

## EVALUATION OF NURSING KNOWLEDGE ON PALLIATIVE CARE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC ONCOLOGIC PAIN IN PEDIATRICS

Tamires Costa Franco<sup>1</sup>, Gabriela Farias da Silva<sup>2</sup>, Jackeline Hellen Souza do Nascimento<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Universidade do Estado do Pará

<sup>2</sup>Universidade da Amazônia

<sup>3</sup>Universidade da Amazônia

**Introduction:** Pediatric oncology patients frequently experience chronic pain as a consequence of the disease and its aggressive treatments. Proper pain management is essential for ensuring quality of life, and palliative care (PC) provides a comprehensive approach. However, the knowledge and preparedness of future nursing professionals remain a critical challenge. **Objectives:** To assess the level of knowledge of nursing students at a higher education institution in Belém regarding palliative care in the management of chronic oncologic pain in pediatric patients. **Methods:** This is a descriptive, quantitative field study conducted with 213 nursing students from the 4th, 6th, 8th, and 10th semesters at the University of the Amazon (UNAMA). Data were collected through a structured questionnaire covering sociodemographic information, academic background, and specific knowledge of palliative care. Descriptive and inferential statistical analyses were performed using Chi-square and ANOVA tests, with a significance level of  $p < 0.05$ . **Results:** Most participants were female (77.9%) and in the 10th semester (35.7%). Students demonstrated high correct response rates on basic PC concepts (e.g., “total pain” – 96.7%). However, 69% incorrectly defined the term “palliative action,” confusing it with curative intent. Only 8.5% reported receiving content on pediatric oncology palliative care during their studies, and 77.5% had not taken any courses that included palliative care components. Additionally, 45.5% classified their current knowledge on the subject as “poor.” **Conclusion:** The findings reveal significant gaps in nursing education regarding palliative care, particularly in the management of chronic oncologic pain in pediatric patients. The lack of specific coursework and limited extracurricular opportunities hinder the development of essential competencies among future nurses, potentially compromising the quality of care. These results underscore the urgent need for the systematic inclusion of palliative care education in nursing curricula to foster more effective and humanized care in pediatric oncology settings.

**Keywords:** Palliative care; Oncology nursing; Chronic pain; Pediatric oncology; Nursing education.