

Factors Affecting Same-Day Cancellation of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Patients Scheduled Undergoing Procedural Sedation Outside the Operating Room

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Introduction:

Children with cancer require pediatric procedural sedation (PPS) for procedures such as lumbar puncture and/or bone marrow biopsy/aspiration as a part of their cancer treatment protocol. However some patients are unable to get their procedure due to same day cancellation (SDC). Little is known about factors leading to SDC in children with cancer scheduled for PPS outside the operating room. Our objective was to describe reasons for SDC in this cohort.

Methods:

Retrospective chart review of all pediatric oncology patients undergoing PPS from October 2015 - February 2017 was performed. We analyzed patients who could not get PPS due to same day cancellation. SAS© 9.4 was used to calculate frequencies for reason for same day cancellation.

Results: A total of 935 pediatric oncology patients were analyzed. Diagnoses included ALL 676/935(72%), AML 83/935 (9%), Lymphoma 47/935(5%), and others 128/935(14%). Same day cancellation was seen in 105/935(11%). Reasons for cancellation included: Patient sick (includes fever, URI/cough, pneumonia, or positive for respiratory viral infection by PCR) 24/105(23%), blood count too low at appointment 23/105(22%), 11/105(10%) were no show/late arrival, 6/105(6%) were not nil per os (NPO) ready and others 41/105(39%) (Figure 1). Other category included patient canceled due to insurance coverage issues, high body mass, procedure no longer indicated, positive blood culture, going to operating room for a different procedure, emesis just prior to PPS).

Discussion: Same day cancellation in pediatric oncology patients scheduled for pediatric procedural sedation outside the operating room is not uncommon. Majority are due to non-modifiable patients factors (sick + low blood counts). The modifiable factors such as not NPO ready, late arrival, or insurance coverage issues can be handled by providing additional information and education prior to scheduled appointment.

Figure 1:

