QUALITY OF SURVIVAL AND NEURO-REHABILITATION

QOS-01. MULTIDISCIPLINARY PEDIATRIC BRAIN TUMOR CLINICS: THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT?
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BACKGROUND: Multidisciplinary clinics have become the standard of care for cancer treatment throughout the US. Multidisciplinary pediatric cancer centers are present throughout the US, but with limited guidelines on the necessary components that are specific to brain tumor patients. We will discuss the role of multidisciplinary clinics in an attempt to create preliminary guidelines on establishing and maintaining a multidisciplinary pediatric brain tumor clinic in order to optimize the care of the patients and their families. We will also discuss the challenges that need to be overcome in order to ensure their success. RESULTS: Multidisciplinary brain tumor clinics require support from the hospital and the involvement of multiple specialties including neurosurgery, neuro-oncology, neuroradiology, neurology and radiation oncology. Other specialties should be available for consult and referrals in regard to long-term effects. Patients should have access to community support groups, family support and counseling, and school support to help with reintegration into school and society as well as to assess progress in the years following diagnosis and treatment. Barriers to a successful multidisciplinary brain tumor clinic include time pressures, low attendance and lack of evidence on their cost effectiveness. CONCLUSION: Multidisciplinary pediatric brain tumor clinics have become the standard of care despite limited evidence of their impact on survival and quality of life. While considered as positive and effective by healthcare professionals, more research is needed in order to optimize patient care and create standardized guidelines for the development of multidisciplinary brain tumor clinics in pediatrics.