

Paediatric Palliative Care MMED PROJECT



Presenter: Dr Villa Watch
Paediatric Society Mid-Year Meeting 2022

Paediatric Palliative Care Overview

- Paediatric palliative care is a subspecialty that focuses more on improving quality of life for children with life threatening conditions
- According to the WHO, Paediatric palliative care involves the child's body, mind and spirit, but it also involves giving support to the family

- WHO in 2018, reported up to as high as 21 million children needing palliative care with about 2.5million children dying of serious health related suffering
- About 98% of these children are in the low-& middle-income countries (LMIC)

PNG

- Data in PNG? MMED Project
- Similar to other LMIC, there is a lack of specialised Paediatric palliative care services
- Children with palliative care needs are being cared for in general paediatric wards by paediatric doctors and nurses

Aim

- Describe the characteristics of children with palliative care needs and the quality of Paediatric Palliative Care provided

Research question

- What are the palliative care needs for children and how do we address them appropriately?

Project activities

- Semi- structured questionnaire for in-depth interviews on parents
- Focus group interviews for health care workers
- Patient's chart for demographic information and clinical details
- Parents and health care workers were consented
- Ethical Approval: SMHS, UPNG

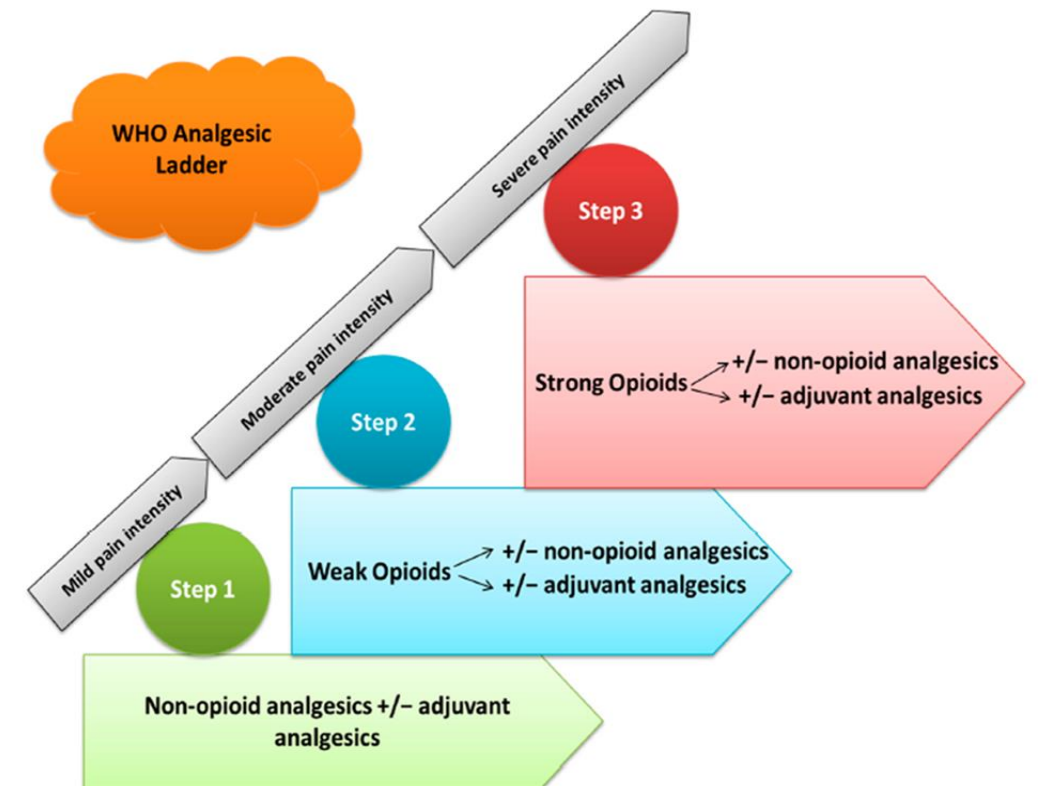
Categories of life-threatening illness

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4
<p>Children with life-threatening conditions for which curative treatment may be feasible but can fail</p> <p>E.g.: Cancers Complex CHDs RHD</p>	<p>Children with conditions in which there may be long phases of intensive treatment aimed at prolonging life, but premature death is still possible</p> <p>E.g: HIV, COAD</p>	<p>Those children with progressive conditions without curative treatment</p> <p>E.g.: Neurodegenerative conditions, metabolic conditions and neuromuscular conditions</p>	<p>Those children with conditions with severe neurological disability, which may deteriorate unpredictably, but are not considered progressive</p> <p>E.g: Cerebral palsy, hypoxic brain injury</p>

Physical Needs

- Pain
- Pain assessment: QUESTT
(Wong et al, 1999)
- Plan:
 - pharmacologic Vs non-pharmacologic treatment

Wong-Baker FACES Pain Rating Scale



Emotional & Spiritual Needs

- What are the child's hopes, dreams, fears, life meaning, view of role of prayer or rituals, beliefs regarding death?

Plan:

- Involve culturally appropriate spiritual care provider

Psychosocial Needs

- What are the child and family's fears and concerns?
- Explain death concepts
- Consider referring child and family to mental health professionals as needed
- Make plan for follow-up of family after child's death

Why conduct this study?

- In our setting, Paediatric palliative care is integrated into the standard care, which is beneficial but to an extent
- There is a need for Paediatric palliative care team
- The findings of this study will help improve Paediatric palliative care
 - Create a National policy on Paediatric palliative care
 - Improve quality of care