

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Fig.(1): Cancer death rates in children younger than 15 years	4
Fig.(2): Frequency distribution of registerd cancer cases per year	59
Fig.(3): Distribution of deaths in relation to diagnosed cases by year of diagnosis.	62'
Fig.(4): Distribution of deaths in relation to diagnosed cases.	64
Fig.(5): Overall survival	71
Fig.(6): Overall survival by sex	72
Fig.(7): Overall survival by diagnosis	73
Fig.(8): Overall survival by treatment protocol	75
Fig.(9): Overall survival by cause of death	76
Fig.(10) Disease free survival	78
Fig.(11) Disease free survival by sex	79
Fig.(12) Disease free survival by diagnosis	80
Fig.(13) Disease free survival by cause of death	81

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Tab.(1): Predominant Pathogens in pediatric cancer patients	13
Tab.(2): Differential diagnosis of pneumonia in cancer patients	15
Tab.(3): Acute toxicities associated with intensive therapy and bone marrow transplantation.	25
Tab.(4): Factors contributing to relapse	29
Tab.(5): Bleeding disorders in cancer	31
Tab.(6): Relation between platelet count and extent of hemorrhage in children with cancer.	34
Tab.(7): Second neoplasms in a Cohort.	43
Tab.(8): Subacute and late visceral effects of radiation	51
Tab.(9): Toxicities of antitumor agents.	53
Tab.(10): The frequency distribution of registered cancer per year.	58
Tab.(11): The sex distribution of diagnosed and deaths.	60
Tab.(12): Age distribution of deaths.	60
Tab.(13): Clinical presentation of deaths	60
Tab.(14): Distribution of deaths expressed each 5 years	62
Tab.(15): Relation between diagnosed and died.	63
Tab.(16): Protocols of therapy used.	65
Tab.(17): Causes of death	67
Tab.(18): Causes of death in relation to diagnosis	67
Tab.(19): The forms of infection encountered	68
Tab.(20): Survival analysis by diagnosis	70
Tab.(21): The median survival time by diagnosis	70

**INTRODUCTION
AND
AIM OF THE WORK**

INTRODUCTION

Cancer is a major cause of mortality and morbidity in childhood and affects about one in 650 children by age 15 (*Birch et al, 1988*) Its incidence among pediatric age group is showing yearly increase (*Birch et al, 1988 and Khalifa et al, 1992*).

In England and Wales cancer is the 3rd cause of death in the 1-14 years age range it is exceeded by accidents and congenital anomalies (*Birch, and Marsden, 1987*) In United States it is second only to accidents (*Young et al., 1986*). In Children's Hospital Ain Shams University cancer was the 3rd cause of death in children under the age of 15 years it comes next to infections and neonatal complications (*Statistic, Dep. Ain Shams Hospital, 1992*)

Factors that contribute to death in patients with cancer remain basically unchanged namely; malignancy itself, severe infections, drug toxicity and hemorrhage but their proportionate roles are changing and treatment related deaths are becoming more common (*Saarinen and Rapola, 1986*)

AIM OF THE WORK

The aim of the present work is to find out causes of death among patients with different oncological diseases attending the Hematology/Oncology Clinic Children's Hospital Ain Shams University to provide further understanding of the relapse rate and side effects of therapy.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Cancer is one of the most important contributors to loss of life in children younger than 15 years of age. In England and Wales malignant disease was exceeded only by accidents and congenital anomalies as a cause of death in the 1-14 year age range (*Birch and Marsden, 1987*), while in the United States it is second only to accidents (*Young et al., 1986*). In Children's Hospital Ain Shams University cancer was the 3rd cause of death in children under the age of 15 years it comes next to infections and neonatal complications (*Statistic. Dep. Ain Shams Hospital, 1992*).

Young et al., 1986 reported the mortality rates from cancer in children younger than 15 years in different regions of the world and found that Egypt ranks 46th in childhood cancer mortality. Fig. (1) (*Young et al., 1986*). Yet we do not have national cancer registry in Egypt.

The frequency of malignant diseases among the out-patient clientelles in the Children's Hospital Ain Shams University was estimated to be 132/100,000 in the 5 years period ending December 1991 (*Khalifa et al., 1992*).

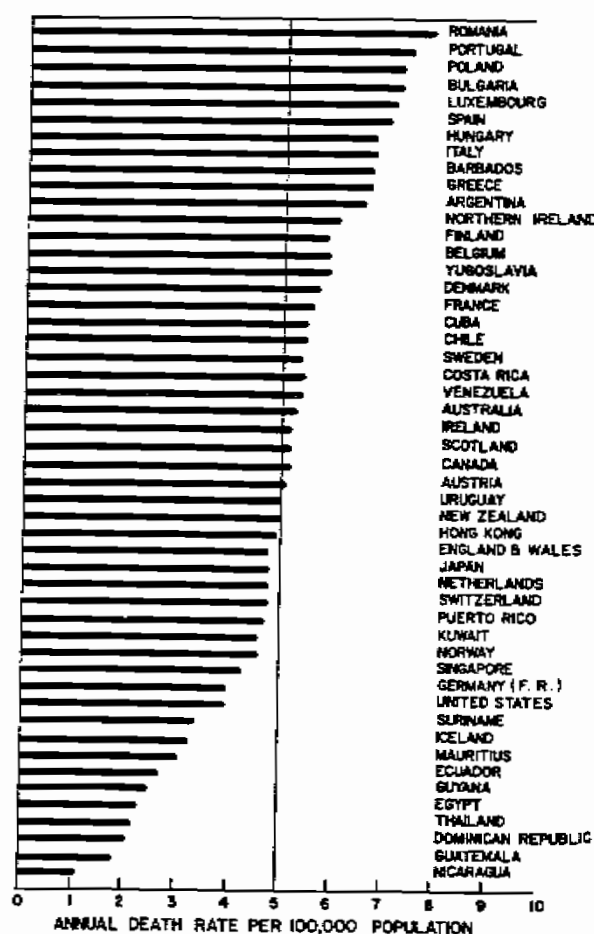


Fig. (I): Cancer death rates in children younger than age 15 years: Various countries, period approximately 1980. (Standardized on age distribution younger than 15 years of 1970 US census population. Source of data: World Health Organization). Egypt Ranks the 46th in childhood cancer mortality.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN PEDIATRIC CANCER

I. INFECTION

Infectious morbidity and death in the immuno-compromised child with cancer is well established (*Pizzo 1984 and Bodey, 1986*). The child with cancer may be immuno compromised because of the underlying malignancy or the antineoplastic therapy administered to treat the disease (*Fisher et al, 1980 and Pizzo, 1984*).

Some malignancies are associated with immune deficits that predispose to infection with particular pathogens; for example patients with Hodgkin's disease or non Hodgkin's lymphomas often have abnormalities of cellular immune system that heighten their risk for viral and fungal infections (*Fisher, et al, 1980*).

Therapeutic modalities such as corticosteroids, cytotoxic chemotherapy and localized or wide field irradiation produce additional deficiencies of the host defense, the net consequence of these inter-related abnormalities of immune function is the immuno- compromised cancer patient (*Bodey, 1986*).