BACKGROUND: Craniopharyngiomas are benign brain tumors that mostly arise in the sellar/suprasellar region. Histologically though benign, these tumors can locally infiltrate with involvement of surrounding structures. They have a 5-year survival rate of above 80% in High Income Countries (HIC). Craniopharyngioma management includes surgery, radiotherapy and intracystic treatments and requires a multi-disciplinary team. The morbidity associated with treatment must be weighed against tumor recurrence and quality of life after treatment. Endocrine deficiencies, especially growth hormone deficiency and visual deficits are common presenting features. OBJECTIVE: To describe the clinical characteristics and management of children with craniopharyngioma managed at Mulago National Referral Hospital from March 2019 to December 2023.

METHODOLOGY: A retrospective descriptive study was conducted among patients < 18 years of age, admitted to the Mulago National Referral Hospital from March 2019 to December 2023.

RESULTS: 48 patients were eligible for inclusion. The median age at diagnosis was 7.9 years (range: 2.1-17.4). All patients were treated with surgery and additional tumor-directed intervention following the completion of RT. RESULTS: 48 patients were eligible for inclusion. The median age at diagnosis was 7.9 years (range: 2.1-17.4). All patients were treated with surgery and additional tumor-directed intervention following the completion of RT.

CONCLUSION: Management of patients with craniopharyngioma in Uganda is mostly conservative with the aim of intervention to preserve quality of life. Limited access to radiation therapy contributed to the poorer survival compared to HIC.