



Myths and Realities of Cancer Treatment Modalities as Perceived by Pediatric Patients Suffering from Cancer and their Mothers

Thesis

*Submitted for Partial Fulfillment of Master's
Degree in Pediatric Nursing*

By

Doaa Magdy Kamal
(B. Sc., Nursing Sciences, 2010)
Faculty of Nursing
Menofiya University

**Faculty of Nursing
Ain Shams University
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Under Supervision of

Prof. Dr. Wafaa El-Sayed Ouda

Professor of Pediatric Nursing

Faculty of Nursing

Ain Shams University

Prof. Dr. Eman Amin Mohamed

Professor of Pediatric Nursing

Faculty of Nursing

Ain Shams University

Assist. Prof. Amr Abdallah Salem

Assistant Professor of Pediatric Oncology

National Cancer Institute

Cairo University

**Faculty of Nursing
Ain Shams University
2020**

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Researcher 
Doaa Magdy Kamal

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List of Abbreviations

<i>Abbr.</i>	<i>Full-word</i>
ACS	American Cancer Society
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ALL	Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia
AML	Acute Myeloid Leukemia
BMT	Bone Marrow Transplantation
CT	Computed Tomography
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
GCSF	Granulocyte Colony Stimulating Factor
GVHD	Graft Versus Host Disease
GVL	Graft Versus Leukemia
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HLA	Human Leucocyte Antigen
HSCT	Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation
IMRT	Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
NB	Neuroblastoma
NCI	National Cancer Institute
PBSC	Peripheral Blood Stem Cell
RNA	RiboNucleic Acid
WHO	World Health Organization

Operational Definitions

- **Acupuncture:** is an antique technique with great contemporary interest, involves the placement of special needles at certain body points a few millimeters to few centimeters into the skin (**Kaptchuk, 2014**).
- **Bone Marrow Transplantation:** The BMT is also called hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT); it is an acceptable treatment for more and more diseases affecting children such as hematological malignancies, bone marrow failure and other solid tumors (**Haining et al., 2015**).
- **Chemotherapy** is the use of drugs to manage a disease, such as cancer (**American Cancer Society (ACS), 2014**).
- **Debulking:** Surgical removal of a tumor part to enhance the effectiveness of other treatments, such as chemotherapy (**Makar et al., 2016**).
- **Myths:** are false beliefs or ideas that are used widely (**Moynihan, 2014**).
- **Perception:** Immediate or intuitive recognition or appreciation, as of moral, psychological, or aesthetic qualities; insight; intuition; discernment (**Dictionary, 2020**).

- **Palliative treatment:** Operation is used to improve the quality of life by decrease symptoms and side effects of cancer and treatment (**Grove & Marchant, 2016**).
- **Radiation therapy:** is a modality of using ionizing radiations in the treatment of pediatric patients suffering from cancer (**Halperin et al., 2013**).
- **Gene Therapy:** is an approach of treating diseases by either modifying the expression of individuals' genes or correction of an abnormal gene (**UniQure, 2016**).
- **Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM):** is the term for therapeutic products and practices not involved in standard care (**National Cancer Institute (NCI), 2018**).

ABSTRACT

Cancer is a group of diseases while the cells become abnormal, divide without control, invade other tissues, and spread into the body by circulation. **Aim:** Assess pediatric patients and their mother's perception of myths and realities related to cancer treatment modalities. **Research design:** A descriptive design was utilized in the current study. **Setting:** The study was carried out at Dar EL Salam Hospital. **Subjects:** A purposive sample of 65 children in addition to 35 mothers accompanying their children. **Tool of data collection:** A predesigned Interview Questionnaire format to gather data related to personal characteristics of the studied subjects and their knowledge/perception about myths and realities of cancer treatment modalities (and their mothers if necessary). **Results:** One quarter of the children and their mothers were perceived myths regarding cancer treatment modalities. **Conclusion:** Myths and realities related to cancer treatment modalities were known only to about half of the children and their accompanying mothers. **Recommendations:** Continuous evaluation of pediatric patients suffering from cancer and their mothers to change the myths concerning cancer treatment modalities.

Keywords: Cancer Treatment Modalities, Myths, Realities, Mothers, Children, Nursing.

Introduction

Cancer is an abnormal growth of cells (usually derived from a single abnormal cell). The cells have lost normal control mechanisms and thus can multiply continuously, invade nearby tissues, migrate to distant parts of the body, and promote the growth of new blood vessels from which the cells derive nutrients **(Robert, 2018)**.

In children, cancer is the second cause of death; approximately 300,000 cases of cancer are diagnosed in children and teens under the age of 18 years every year worldwide. Moreover, there are an estimated 80,000 deaths annually from childhood cancer, nearly half of childhood cancers are leukemia and lymphoma **(American Cancer Society [ACCO], 2016)**.

The overall goal of pediatric oncology is to cure all patients with minimal toxicity. Treatment of children with cancer is often multimodal and may involve surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, bone marrow transplantation, gene therapy, and complementary and alternative therapy. Surgery and radiation are generally local treatment modalities, whereas