

Establishing a video Multidisciplinary Team meeting between Cameroon, Central Africa, and Leeds, UK, childhood cancer services

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Abstract

Abstract Background and aims Multidisciplinary team (MDT) meetings provide a regular, structured meeting of a core group of professionals to provide expert decision-making in individual patient care. We describe our experiences in establishing a virtual pediatric oncology MDT between twinning partners in Cameroon (4 hospitals) and the UK. **Methods** Monthly video conferencing MDT meetings were established in March 2019, initially using Google meet then using Zoom platforms. Case details were circulated using formal proformas. Standard operating procedures were outlined for the MDT conduct. **Results** There have been 269 discussions of 201 patients in 21 meetings. Patients have been varied in age (up to 24 years). Eighty-seven (43.3%) patients had NHL, 16 (8.0%) had Wilms tumour, 20 (10.0%) had Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia, 19 (9.5%) had Retinoblastoma and 59 (29.4%) had other malignancies. Four of the patients did not have a malignancy. The majority of patients had stage 3 (51, 45.1%) or stage 4 (59, 52.2%). Nine patients had relapsed disease. Core team members reported positive benefits from the MDT, including defining goals of care, shared decision making, professional education and team-building. **Conclusions** Virtual MDT meetings between geographically dispersed teams are possible and have proved particularly valuable during the COVID-19 pandemic when in-person visits are not permitted. Cancer treatment cannot be done in isolation; the regular MDT meetings have paved the way for informed care through regular consultancy.

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