

Brief Report on Early Warning Signs and Symptoms of Childhood Cancer conducted in Simara, Madhesh Pradesh

Background:

Childhood cancer, while not preventable, has a significantly better prognosis when detected early. A major factor contributing to the disparity in outcomes between high-income and low-income countries, despite similar treatment options, is the delay in diagnosis and treatment. Late presentation of cancer cases often results in advanced disease stages, which complicate treatment and reduce chances of successful outcomes.

To address this issue and enhance early detection, a training session was conducted in Simara, Madhesh Pradesh. The primary goal of this training was to increase awareness among frontline healthcare providers about the early warning signs and symptoms of childhood cancer. By equipping local health professionals with the knowledge to recognize these critical signs early, we aim to improve timely referrals and ultimately, patient outcomes.

Training:

The training was organized by **Ramesh Gupta Memorial Trust** with technical support and coordination from Patan Academy of Health Sciences, Patan Hospital and BPKMCH, Bharatpur, Chitwan along with Together Against Childhood Cancer (TACC).

The Health Directorate- Madhesh Pradesh Government was contacted and timing and location of the training and participants were fixed. The training was conducted at Hotel Classic Plaza, Simara on 10th September 2024.

Trainers:

1. Dr. Krishna Sagar Sharma: Senior Consultant Pediatric Oncologist, BP Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital, Bharatpur
2. Dr. Sucharita Tuladhar: Consultant Pediatric Oncologist, Patan Academy of Health Sciences, Patan Hospital.
3. Namita Bharati: Senior Pediatric Nurse, Patan Academy of Health Sciences, Patan Hospital.
4. Prechan Thapaliya, Pediatric Oncology Nurse, BP Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital, Bharatpur

Invited participants:

- Director/Representative from Health Directorate, Madhesh Provincial Government.
- Chief/Representative from District Health Office, Parsa.
- Pediatricians from Narayani Hospital, Birgunj, Pokhariya Hospital, Gaur Hospital and Hetauda Hospital.
- Medical officers, Nursing Staff from Primary Health Care Centers of Rautahat, Bara, Parsa and Hetauda districts.
- Head of Health posts from different health offices of Rautahat, Bara, Parsa and Hetauda districts.

A total of 47 participants, facilitators, and supporting staffs attended the training, who were invited via a formal letter from Ramesh Gupta Memorial Trust to Health Directorate, Madhesh Pradesh as well as via phone calls.

List of the participants:

S.N.	Participant List	S.N.	Participant List	S.N.	Participant List
1	Ramesh Kr. Gupta	23	Ven Kumari Neupane	45	Ratnesh Malah
2	Anita Shahu	24	Dr. Piyash Baral	46	Rakesh Kumar
3	Mahesh Sah	25	Sachinad Jaiswal	47	Jokhan Raut
4	Ram Naresh Mahato	26	Dr. Binod Jha	48	precharn Thapaliya
5	Dr.Gaurav kumar Gupta	27	Rubi Shrestha	49	Namita Bharati
6	Dr.Abhinay Kr.Singh	28	Jagannath Pd Jaiswal	50	Dr. Sucharita Tuladhar
7	Dr.Jayant B. Mishra	29	Dr. Gajal Pant	51	Dr. Krishna Sagar Sharma
8	Dr.Bijay Kumar Sah	30	Nira Kumari Dhakal		
9	Dr.Mukti Narayan Sah	31	Pramod Raut Kurmi		
10	Satrudhan yadav	32	Kaimun ulhak		
11	Dr.Anil Mishra	33	Dr.Mijnur Rahman		
12	Dr.Naresndra KC	34	Dr.Abhisek Mehara		
13	Dr.Sumit Kumar Mishra	35	Manu Kumar Patel		
14	Santosh Kr.sah	36	Dr. Gyanesh Chaudhari		
15	Ramita Pariyar	37	Dr. Prakash Sah		
16	Ram Nath Mahato	38	Pramod Kumar Karna		
17	Anajali Kumari Sahani	39	Zafar Ansari		
18	Dr. Bikalpa Bartaula	40	Dipika Singh		
19	Parveen Kumar Jha	41	Dr. Digvijay Kumwar		
20	Dr. Vijay kumar Mahato	42	Rabina Chaudhari		
21	Lal Babu Prasad	43	Lalan Mahaseth		
22	Rubi Mishra	44	Guru Pd. Yadav		

Contents of the training

The one-day orientation training underwent in a friendly manner with the participants eager to learn and apply new information acquired.

The trainers and the sessions covered were as follows:

Sessions	Trainer
Introduction and overview of training	Dr. Krishna Sagar Sharma
Basic Concepts of Cancer and Pediatric Oncology	Dr. Sucharita Tuladhar
Common Cancer in Children	Dr. Sucharita Tuladhar
Childhood Cancer: Myths and differences from adults	Prechan Thapaliya / Dr. Sucharita Tuladhar

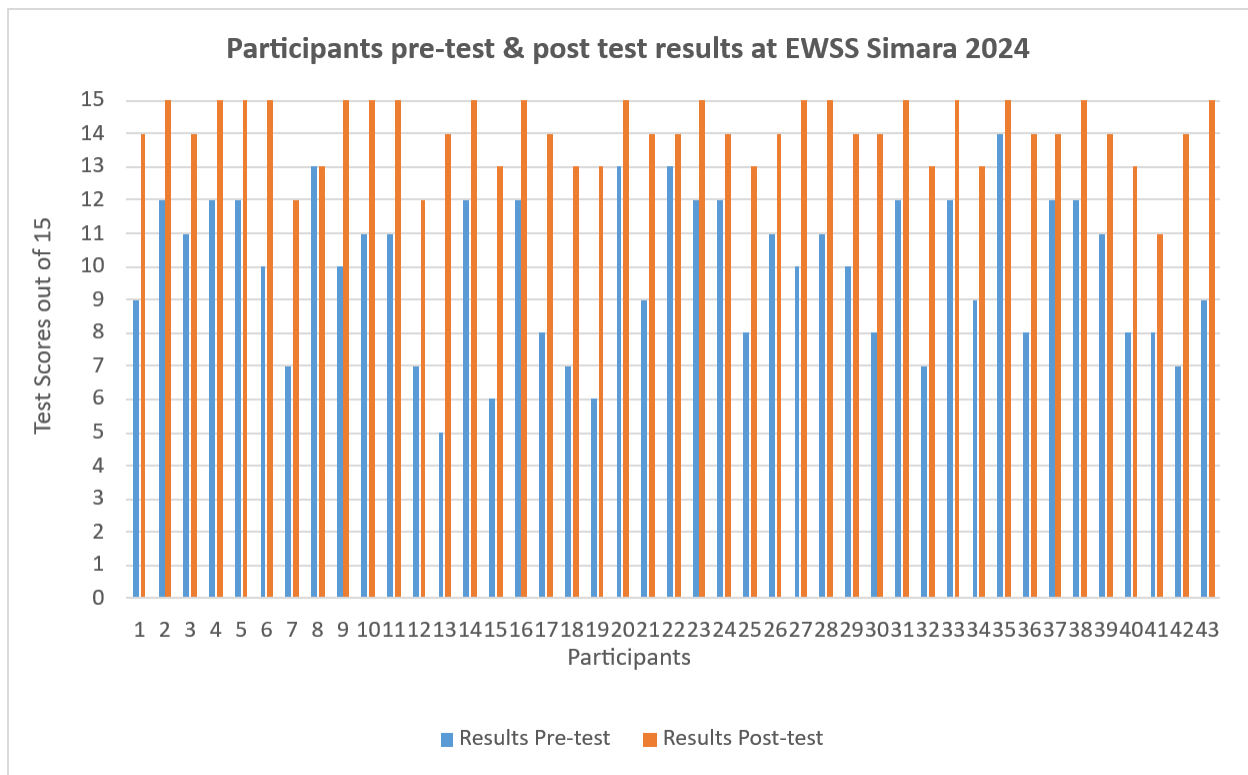
Early Warning Signs of Childhood Cancer -Fever, Bleeding, Limb pain/Body pain, Eye reflex, Neurologic symptoms (focal deficits), Abdominal lumps	Namita Bharati/ Dr. Krishna Sagar Sharma
Suspicion of Cancer in children: Presenting symptoms -Fever, Bleeding, Limb pain/Body pain, Eye reflex, Neurologic symptoms (focal deficits), Abdominal lumps	Dr. Krishna Sagar Sharma
Management of suspected child with cancer -Overview of treatment and outcome	Dr. Sucharita Tuladhar
Oncology emergencies: Brief review TLS, Hematologic, SVC, etc.	Dr. Sucharita Tuladhar
Support systems for treatment -Government support/ Insurance/ Philanthropic supports/ Other	Dr. Sucharita Tuladhar

Scores

A pretest and posttest were administered to assess participants' initial knowledge about childhood cancer and to measure the improvements in their understanding following the training. This evaluation approach allowed us to gauge the baseline awareness of childhood cancer among the healthcare providers and determine the effectiveness of the training in enhancing their knowledge and recognition of early warning signs and symptoms.

Participants	Results			
	Pre-test	Pre-test %	Post-test	Post-test %
1	9	60%	14	93%
2	12	80%	15	100%
3	11	73%	14	93%
4	12	80%	15	100%
5	12	80%	15	100%
6	10	67%	15	100%
7	7	47%	12	80%
8	13	87%	13	87%
9	10	67%	15	100%
10	11	73%	15	100%
11	11	73%	15	100%
12	7	47%	12	80%
13	5	33%	14	93%
14	12	80%	15	100%
15	6	40%	13	87%
16	12	80%	15	100%
17	8	53%	14	93%
18	7	47%	13	87%

19	6	40%	13	87%
20	13	87%	15	100%
21	9	60%	14	93%
22	13	87%	14	93%
23	12	80%	15	100%
24	12	80%	14	93%
25	8	53%	13	87%
26	11	73%	14	93%
27	10	67%	15	100%
28	11	73%	15	100%
29	10	67%	14	93%
30	8	53%	14	93%
31	12	80%	15	100%
32	7	47%	13	87%
33	12	80%	15	100%
34	9	60%	13	87%
35	14	93%	15	100%
36	8	53%	14	93%
37	12	80%	14	93%
38	12	80%	15	100%
39	11	73%	14	93%
40	8	53%	13	87%
41	8	53%	11	73%
42	7	47%	14	93%
43	9	60%	15	100%
44	10	67%	14	93%



Recommendations:

- The coverage needs to be increased, including all primary health care workers.
- A follow-up session could be helpful in the future for refreshing the knowledge of the participants.
- A standard operating procedure document could be developed that would help in standardizing and facilitating the organizing and coordination of this training in future.
- Involving local government representatives in this training could further increase effectiveness. This needs to be considered in future training.
- To increase the awareness among public, extending the training to community level through FCHV (Female Community Health Volunteer) needs to be considered in the future

Acknowledgement:

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Ramesh Gupta Memorial Trust, Dr. Rabi Shakya, Director, Patan Academy of Health Sciences (PAHS), Dr. Shivaji Poudel, Executive Director, BPKMCH, Dr. Anil Ojha, HOD, Department of Paediatrics, PAHS and TACC for guidance and continuous encouragement. We would also like to thank Health Directorate, Madhesh Provincial Government for continuous support, communication and facilitation with local levels, health workers and venue for organizing the training.

 World Child Cancer
Research for a better world



 Ramesh Gupta
Memorial Trust

TRAINING ON EARLY WARNING SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS (EWSS) OF CHILDHOOD CANCER

10 September 2024

Organized By:
World Child Cancer and Ramesh Gupta Memorial Trust
Hotel Classic Plaza, Simara

Supported By:

 **AMGEN**

 **My child matters**

Collaboration Partner:





Ground
Rules

Punctuality

No side talk

Keep mobile
silent/vibration

Respect
each other

Active
Participation