

# Provision of psychological support for siblings of seriously ill children from parental perspective

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# Current situation in the Czech Republic

- Hospitals lack sibling programmes
- Child Life Specialists are the exception
- Siblings are not the focus of psychologists in hospital





Psychological care for siblings  
is an important competency  
of our team



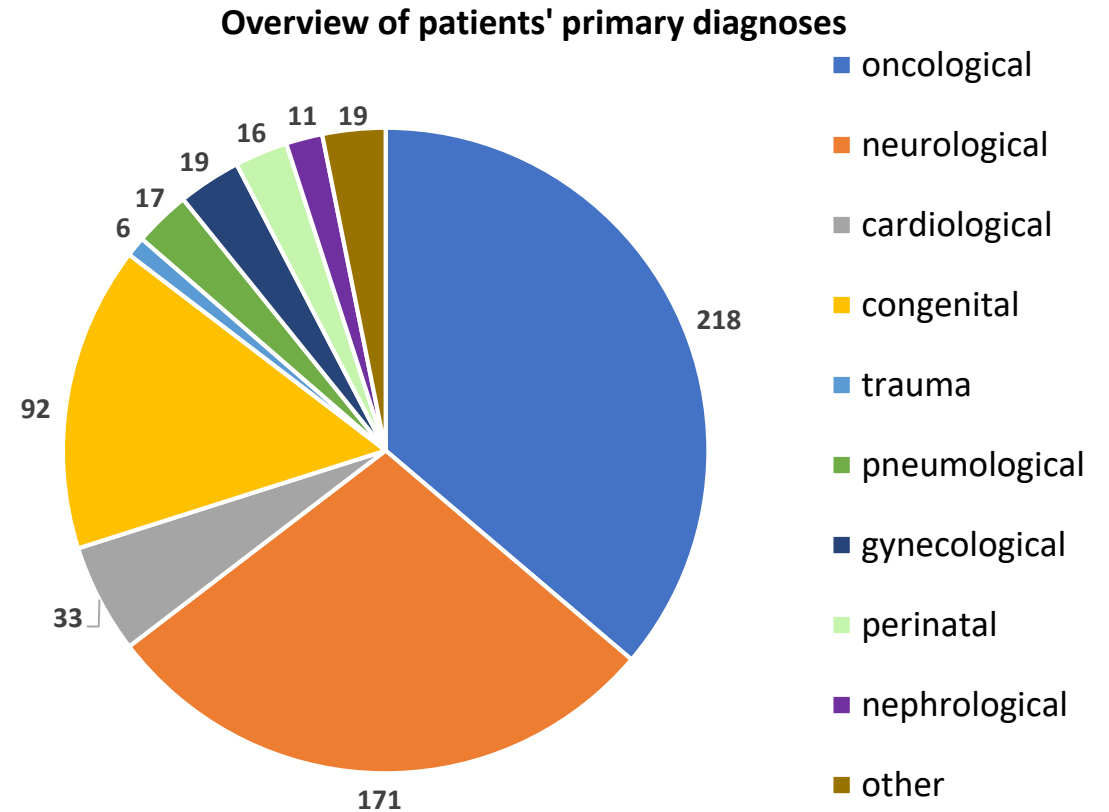


# „Psychotherapist-heavy team“ in the hospital



# About Paediatric Supportive Care Team

- Between 2017 and 2023 our team cared for 602 patients
- A total of 226 patients passed away





*„NO.  
We don't need Paediatric  
Supportive Care Team.“*







Offer from Paediatric  
Supportive Care Team:  
Psychological support for  
siblings  
*„Okay, we can try.“*



Quality and extent of  
psychological care for  
siblings?



# Study

- Aim: the availability and quality of psychological care for siblings
- Included also families where the patient died
- January 2020 to December 2023
- 145 families contacted
- 52 % families of patients with non-oncological diagnoses
- 48 % families of patients with oncological diseases



# Results: siblings are important topic for parents

- 79 % of respondents (parents) had discussed topics related to a sibling as part of their psychological care
  - 88 % of them found these counselling beneficial
- 1/3 of siblings met the psychologist F2F



Bereavement care  
in the study



# Bereavement care for siblings

- Out of 73 respondents, there were 29 % bereaved parents
- 45 % of families used bereavement care for siblings



# Conclusion

- Siblings are important topic for parents
- Psychological care is perceived as beneficial for siblings from parental perspective



*„I didn't want to disturb my parents with such silly problems.“*

*„After our son died, the psychologist continued to support us. She helped especially our second son to keep going on without his twin-brother.“*

*„During the time our daughter was dying, a psychologist prepared not only me but also my other daughter for the steps ahead.“*

# Conclusion

- Siblings are important topic for parents
- Psychological care is perceived as beneficial for siblings



**Inspiration:**

**Palliative care involvement through psychological care of siblings**

Thank you  
for your attention.

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