



LIVED EXPERIENCE OF PEDIATRIC CANCER PATIENT'S FAMILIES DURING THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC

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INTRODUCTION

The Cancer and Hematology Division of the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) having served as the national end referral center of the Philippines for pediatric cancer patients since 2010, continued to provide in-patient and out-patient services despite the lockdowns, restrictions, and the actual threat of COVID-19. Providing care during this Pandemic has been challenging and is expected to induce heightened anxiety and psychological exhaustion. This unprecedented pandemic created an unexpected panic and worry among our pediatric cancer patient's caregivers and studies on the impact of COVID 19 among caregivers are scarce, and to the best of our knowledge, this is the first study among Filipino patients.

METHODS

This study utilized the phenomenological design, guided by the principles of Husserlian phenomenology in which the focus was to describe the experiences of the participants through their own subjective viewpoints using a semi structured questionnaire.

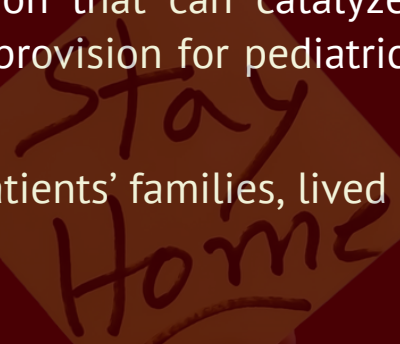
RESULTS

Eight mothers and 2 fathers participated in the study. Six distinct clusters captured their overarching experiences, it includes adverse emotional responses to the dreaded possibilities, making sacrifices to sustain treatment, disruption of social connectedness, faith as a major coping strategy, experiences with medical services, and emotional resilience.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The findings of this study can be an effective basis for the improvement and development of policies and programs for pediatric cancer patients as well as their families. Furthermore, this timely investigation of a new phenomenon can generate evidence-based information that can catalyze the development of guidelines on care provision for pediatric cancer patients.

Keywords: COVID 19, pediatric cancer patients' families, lived experience



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