Introduction: The prevalence of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) use varies especially among pediatric oncology patients. As the use of CAM is increasing in popularity, it is important how it is understood and used by families of pediatric cancer patients

Objectives: The primary objective of this study is to describe the knowledge and perceptions of families of pediatric cancer patients with regards to complementary and alternative medicine.

Methods: This is descriptive cross-sectional study that utilized a validated self-administered questionnaire to parents or guardians of children with cancer who were admitted or sought out-patient consult at the hematology and cancer center.

Results: A total of 92 respondents were included in the study. Respondents were mostly mothers, college graduate and unemployed. Most were diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL), high risk (57%). CAM is associated with herbal medicine (91%) followed by prayers (27%). Information source were mostly from social media (62%). Most agree that it will help cure cancer and relieve its symptoms (58%). The respondents generally agree with trying CAM only if a doctor agrees to this use. Only 40% believed doctors knew how to use CAM.

Conclusion and Recommendation: Parents and caregivers perceived their knowledge to be satisfactory. Doctors were perceived to lack knowledge on CAM. CAM use is likely upon their doctor's approval, therefore doctors must enrich their knowledge and should initiate communication on its use.

Keywords: Complementary and alternative medicine, pediatric cancer, herbal medicine.

KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTIONS ON COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE (CAM) USE OF FAMILIES WITH PEDIATRIC CANCER PATIENTS IN CANCER AND HEMATOLOGY CENTER

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