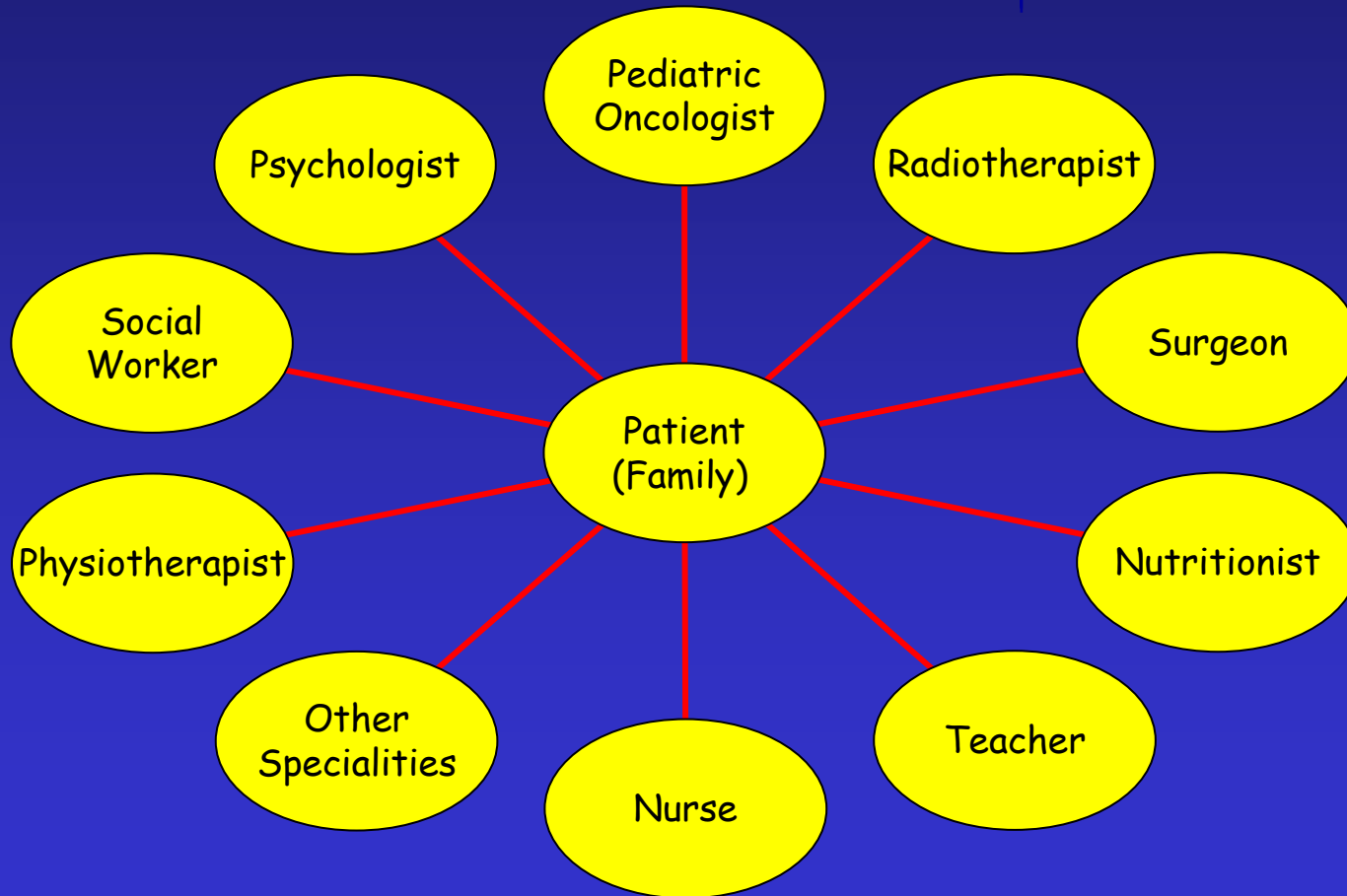


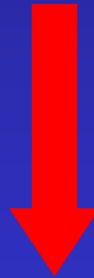
# Pediatric Oncology Multidisciplinary Approach



# Pediatric Oncology Multidisciplinary Approach

Cancer in children and adolescents is a complex disease

Historically, results of treatment were poor and chances of cure were rare



Today more than 70% of patients are truly cured, and others survive for a long time

# Pediatric Oncology Multidisciplinary Approach

This new reality has been requiring a special care with patients and families' quality of life



Patients have to be assisted in every respect and not as isolated individuals living the experience of cancer - one must take care of the PATIENT and not of the DISEASE

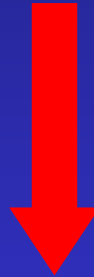
# Pediatric Oncology Multidisciplinary Approach

As a serious disease, cancer demands comprehensive attention regarding to physical, psychological and existential implications of the patients.

Today, treatment of children and adolescents with cancer needs the participation of a multidisciplinary team in order to provide an integral assistance, with emphasis on physical aspects simultaneously to psychological, social, educational, vocational and legal aspects. Caregivers should be committed to produce HEALTH, giving the priority to the HUMAN BEING.

# Pediatric Oncology Multidisciplinary Approach

Physicians (oncologists) should incorporate such a necessity in the plan of treatment



The multidisciplinary approach should be introduced in the routine of the patient immediately after the diagnosis is confirmed

# Pediatric Oncology Multidisciplinary Approach

In practice, however, the MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH will become effective only through a carefully shared process in which all professionals should perform their roles in a way that patient and family can benefit from the INTERACTION of all professional interventions.

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It is crucial that staff members dedicate time to exchange, debate and **SOCIALIZE** information about the patient (and his family)



They should attend rounds, meetings, discussions, orientation groups, etc

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First contacts are essential to strengthen a liaison of confidence among physician (other professionals), patient and his family



At the time of diagnosis is important that physician inform the family (siblings when possible) and the patient about the disease, plan of treatment, sequelae and prognosis - taking into consideration the different phases of treatment

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Frequently, in this context, information is not assimilated entirely at the first time - professionals should repeated in every opportunity, promoting open discussions helping patient (and family) to express their doubts, worries, fantasies, fears, etc.

Professionals should be sensitive to anguish, conflicts, contradictory and paradoxical reactions presented by patients and families coping with this situation.

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It is mandatory that the staff has the perception of when, what and how to TRANSMIT, and in the same way, of when, what and how to LISTEN to.

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## The Patient

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Should be helped to understand the disease, treatment, temporary and/or permanent side effects; he should, according to his level of education and development, participate to the decisions of treatment and health care, always assisted to face his cancer experience. Disease and treatment should not place him on a privileged position; it is extremely important that he continues his school and educational routine as well as social activities.

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## The Family

Should receive assistance to confront the crisis generated by the diagnosis confirmation, as well as to face all the therapeutic process; it should be helped to comprehend the disease, treatment, side effects, possible sequelae; it should learn how to deal with the changes caused by the new reality. Familiar rules and the day-by-day organization of life should be respected as much as possible. Siblings cannot be neglected and should participate direct or indirectly of all treatment phases.

# Pediatric Oncology Multidisciplinary Approach

## The Multidisciplinary Approach

- facilitates major amplitude in integral assistance, guarantees better adherence to the treatment and promote the development of researches
- determines assistance by a competent, talented staff to deal with the subjective dimension that the practice of the modern medicine suggests
- anticipates a perspective work whose concept of health focuses not only on the absence of the disease, but also on quality of life

# Pediatric Oncology Multidisciplinary Approach

## Final Recommendation

We understand that health organizations and authorities should be sensitive in order to provide adequate resources to oncology centers to offer **INTEGRAL ASSISTANCE** to patients and families through multidisciplinary treatment.

We have the responsibility to increase this discussion, to involve other segments therefore the **MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH** becomes a public health policy.