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Lessons learned in a third-level hospital on the treatment of retinoblastoma

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Introduction & Purpose: Everyday this tumor typical of early infancy has better results in terms of long-term survival. For the authors, treating retinoblastoma is an open book. Retinoblastoma is a pathology that requires a multidisciplinary approach. We still have a lot to learn. We want to share with the primary care pediatrician some important facts about retinoblastoma.

Material & Methods: This is a descriptive, retrospective, transversal and single institution study that includes all retinoblastoma patients, diagnosed between the first of January 1996 and December 31, 2016. All the participants must have finished treatment at the moment of data collection (January 2017) and must be active in the follow-up clinic. Those patients that were missing from the follow-up for more than a year were excluded.

Result: The age range at diagnosis is between 3 and 70 months. The average age at diagnosis is 21.3 months. One patient in our series had Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome. 68.4% of our cases received chemotherapy and 41% received chemo and radiation therapy. An attempt was made to preserve the eye in 26.3% of cases. What gave the indication to proceed with enucleation was retinal detachment in 66.6% of the cases, progression of the disease in the remaining 33.3%. In the series there is a percentage of 80.6% of patients who are alive and free of disease. Of the 25 patients who were alive at their last appointment, 42.1% had 10 or more years of survival. Of the survivors, 85.7% have completed their education.

Conclusion: Today we have a great challenge to contribute to the quality of life of the survivors of childhood cancer. As a society we must create the best conditions for inclusion.

Biography

Maria de Spengler is currently working as an eminent Faculty member at Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Panama. She has published numerous research papers and articles in reputed journals and has various other achievements in the related studies. She has extended his valuable service towards the scientific community with her extensive research work.

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