

## Brief Communication

# Quality of life of caregivers and impact on the nuclear family of children with leukaemia in the National Cancer Institute of Sri Lanka

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## Abstract

Childhood leukaemia is the commonest cancer in children aged below 15 years. A diagnosis of childhood leukaemia is a devastating experience for any parent. This hospital-based descriptive cross sectional study aimed to assess the quality of life (QOL) of caregivers and the impact on the nuclear families of children with leukaemia. A convenient sample of 140 caregivers was surveyed using an interviewer administered questionnaire. Nearly 50% of caregivers reported low QOL in the psychological 71(50.7%), social 66(47.1%) and environmental 64(45.7%) domains while most nuclear families underwent moderate financial 88(62.9%) and psychological 100(71.4%) impacts. There was a statistically significant decline in parental employment status following the diagnosis ( $p < 0.05$ ).

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