

MORTALITY DETERMINANTS OF CHILDREN WITH CANCER AND FEBRILE NEUTROPENIA.

Aim: To identify determinants of mortality for children with cancer and febrile neutropenia.

Methods: we conducted a prospective observational study of patients under 19 years with diagnosis of febrile neutropenia treated in the National Cancer Institute from Colombia and we analyzed the variables that impacted on adverse outcomes such death and need of Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, in addition to demographic variables.

Results: 175 episodes of febrile neutropenia were evaluated in 102 patients. Oncological pathologies recorded more episodes were acute lymphoblastic leukemia and lymphoblastic lymphoma. Cellulitis and mucositis were our main sources of infection. The mortality from febrile neutropenia was 2.8% and the probability of death was positively related to the growth of Gram negative blood cultures.

Conclusions: Febrile neutropenia remains a major cause of mortality in pediatric patients with cancer and the growth of Gram negative blood cultures were statistically significantly associated with the likelihood of death by this entity.