

**TO INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENCES OF CANCER IN PEDIATRIC
WARDS IN THE JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA TEACHING AND
REFERRAL HOSPITAL – KISUMU**

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed at assessing the incidence of cancer in pediatric wards in Jaramogi Oginga Odinga teaching and referral hospital in Kisumu. The study was a hospital based cross sectional study which involves studying the incidences of cancer in pediatric wards in Jaramogi Oginga Odinga teaching and referral hospital in Kisumu. It targeted 67 children admitted in oncology ward with various types of cancer and 26 care givers who were in charge of the wards with cancer victims during the period of the study. The study employed the use of both primary and secondary sources of data. For the primary sources of data, the researcher used questionnaire. The study adopted both the qualitative and quantitative analysis in order to achieve the objective of the study. The study used descriptive statistics. For quantitative techniques, inferential statistics was applied in drawing conclusions.

The study established that there were high incidences of Burkitt's Lymphoma cases among the children admitted, followed by leukemia and others which were very minimal. The hospital lacks capacity in terms of staff, equipment's and drugs necessary in the management of patients and thus relies on referral of patients to Kenyatta National Hospital especially those in need of radiotherapy. However cancer cases are on an increase in the hospital as was clearly established from the hospital data for the last 5 years and thus urgent measures need to be instituted to mitigate the problem.

The study concluded that the cancer patient care givers had the right knowledge and skills though they were not adequate to serve all the patients satisfactory. The study further concluded that the hospital lacked the ability to manage of cancer patients as it had lacked some essential equipment, had inadequate staff, inadequate drugs and conduct untimely referrals for cancer patient. The study concludes that there was a relationship between cancer incidences at national level and cancer incidences at JOOTRH. The study finally concluded that there was a relationship between most experienced cancer cases at national level and most experienced cancer cases at JOOTRH.

The public should be educated on the importance of early detection and diagnosis of cancer that influences greatly on the effectiveness of the treatment so as to seek early medical attention instead of wasting time seeking treatment from traditional healers, Public hospitals should be well equipped and train more personnel on cancer patients management. There should be further research on Burkitt's Lymphoma in order to establish the causes of the incidence increase in Jaramogi Oginga Odinga teaching and referral hospital so that to be able to come up with appropriate measures in eradicating or reducing the incidences.

The study recommends that the government should employ more cancer care givers so as to make them adequate to serve all the patients satisfactory. The study further recommends that hospitals should be adequately equipped, be provided with quality and adequate staff and drugs and hospitals should be conducting timely referrals for cancer patient. The study recommends cancer incidences and different type of cancers at national level can be predicted at regional level as they was relationship.

2.4.1. LEUKEMIA

2.4.2. BRAIN AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM TUMORS

2.4.3. NEUROBLASTOMA

2.4.4. WILMS TUMOR

2.4.5. TERATOMA

2.4.6. RHABDOMYOSARCOMA

2.4.7. RBTINOBLASTOMA