ABSTRACT (1)

INTRODUCTION & STUDY DESIGN (2)

MATERIALS & METHODS & MAJOR QUESTIONS (3)

What is & Where is Barretstown?

The Barretstown Gang Camp (BGC) is a residential camp occupying the grounds of a 17th Century Castle in Kildare County, 40 miles south of Dublin Ireland. Camp sessions run 10 days and the children have all transportation and living expenses paid for by voluntary fund raising by the non-profit BGC. Camp activities include horseback riding, fishing, drama, crafts, boating etc.

In the eight summer sessions, campers live in 8-10 bed cabins with at least two residential counselors. Overall, counselor-camper ratios are 1:2. Sessions are for 7-13 and 13-18 year olds.

The medical facility is a 1500 sq ft clinic with open plan, entry way/auditing room, four examining rooms, pharmacy stock room, and three 1 bed rooms. Staff include at least one pediatric oncologist, a general or specialty pediatrician, and 2-3 nurses. Depending on their age, medications were either administered to the children by a nurse or the older children themselves. The on call physician is available 24/7.

The question we sought to address in this report was “Is it safe for these teens to attend camp?” As surrogates we addressed quantitative utilization aspects of the medical care facility at Barretstown Gang Camp: number and reasons for visits, findings, and disposition to address this question.

CONCLUSIONS (10)

1) Previously unrecognized pain required intervention
2) Medical interventions were mostly common camp problems, not disease related.
3) Support staff need for medical care (MFV) was equal to that for campers.
4) No Hospitalizations occurred during camps.
5) Camp for teenagers with sarcomas is a safe experience with adequate professional support.

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Medical Facility Visits for Teenage & Younger European Children with Sarcomas (S) Attending Barretstown Therapeutic Recreation Camp: 4-year Comparative Study for Quality of Life Zeltzer PM, Kinsella E, Dignan T, Barbor, P, Breatnach F. Los Angeles, CA; Ballymore and Dublin, Ireland

ABSTRACT (1)

PURPOSE: Assess Medical facility visits (MFV) for children with Sarcomas

METHODS: Prospective collection of needs/events over 28, 10-day camps (1998-2001). Campers - a/7-13 yrs, b)>14-17 yrs -Teen Camp. Staff = 2 volunteer physicians, 3-4 nurses/75 campers.

RESULTS: 2246 children ages 7-18, 26 countries, were supported by 836 staff. Median age=12; MF=1.3:1. Most common diagnoses: Leukemia=30%, Lymphoma=15%, Sarcoma=13% (283); other =42%. Subgroups: Ewing-S=100; Osteo-S=94; rhabdomyo-S=48; S =13, soft tissue-S=12, synovial-S=3; others=12. Age=13+3.

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Background: Cancer as a “rite of summer” was a North American experience from which many children have benefited. Over 30 years ago, “PET” (now Van Der Lee) was denied summer camp in Los Angeles only because he was receiving chemotherapy. As a result, she founded a camp in Los Angeles for her son and others and helped promote creation of similar camps that now thrive across the USA, Canada, Europe, Middle East and Africa.

Paul Newman, actor and chef, along with his partner AE Hotchner, have done more for the expansion of camps for seriously ill children than anyone else. The Association of Hole in the Wall Gang Camps supports programs around the world. The Barretstown Gang Camp in Ireland. Many pediatric oncology divisions in the USA, Europe and Canada fund their own camp sessions, using their own medical staff. Most camps are offered at no cost.

CONCLUSIONS: 1) With appropriate medical & staff support, Barretstown demonstrated a high safety profile for 8 pts. 2) Most medical interventions were related to normal camp issues: bee sting, activity-related injury, etc. 99% MFV were not disease-related. 3) Staff accounted for 30% total visits.

INTRODUCTION & STUDY DESIGN (2)

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