

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL ONCOLOGY

Pediatric and Adolescent Haemato-oncology Unit



Introduction

The Pediatric and Adolescent Oncology Unit takes care of wide varieties of malignancies in children and adolescent. It serves patients up to 18 years. We treat around 150 to 200 new patients with different type of pediatric malignancies each year. We get patients referred from hospitals located throughout Nepal and other neighboring countries. The diseases we treat include both hematological malignancies such as acute leukemia's (ALL, CML, AML) and malignant lymphomas (Hodgkin's and Non Hodgkin's lymphoma), and solid tumors such as soft tissue sarcomas like

rhabdomyosarcoma, neuroblastoma, nephroblastoma, retinoblastoma, hepatoblastoma, germ cell tumors, bone tumors like Ewing's sarcoma family of tumor, osteosarcoma, tumor from head and neck regions, GI malignancies and CNS tumors.

Based on the heterogeneity of the disease spectrum, we have built up a multidisciplinary network with other divisions, such as surgery (including orthopedic surgery, ENT head and neck surgery, thoracic surgery, neurosurgery, uro-surgery, colorectal surgery, gynecological surgery and GI & Hepato-biliary surgery), radiation oncology, radiology and pathology. We have separate 8 bedded Pediatric haemato-oncology ward as well as general pediatric oncology ward. A special nursing care system is developed in the ward which helps children and young patients and their families physically as well as psychologically. Nurses provide appropriate information to help patients and families keep their ideal relationship.

Routine Activities/Services

Outpatients and inpatients services: The pediatric outpatient service opens every day to see new & old patients and provide follow-up treatment to patients who have completed intensive treatment course. The pediatric and adolescent specialist and medical officer discuss various issues in pediatric inpatients during rounds on a daily basis. Patients undergo various procedures in a timely manner, sometimes under IV sedation. These procedures include diagnostic bone marrow aspiration/biopsy, central venous catheter placement, and lumbar puncture/intrathecal chemotherapy. Difficult and diagnostic dilemma cases are discussed in tumor board and presented in Morning Conference held at 9 to 10 AM, mainly to make decision and individual treatment plan. In 2010 we have seen 2719 patients in outpatients' clinic and 200 patients got admission to receive different type of treatment.

Human Resources

One pediatric and adolescent Oncologist and one 2 Medical officers, Nurses in pediatric oncology ward and hemato-oncology ward.