

Why we need Palliative Care in Paediatric Oncology



May, 2023



Palliative Care is about adding support, not decreasing hope.

Paediatric Palliative Care is for children, adolescents, young adults (CAYA) and their families, offering a wider scope of specialist support beyond the immediate caring team. Time has come to dissociate Palliative Care from death and make it available to paediatric cancer patients early in their journey.



Palliative Care focuses on improving quality of life, throughout treatment and beyond.

Palliative care offers holistic, proactive and user-centred care, focusing on improving quality of life for CAYA and their families throughout their cancer journey. It facilitates improved pain and symptom management, supports the entire family system, fosters communication between healthcare professionals and families, and promotes advance care planning. Recognising that needs and priorities may be different and change throughout the illness, Palliative Care provides each family with personalised care in line with their wishes and preferences.



Is it ever early to introduce Palliative Care in Paediatric Oncology?

It's never too early to introduce Palliative Care. Whatever the prognosis, CAYA with cancer and their families go through a similar journey of change and uncertainty. Some may need more support than others to adjust to the new reality, but they will share a mix of concerns and anxieties. Furthermore, there may be unexpected turns, with periods of deteriorating health and life-threatening complications, even death. Through early Palliative Care involvement, families will already have the tools and support they will need.

Early Palliative Care allows for more time to plan and to provide the best possible support for the entire family along the cancer journey, whatever the outcome.



Check our page and apply to become a member of the group

Early Palliative Care allows for more time to plan and to provide the best possible support for the entire family, along the cancer journey, whatever the outcome.