



## Hospitality:

# a beginning of Paediatric palliative care for children affected by cancer, in LMICs and in Italy

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## BACKGROUND

The right of children affected by cancer to have palliative care has been declared a universal human right, but provision of such care remains sporadic in low and middle income countries (LMICs). In the same time, in Italy, palliative care are performed in a context of need of global interventions to rise survival rates in an increase of health immigration.

Main points:

- How paediatric palliative care is provided in low and middle income countries (LMICs) Ivory Coast, India, Morocco and Ukraine, compared to Italy.
- How hospitality is realized, as a beginning of palliative care, in Paediatric Oncology in Italy and in resource-limited settings.
- How participation of parents and ill children are included to the caring process, also by making sense in a painful and dramatic moment of their lives.

## AIM OF THE STUDY

We investigated among 5 Departments of Paediatric Oncology in Ivory Coast, India, Italy, Morocco and Ukraine to study semantic, lexical and pragmatic level of the concept of "Hospitality" (sharing linguistic root with "hospice") in a view of beginning of palliative care, in an attempt to respond to an increasingly emerging need within the Italian context where it is necessary to give psychological support and palliative care in a multicultural social context.

## SAMPLES AND DESIGN OF THE STUDY

PHASE A - Study about "Hospitality in Paediatric Oncology" literature in 11 specific texts, 64 scientific articles, 2 studies by AIEOP, 4 IPOS studies and 4 AIRTUM studies.

PHASE B - Research in 5 paediatric cancer hospitals in Ivory Coast, India, Italy, Morocco and Ukraine. Involved 150 parents of children.

Data Collection by semi-structured questionnaire (17 questions) with a purposive validated sampling. Statistical analysis by cluster analysis. Ethical considerations: how to make palliative care available to cancer patients in LMICs. All these Hospitals are some of the main centers in their Nations. Then, in our sample, the big part of these families are coming from other parts of the country, moving to the Hospital only to cure their kid. The distance from their homes, their lives, or the splitting of their family due to this unavoidable transfer, may affect heavily the quality of life of these patients and their parents. In order to respond to their specific needs, we asked them about their difficulties, considering not only the distress related to the medical condition, but the whole situation of their lives.

## RESULTS I

What are the main difficulties in the hospital?

<b>Ukraine</b>	
Lack of blood donors	17%
Cost of care	17%
<b>Ivory Coast</b>	
Financial difficulties: many costly tests	92%
Cost of medicines	4%
<b>India</b>	
Lack of information about hospital and services	24%
Economic problems	20,7%
<b>Morocco</b>	
Orientation to services, lack of information and too many forms to fill out	50%
Cost of examinations and medicines too high	18%
<b>Italy</b>	
Bustling, chaotic city but best services and organization	64,3%
Traffic	7,1%

## RESULTS II

What does it mean for you Hospitality?

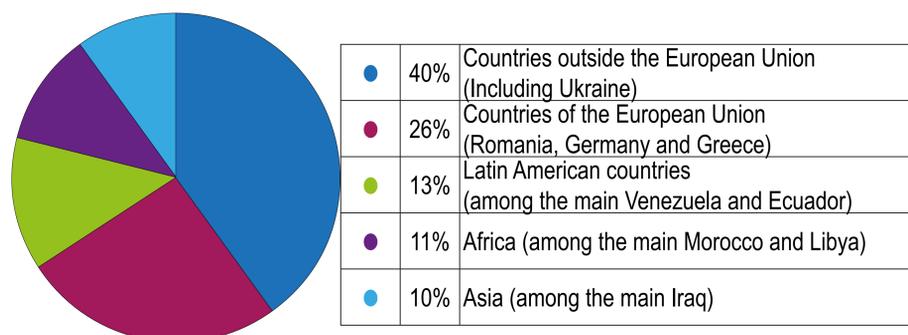
<b>Ukraine</b>	
Staff benevolent attitude	29,4%
Information	14,7%
<b>Ivory Coast</b>	
Be well received with enthusiasm	60%
It's like you welcome a person	10%
<b>India</b>	
Place where you receive the care	67,7%
The hope	20,7%
<b>Morocco</b>	
Be received with kindness by doctors and nurses - receive all kinds of information	63,3%
It's like welcoming someone at home	10%
<b>Italy</b>	
Staff kindness and understanding	35,5%
Have all the necessary information	32,1%

Do you see differences between life in your town and life in the city where the hospital is?

	YES	NO
<b>Ukraine</b>	66,70%	33,30%
<b>Ivory Coast</b>	93,30%	6,70%
<b>India</b>	70%	30%
<b>Morocco</b>	93,90%	6,10%
<b>Italy</b>	50%	50%

## ITALIAN HOSPITALS SITUATION

In Italian centers for the treatment of Paediatric Cancer, we welcome many families from other parts of Italy, and also from other Countries.



So, the difficulties about the illness are complicated by the cohabitation of different cultures in traumatic moment of life. Normally, the hospital staff isn't prepared to afford problems linked to socio-cultural differences, included the inability to communicate because of the different language.

In this research we found out that parents of all cultures consider as main aspects of hospitality:

- the possibility to get adequate informations about the illness of their kid.
- kindness and warmth of the staff.

In conclusion, we compared people belonging to really different culture, socio-economical situations and affected by heavy difficulties about illness, distance from home, loss of their job, separation from part of their family: but all these persons need

- to be considered an active part of the cure process on their kid
- to feel themselves part of a community curing and caring them and their kid.

According to psychological needs in a traumatic situation, parents and kids must have the possibility to relying to a medical staff able to understand their emotional and affective states.