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Nursing in Comprehensive Care in Palliative Care in Pediatric Oncology

Nursing In Comprehensive Care In Palliative Care In Pediatric Oncology

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Summary

Introduction: Nursing practice in pediatric oncology palliative care involves a complex set of practices aimed at preserving comfort, dignity, and well-being in the face of life-threatening illness, requiring sensitivity, technical preparation, and a comprehensive understanding of the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of the child and their family. Objective: To analyze, in light of recent literature, the nursing practices developed in the context of pediatric palliative care and their contributions to quality of life during the illness process. Materials and methods: This is an integrative literature review, with a qualitative and exploratory approach, constructed from a systematic search in the SciELO, BVS, Lilacs, and PubMed databases, adhering to previously defined eligibility criteria. Results: It is expected to identify care strategies that enhance comfort, strengthen communicative bonds, incorporate subjective dimensions, and provide support for ethical, sensitive, and comprehensive care, as well as to recognize methodological limitations and institutional gaps that impact professional practice. Conclusions: Nursing is considered to play a structuring role in pediatric palliative care, and it is essential to improve training processes, assessment tools, and institutional policies that qualify and support care practice.

Keywords: palliative care; oncology; pediatric nursing; neoplasms; children.

Abstract

Introduction: Nursing practice in pediatric oncology palliative care involves a complex set of practices aimed at preserving comfort, dignity, and well-being in the face of life-threatening illness, requiring sensitivity, technical preparation, and a comprehensive understanding of the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of the child and their family. Objective: To analyze, in light of recent literature, the nursing practices developed in the context of pediatric palliative care and their contributions to quality of life in the illness process. Materials and methods: This is an integrative literature review, with a qualitative and exploratory approach, constructed from a systematic search in the SciELO, BVS, Lilacs, and PubMed databases, adhering to previously defined eligibility criteria. Results: It is expected to identify care strategies that enhance comfort, strengthen communicative bonds, incorporate subjective dimensions, and provide support for ethical, sensitive, and comprehensive care, as well as to recognize methodological limitations and institutional gaps that impact professional practice. Conclusions: Nursing is considered to play a structuring role in pediatric palliative care, and it is essential to improve training processes, assessment tools, and institutional policies that qualify and support care practice.

Keywords: palliative care; oncology; pediatric nursing; neoplasms; children.

1. Introduction

Palliative care, in this context, is defined as a set of active actions, comprehensive and humanized, aimed at individuals of all ages who find themselves in



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intense suffering resulting from serious, progressive, or terminal illnesses

(Magalhães *et al.*, 2023).

According to the definition of the World Health Organization (WHO, 2018), care
Palliative care is an approach aimed at improving the quality of life of individuals
afflicted by illnesses that threaten their continued existence, as well as that of their families.
(Atty; Tomazelli, 2018).

The topic of palliative care, especially in the context of pediatric oncology, constitutes...
a significant challenge for the healthcare field, as it involves the management of pain and...
Physical suffering and attention to the emotional, social, and spiritual dimensions of the child and their family.
(Silva *et al.*, 2020).

From this perspective, a pressing problem becomes evident: how can nursing,
As a profession central to direct care, it can enhance its practices to offer a
Comprehensive and humane care for children in the terminal stages of cancer?

This investigation is based on the hypothesis that nursing, due to its continuous proximity...
Working with the patient and their family provides them with privileged conditions to develop strategies.
care programs that alleviate suffering, promote quality of life, and strengthen family bonds.
compassionate care (Fim *et al.*, 2024).

The performance of the nursing team, when based on ethical principles and
Humanistic approaches can make a difference in the effectiveness of palliative care, contributing
both for pain relief and for preserving the subjective and spiritual dimension of the patient.
pediatric (Araújo *et al.*, 2023).

The choice of topic is justified by its social, scientific, and ethical relevance, because oncology
Pediatric illness imposes a path of pain and resilience on families that requires institutional support.
qualified; scientific, although the topic still lacks consistent research that systematizes
Evidence regarding best nursing practices.

From an ethical standpoint, palliative care implies defending human dignity in the face of...
terminal illness. In this sense, analyzing the role of nursing in this context contributes to the...
expanding academic debate and improving health policies.

The overall objective of the study is to analyze the role of nursing in care.
Palliative care for children with cancer. It has three specific objectives: to understand
The conceptual and normative foundations that underpin pediatric palliative care.
to identify, from the scientific literature, the nursing strategies and interventions that promote
the quality of life of the child and their family; and to critically assess the gaps and limitations present.
in current practices, in order to indicate avenues for new studies and for the improvement of
assistance.



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Methodologically, the study assumes a qualitative nature, of an exploratory character, having The integrative literature review will be used as a procedure. The survey will be conducted in databases. indexed, considering publications from the last ten years, whose analysis will be based on critical reading, categorization and reflective interpretation of the findings.

The aim is to identify, in the end, the main contributions of nursing in strengthening... Regarding palliative care in pediatric oncology, highlight limitations that still persist in practice. to provide assistance and encourage the formulation of public policies that guarantee equitable and universal access. such care is needed to reaffirm the dignity and respect for children in terminal situations.

2. Theoretical Framework

In recent decades, there has been a significant increase in cancer rates among younger individuals. International estimates indicate that approximately 15% of diagnoses Cancer diagnoses occur in the 20 to 50 age range, a period marked by intense social participation. work and education, in addition to the responsibility for the care of minor children. Within the scope In pediatrics, cancer constitutes a global public health challenge with significant repercussions. in terms of morbidity and mortality, and significant demands on care systems, both in structural terms. as well as humans (Rossato *et al.*, 2022).

According to recent data, approximately 400,000 children and adolescents between the ages of 0 and 19... They receive a diagnosis of neoplasms annually, reinforcing the seriousness and complexity of this scenario (World Health Organization (WHO), 2021; Rossato *et al.*, 2022).

The increase in the incidence of childhood cancer recorded worldwide over the last The decade contributed to this disease becoming the leading cause of death from illness among children in Western countries. In 2020, it was estimated that there were 107,833 cancer deaths in Individuals aged 0 to 19 years, with a higher prevalence in males (Rossato *et al.*, 2022).

For professionals working in pediatric oncology, this reality translates into a a highly demanding care dynamic, as it involves dealing with emotional suffering, the The real possibility of death and various challenges associated with treatment. Children and adolescents. They face intense bodily changes, aggressive procedures, disruptions to their routines and the challenges and limitations imposed by the illness make clinical follow-up a challenging experience. delicate and, at times, devastating for all involved (Rossato *et al.*, 2022).

The healthcare team, in turn, is called upon daily to manage demands that involve... Physical vigor, refined technical skills, and emotional stability, considering the complexity. of the situations experienced in the pediatric oncology context (Rossato *et al.*, 2022). Although the advances Therapeutic advancements in recent decades have increased the five-year survival rate from 10% to...



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At around 90%, the incidence of childhood cancer has been on the rise since 1975. Leukemias, the Tumors of the central nervous system and lymphomas are among the most frequent diagnoses. accompanied by recurring symptoms such as fatigue, nausea, loss of appetite and pain (Nunes *et al.*, 2022).

Even with the advances achieved in early diagnosis and cancer treatments Intended for the pediatric public, a significant portion of children and adolescents do not obtain The curative response is abandoned, and a palliative approach becomes necessary as the central focus of healthcare. The purpose of pediatric and adolescent palliative care is to promote the best quality of life possible for these patients and their families when facing serious illnesses, capable to limit or threaten the continuation of life. From this perspective, palliative care is directed towards body, mind and spirit of the child or adolescent, including comprehensive support for the family, being Recommended from the moment of diagnosis, regardless of the specific treatment adopted. (Lopes-Júnior *et al.*, 2021).

In this scenario, palliative care plays a fundamental role in offering a A comprehensive approach that seeks to preserve quality of life through pain prevention and management. as well as dealing with the emotional, social and spiritual dimensions of suffering (Franco *et al.*, 2022).

In pediatrics, this type of care is unique because it accompanies the entire course of the child. from the onset of the illness at diagnosis, regardless of the possibility of a cure, and should be adjusted accordingly. to the needs and values of the child and their family (Franco *et al.*, 2022). As many children do not For those who achieve complete remission, palliative care becomes an indispensable path to... to alleviate suffering and humanize the experience of cancer treatment.

The course of childhood cancer leads to successive transformations. From the moment of diagnosis through the treatment stages and outcome, whether it be a cure or a cure. Given its impossibility, different levels of suffering permeate the family's experience. Professionals and, above all, the child. Because it involves emotionally intense experiences, each phase It requires close monitoring and continuous adjustments, and the presence of [someone/something] is indispensable. an interdisciplinary team, including psychological support for family members (Sousa; Chaves; Tavares, 2022).

During hospitalization, the child's daily routine is profoundly altered by the tests. constant, due to invasive and painful procedures and the adverse effects resulting from Antineoplastic therapies. The treatments offered vary according to the type of neoplasm and include Chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and surgical interventions. Among the most frequent complications. Gastrointestinal changes are found, such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, in addition to a reduction in... Appetite, apathy, weight loss, and hair loss are factors that can impact its development. physical, cognitive and emotional (Sousa; Chaves; Tavares, 2022).



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In this context, nursing plays a fundamental role. It is the nurse's responsibility to perform... Systematic assessments, involvement in treatment and rehabilitation, family support, and promoting actions. educational and contribute to the prevention and monitoring of childhood cancer. The presence of Nursing encompasses all stages of care, promoting family integration and reducing the... The child's suffering, intervening to control pain and identifying clinical changes early. and emotional. The qualified training of these professionals enables pediatric care. sensitive, capable of grasping the multiple phenomena involved in illness and coping. therapeutic (Sousa; Chaves; Tavares, 2022).

Although technical and scientific advances in pediatric oncology have broadened Despite the significantly reduced chances of cure and survival, there are still children and adolescents... that do not achieve remission of the disease. When curative therapy no longer offers prospects and Life expectancy becomes limited, and care shifts towards a palliative approach (Caires *et al.*, 2024).

At this stage, the child or adolescent begins to receive pediatric palliative care. understood as a set of actions aimed at the body, mind, and spiritual sphere, offered to The child and their family are supported by a multidisciplinary team, both in the hospital setting and at home. home. This approach simultaneously addresses the management of pain and other symptoms and the Emotional, social, and spiritual support, extending from diagnosis to the period after death. (Caires *et al.*, 2024).

Given this scenario, children and adolescents with incurable cancer, well Like their family members, they express complex demands related to access to care and bonding. with healthcare professionals, communication, the dying process, experiences of grief, psychosocial and spiritual needs, symptom control, cultural specificities, The needs of the brothers and sisters and decision-making. A systematic understanding of these needs. contributes to the improvement of more comprehensive and humanized practices (Caires *et al.*, 2024).

Within the field of healthcare, nursing occupies a space where emotions... Contrasting approaches coexist. In pediatric oncology units, this contrast intensifies: the care Daily life involves dealing with the lack of prospects for a cure, with the interruption of life plans. expected for a child and with the imminent possibility of someone's death, especially vulnerable and dependent on protection (Duarte *et al.*, 2021). In this scenario, palliative care takes on... the function of mitigating suffering through early identification and appropriate management of pain and other symptoms, as well as attention to the psychosocial and spiritual aspects that change throughout the progression of the disease.

Globally, it is estimated that only a small percentage of people who Those who need this type of care effectively receive it. This limitation stems from factors such as...



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Insufficient training of professionals to deal with the impossibility of a cure, the lack of environments prepared to offer this care and the persistent taboo surrounding the topic. In the case For adolescents in palliative care, nursing plays an indispensable role, as its actions... It requires a comprehensive approach that considers biological, emotional, social, and economic elements. spiritual and cultural (Guimarães et al., 2020).

The effective implementation of palliative care, especially in pediatric oncology, requires... The coordinated functioning of a multidisciplinary team, capable of dialogue and cooperation in a way... Interdisciplinary, strengthening the bond between professionals, patients, and families. Among the various Among the actors who make up this team, nurses occupy a prominent place, given that they implement strategies that ensure dignity, comfort, and management of biopsychosocial-spiritual suffering and preservation of the autonomy of children and adolescents (Dias *et al.*, 2023).

The role of nursing proves to be irreplaceable, as the direct care offered by Nurses monitor all stages of the disease, coordinating ongoing assessments and managing the... emerging needs, health education actions and humanized interventions aimed at The uniqueness and subjectivity of each patient. The nurse's practice is based on a vision an expanded approach to care, which integrates technique, sensitivity, and ethical commitment to the person in their... totality (Dias *et al.*, 2023).

3. Materials and Methods

This study is an integrative literature review, which allows for the gathering and evaluation of data. Critically analyze and synthesize the results of previously published research, providing an understanding. A comprehensive overview of the role of nursing in palliative care in pediatric oncology.

The research question was structured based on the PICO strategy, being defined from in the following form:

- P (Population): Children with cancer in palliative care
- I (Intervention): Nursing practice in comprehensive care and promotion of quality of life
- C (Comparison): Absence of specific intervention or conventional care
- Outcome: Improved comprehensiveness of care and promotion of patients' quality of life. pediatric oncology patients in palliative care

The guiding question defined was: **"What is the role of nursing as described in the literature?" in palliative care in pediatric oncology, considering the comprehensiveness of care and "Promoting quality of life?"**

As inclusion criteria, primary articles with texts available for [publication/publication] will be selected.

Download the full texts, published between 2020 and 2025, in Portuguese and English, which



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They address the role of nursing in palliative care for children with cancer.

Regarding the exclusion criteria, these are articles that do not focus on the theme, that do not make the full text available online, including duplicates and literature review articles, editorials, and reports. case studies and dissertations/theses. Studies that met the previously established criteria were selected to compose this review.

The articles were retrieved from the Virtual Health Library database. (BVS), *Scientific Electronic Library Online* (SCIELO), Latin American and Caribbean Literature in Health Sciences (LILACS) and *National Library of Medicine* (PubMed/Medline), during the second semester of the current year.

Keywords and descriptors were used to search for and identify the articles. controlled substances, selected from the DeCS (*Descriptors in Health Sciences*), namely: “Care Palliative care” AND “Oncology” AND “Pediatric nursing” AND “Neoplasms” AND “Child” and the use of the Boolean AND operator to further the study on the topic.

AND – searches that contain both terms

OR – searches that contain one or the other term

An instrument was used to answer the guiding question, containing information about the authors and year of publication of the study, databases and journals, location of the analysis was conducted based on the methodology, sample size, type of study, main results, and conclusions. descriptive and interpretive form, allowing the categorization of the challenges identified in the studies.

44 articles were found when entering the descriptors, of which only 44 provided...

The full text is available online. After applying the filter for pediatric limits, the language options are Portuguese and English. and Spanish, document type as an article, and the selection of publication year from 2020 to 2025, were A total of 44 articles were retrieved for title reading, leaving 20 articles. Of these, 4 were not... They met the research focus. Thus, 16 articles were selected to comprise this study.

Because this is an integrative review, this study does not involve the direct collection of data. involving human subjects, dispensing with approval from a research ethics committee. However, they were respecting the ethical principles of scientific research, ensuring the reliability of the information and Proper citation of all sources used.

4. Results and Discussion

SciELO: 23 occurrences found. 8 occurrences excluded due to time lapse. 3

Occurrences excluded due to alignment with the theme. 12 articles used.

BVS: 9 occurrences found. All excluded due to time lapse refinement.

Only articles up to 2019 have been identified.

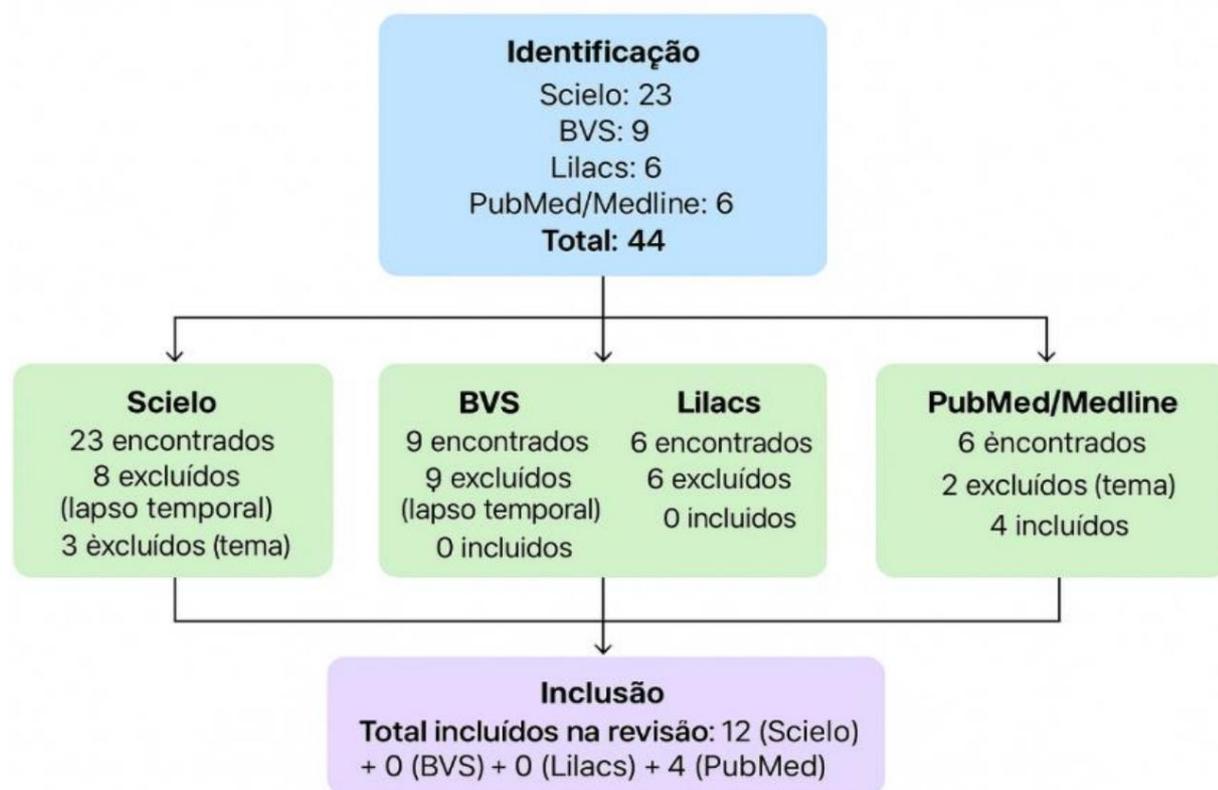
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Lilacs: 6 occurrences found. All excluded due to lapse refinement.

temporal. Only articles up to 2019 have been identified.

PubMed/Medline: 6 results found. 2 articles excluded due to topic. 4 articles used.

Figure 1 - PRISMA Flowchart



Source: own authorship (2025).

Table 1 – Articles used in the systematic review

TITLE	WORDS-KEYS	AUTHORS PERIODICAL	THE /YEAR	CONCLUSIONS/RESULTS S
Intervention programs for children, adolescents, and parents experiencing parental cancer: a scoping review.	Neoplasms, Parents, Children, Adolescents, Health Plans and Programs.	Sousa <i>et al.</i>	Esc Anna Nery, 2022	Mapping intervention and adaptation promotion programs for parents after cancer contributes to synthesizing existing evidence on this topic, knowledge about the interventions developed, and results obtained. Raising awareness among healthcare professionals, particularly nurses, and healthcare decision-makers about the importance of its implementation in clinical practice, with a view to improving the quality of nursing care provided to these families.
Religiosity/spirituality and (R/E) in performance	healthcare professionals;	Rossato <i>et al.</i>	Sci. Psychol., 2022	It became evident that, although oncology professionals

<p>Pediatric oncology professional: resource or protocol?</p>	<p>neoplasms; child; adolescent; spirituality</p>			<p>Although pediatric patients consider R/E (Response/Emotion) as an important dimension of care, it is still understood primarily as a resource used by family patients, with professionals predominantly viewing it more as a protocol than as an effective tool for work in the field. you</p>
<p>Quality of life of children and adolescents with cancer, with and without fatigue.</p>	<p>Quality of life; Fatigue; Neoplasms; Oncology nursing; Pediatric nursing; Child; Adolescent</p>	<p>Nunes <i>et al.</i></p>	<p>Acta Paul Nursing, 2022</p>	<p>Children and adolescents hospitalized with cancer experience low quality of life and high levels of fatigue.</p> <p>Furthermore, the relationship between some dimensions of HRQoL and fatigue is positive, indicating that the worse the school and emotional functioning and the greater the cognitive difficulties, the greater the fatigue will also be.</p>
<p>The Terminal Phase of a Child with Cancer: Professionals' Perceptions Hospitals</p>	<p>Cancer Pediatric; Difficulties; Concerns; Country: Portugal</p>	<p>Caires <i>et al.</i> Psychol. science.</p>	<p>prof., 2024</p>	<p>In the perception of hospital professionals, parents experience multiple difficulties and concerns during the terminal phase of their child's illness and in the post-death period, as well as suffering and biopsychosocial and spiritual extreme disruption within the family. A thorough understanding of the phenomenology of these processes is essential for the design and implementation of emotional, cognitive, behavioral, and social interventions better suited to the difficulties and parental concerns experienced at the end of life and after death.</p>
<p>Social representations of nursing professionals regarding pain assessment in children with cancer.</p>	<p>Nursing care; Cancer pain; Oncology nursing; Oncology</p>	<p>Sousa; Chaves; Tavares.</p>	<p>BrJP, 2022</p>	<p>The assessment of pain in children with cancer is limited by nursing professionals, who perform it empirically or even by touching and observing changes in the face. Without a standardized and validated measurement instrument, this assessment may not be reliable, even understanding that this is partly due to the adaptation process to the social reality that has been established in the healthcare system.</p>
<p>Effectiveness of complementary therapies for the management of symptom clusters in palliative care in pediatric oncology: a systematic review.</p>	<p>Child; Adolescent; Care Palliative care; Therapies Complementary Nursing Oncological;</p>	<p>Lopes-Júnior <i>et al.</i></p>	<p>Rev. esc. enferm. USP, 2021</p>	<p>Therapeutic massage and Reiki can be effective therapies for managing symptom clusters, especially the pain-anxiety-worry-dyspnea cluster in children and adolescents with cancer in palliative care.</p>

	Revision			
Pleasure and suffering in the work of nurses in the pediatric oncology inpatient unit: a qualitative study.	Nursing; Work; Neoplasms; Pediatrics; Pleasure	Duarte <i>et al.</i>	Rev. Bras. Nursing, 2021	It was possible to analyze the experiences of pleasure and suffering of nurses in a pediatric oncology unit through the psychodynamics of work, allowing for the reinvention of prevention and intervention measures by managers in the processes of mental health/illness at work.
Adolescent cancer patients' perceptions of their illness process in palliative care.	Oncology nursing; Adolescent; Neoplasms; Palliative care	Guimarães <i>et al.</i>	Rev. Gaúcha Enferm, 2020	The study made it possible to understand the difficulties experienced throughout the course of the disease, providing support for nursing practice to be sensitive, individualized, and focused on the individual's needs, increasing comfort and quality of life.
Childhood and adolescent cancer survival: emerging reflections for pediatric oncology nursing.	Cancer Survivors; Child; Adolescent; Nursing Oncology	Neris; Birth	Rev. esc. enferm. USP, 2021	Childhood cancer survival is conceptualized as the process of living beyond the oncological diagnosis. A person considered a cancer survivor from diagnosis until the a high end of life has risk of developing physical, psychosocial, and economic effects. Therefore, survivorship care should minimize, as much as possible, these repercussions throughout life. This care includes an action plan for screening and treating the persistent effects of therapy, disease prevention, and promotion of healthy behaviors, not limited to monitoring cancer recurrence. In the national context, challenges persist, such as the scarcity of policies that guide quality, comprehensive, and coordinated survivorship care. Despite these challenges, nurses occupy a privileged and competent position to implement survivorship care and manage effects related to cancer treatment.
Music therapy in oncology: perceptions of children and adolescents in palliative care.	Music therapy; Palliative care; Cancer; Child; Adolescent.	Franco <i>et al.</i>	Anna, School. Nery, 2021	Music therapy can benefit children and adolescents with cancer because it allows them to express feelings, helps them recall memories, provides hope in the face of their situation, and alleviates pain.
Nursing care	Care	Dias <i>et al.</i>	School Anna. The	role of nurses from

<p>Children in palliative care: a study in light of Jean Watson's theory.</p>	<p>Palliative care; Child; Neoplasia; Nursing; Nursing theory.</p>		<p>Nery (2023) states</p>	<p>that humanized care, focused on promoting comfort and pain relief, and employing dialogical, playful, and transpersonal practices, is essential in this disease process. Therefore, the identified strategies can contribute to the clinical practice of nurses caring for children with cancer in palliative care, based on Jean Nery's Theory.</p> <p>Watson.</p>
<p>Palliative care at the end of life in pediatric oncology: a nursing perspective.</p>	<p>Palliative care; Palliative care at the end of life; Neoplasms; Nursing; Pediatrics</p>	<p>Silva <i>et al.</i> Rev.</p>	<p>Gaúcha Enferm, 2021</p>	<p>Professionals are knowledgeable about providing comprehensive, family-centered care aimed at ensuring comfort and a dignified death.</p> <p>They highlighted the need for psychological support for the nursing team, as well as effective communication with the multidisciplinary team and the implementation of training programs for professionals in pediatric palliative care.</p>
<p>Perception of pediatric oncology family care providers toward palliative care and its perceived barriers in Egypt.</p>	<p>Attitude; Barriers; Knowledge; Oncology; Palliative care; Practice.</p>	<p>Mohamed <i>et al.</i></p>	<p>Palliat Support Care, 2022</p>	<p>Family caregivers in pediatric oncology had sufficient knowledge and a positive attitude toward palliative care, but their practices were inadequate. Furthermore, most participants identified a lack of training for family caregivers in pediatric palliative care and inadequate communication between the healthcare team and family caregivers as the main barriers to providing palliative care to children.</p> <p>Providing a palliative care training program for family caregivers through ongoing professional development is highly recommended, in addition to further research studies using large probability samples in different settings.</p>
<p>Nursing Care at End of Life in Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Patients Requiring Mechanical Ventilation</p>	<p>Acute Illness; Child; Death; Humans; Units of Therapy Intensive; Neoplasms Pediatric; Pain; Breathing</p>	<p>Brodén <i>et al.</i></p>	<p>Am J Crit Care, 2022</p>	<p>Children with cancer and longer stays in the PICU may require comprehensive comfort management.</p> <p>Invasive devices left in place during the withdrawal of life support may have inhibited the parents' ability to connect with their children.</p>

	Artificial.			Future research should incorporate the perspectives of parents.
Realities and ideals: Experiences and needs of pediatric oncology nurses in communication processes with children and their families at the end-of-life period: A photovoice qualitative study	Cancer; child; communication; end of life; nursing; palliative care.	Özdemyr Koyu <i>et al.</i>	Nurs Health Sci., 2023	This study sheds light on the importance of ideals versus realities for pediatric oncology nurses in communicating with end-of-life children and their families, empowering pediatric oncology nurses on their journey toward optimal end-of-life care.
A tablet game or training booklet? Two methods for evaluating symptom management and quality-of-life of children receiving chemotherapy	Booklet; Chemotherapy; Play; Quality of Life; Symptoms.	Yildiz <i>et al.</i>	Eur J Oncol Nurs. 2022	Both interventions were effective in controlling symptoms and were not superior to each other, but quality of life was higher in the gaming group.

Source: own authorship (2025).

An integrated reading of the selected studies allows for a more in-depth outlining of the way different authors understand the role of nursing in palliative care in pediatric oncology, always in light of the question guiding this investigation. The findings point to a widely shared conception: the nurse is a central agent in the articulation of practices aimed at comfort, dignity, and preservation of quality of life, although each study highlights the distinct nuances of this process.

Sousa *et al.* (2022) show that intervention programs aimed at children and families facing parental cancer increase their adaptive capacity to illness, strengthening their resilience. Professional awareness of the importance of continuous and sensitive interventions. This understanding aligns with Rossato *et al.* (2022), who highlight spirituality as a dimension recognized by professionals, although often reduced to the mechanical application of protocols.

The literature is equally consistent in affirming the relevance of symptom management such as foundation of palliative care. Nunes *et al.* (2022) demonstrate the repercussions of fatigue on the child and adolescent well-being, reinforcing the need for continuous assessments and interventions that protect the emotional, cognitive, and functional dimensions of the child.

Sousa, Chaves and Tavares (2022) add that pain assessment is still marked by improvisation and the absence of validated instruments compromise diagnostic accuracy and decision-making. In a complementary sense, Lopes-Júnior *et al.* (2021) and Franco *et al.* (2021) present complementary therapies as valuable resources, capable of expanding the therapeutic repertoire and to promote emotional expression, relaxation, and relief from complex symptoms.

The subjective dimension also occupies a central place in the findings of Caires *et al.* (2024), who describe the profound suffering experienced by parents in the terminal phase, indicating that the care of



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Nursing needs to involve emotional intervention and existential support. Guimarães *et al.* (2020)

They broaden this discussion by showing that teenagers value sensitive and individualized practices.

who respect their fears, desires, and memories, allowing the process of becoming ill to be experienced.

with greater serenity.

Duarte *et al.* (2021), when examining the psychodynamics of work in units

Studies in pediatric oncology reveal that the care provided by nurses is influenced by personal experiences.

Simultaneous occurrences of achievement and decline highlight the need for institutional support to sustain them.

Ethical practices without emotional overload. Lopes-Júnior *et al.*, (2021) emphasize the importance of

Complementary therapies in conventional treatment in palliative care in pediatric oncology.

On a conceptual level, Dias *et al.* (2023) deepen the reflection by articulating Jean's theory.

Watson, through clinical practice, demonstrated that care based on presence, listening, and playfulness...

and dialogue transcends technique and becomes a gesture of human encounter. Silva *et al.* (2021) reaffirm

this perspective indicates that, although professionals possess theoretical knowledge about

Comprehensive care requires ongoing training, psychological support, and organizational routines that...

encourage the application of these guidelines in daily life.

Similarly, Neris and Nascimento point out that the literature highlights that professionals

Healthcare professionals often focus on the care of patients undergoing active cancer treatment.

Foreign literature expands the debate. Mohamed *et al.* (2022) demonstrate that caregivers

Family members, despite having positive attitudes towards palliative care, find themselves

limited by communication gaps and lack of specific training.

Özdemir Koyu *et al.* (2023) reveal that nurses experience a gap between the ideal of communication and the actual working conditions, which impacts the ability to fully accommodate children and families at the end of life. In the context of intensive care, Broden *et al.* (2022) highlight

Invasive devices and rigid routines can hinder the bond between parents and children, making

A more careful and delicate approach is essential when weaning off life support.

A more careful and delicate approach is essential when weaning off life support.

Finally, Yildiz *et al.* (2022) show that playful interventions, such as digital games, can

to improve both symptom management and quality of life, indicating that creativity and

Play is meaningfully integrated into care.

The comparison between these studies reveals a dense and coherent portrait, namely, nursing.

It is the structuring axis of comprehensiveness in pediatric oncology and has significant potential to transform

the experience of terminality. However, for this potential to materialize, certain things are indispensable.

Consistent policies, ongoing training, appropriate tools, and a sensitive incorporation of

Emotional, spiritual, and communicative dimensions that permeate pediatric palliative care.

Final Considerations

The reflections developed throughout this study reiterate the centrality of care. Palliative care in pediatric oncology as an indispensable field for promoting dignity, comfort and quality of life for children and adolescents affected by serious cancers. Having With the general objective of analyzing the role of nursing in this context, the study sought to understand How do the care practices described in the literature respond to physical, emotional, and other needs? social and spiritual well-being of these patients and their families.

It has been found that nursing contributes to comprehensive care and improvement. of quality of life in pediatric palliative care and plays a structuring role in this process, since its scope ranges from rigorous symptom management to mediation. sensitive to communicative, relational, and spiritual dimensions.

Studies show that technically skilled interventions, combined with practices Humanized approaches strengthen the therapeutic bond, increase comfort, and encourage subjective expression. and offer emotional support to families. It was also found that the nurse is an integral part of the core team. A multidisciplinary team with a leading role, coordinating practices that seek to alleviate suffering. biopsychosociospiritual and safeguard the child's autonomy.

Nevertheless, the literature points to important limitations, such as the absence of instruments. Standardized assessment methods, training limitations, structural barriers, and weaknesses in policies. institutional frameworks that support care. These findings give the study theoretical relevance and In practice, this emphasizes that the role of nursing goes beyond technique and is inscribed within a broader horizon. Ethics of presence, listening, and responsibility.

As a next step, the need to invest in continuous training is reaffirmed. Strengthening multidisciplinary teams and public policies that guarantee equitable access to pediatric palliative care. Finally, it is suggested that future research be developed that Explore innovative interventions, communication strategies, and integrated care models. capable of further improving nursing practice in this field.

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