

# **Expanding Access to Burkitts Lymphoma Treatment in Tanzania**

**Dr Twalib A. Ngoma**

**Recipient of My Child Matters UICC/Sanofi Aventis Award**

# Purpose of the presentation:

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- To outline the need for addressing Burkitts Lymphoma in Tanzania
- To present the My child Matters Project in Tanzania on “Expanding Access for BL treatment in Tanzania”
- To underscore the contribution of UICC and Sanofi Aventis in the fight against cancer in Tanzania



# THE NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH DIMENSION OF BL

- Each year world wide 160,000 children develop cancer.
- Estimated number of children who develop cancer in Tanzania is 2,200 annually.
- 32% of the cancer cases occurring in children are Burkitts lymphoma making it the commonest childhood cancer in the country.

# RATIONALE FOR MY CHILD MATTERS

## BL PROJECT IN TANZANIA:

- **The National public health dimension of Burkitts Lymphoma in Tanzania**
- **The low public awareness of BL and low priority given to cancer in general and childhood cancers specifically by policy makers.**
- **The failure to translate existing knowledge and experience on Burkitts Lymphoma treatment into action**
- **Poor treatment results**

# CLINICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR THE BL MCM PROJECT

- The pictures you will see shortly represent the real current clinical situation of BL in Tanzania.
- Permission to show the pictures in this meeting was requested and granted by the parents of the children













# CAN ANYTHING BE DONE TO HELP THESE CHILDREN?

- Currently there is sufficient understanding from clinical trials of what works in the treatment of BL in the developed countries.
- In Tanzania even though there is information that would permit effective treatment with high cure rates, the cure rates are still low because of lack of skills, inefficient health system and drugs.

# MCM PROJECT AS A RESPONSE TO ABOVE SITUATION

- The UICC on being aware of the situation in countries like Tanzania and the fact that very little money can make a difference in childhood cancers in 2005 together with Sanofi Aventis launched a cancer campaign to improve care and support of children with cancer in developing countries

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# THE MY CHILD MATTERS PROJECT IN TANZANIA

## MAIN OBJECTIVE

To expand effective care to as many children with Burkitt's lymphoma as possible in Tanzania through a coordinated program of public and professional education, identification of appropriately distributed hospitals capable of treating patients effectively, and developing an effective triage system for patients with suspected Burkitt's lymphoma.

# SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Increase the number of BL children in Tanzania who access treatment for BL from 30% to 50% in the first year of the project.
- Reduce the waiting time for biopsy results from six weeks to two weeks.
- Increase the number of children with BL who present to hospital in good general condition and early disease from 20% to 40% in the first year of the project.
- Increase the cure rate of Burkitts lymphoma in Tanzania from 40% to 60%
- Increase the number of children with BL who comply with follow up appointments from 20% to 40%.

# ACTIVITIES DONE

- Burkitts Lymphoma awareness campaigns to the general public, Health Professionals, Families with children with Burkitts Lymphoma, Policy makers and Parents and Guardians of children with Burkitts Lymphoma using media meetings and training workshops
- Training workshops for pathologists and doctors/stakeholders treating BL patients in Tanzania.

# ACTIVITIES DONE - CONT

- Entered into an agreement with a pathologist to fast track BL histology results
- Distribution of posters and leaflets in district hospitals
- Tracing/tracking children lost for follow up in their homes

# ACHIEVEMENTS

	Before the beginning of the project	One year after beginning of the project
Number of children histo/cytologically diagnosed to have BL in Tanzania	145	364
Average waiting time for biopsy results	6WEEKS	2 WEEKS
Number of professionals with adequate training on the management of BL	13	126
% of Children reporting for treatment in good general condition	20%	40%
Follow up rate	20%	85%
Percentage of children getting free drugs	50%	100%
Number of centres treating BL countrywide	4	15

# SWOT ANALYSIS - STRENGTHS

- Good Mentorship
- Guaranteed funding for planned activities building

# SWOT ANALYSIS-WEAKNESSES

- Poor communication/infrastructure
- Inadequate human resources

# SWOT ANALYSIS - OPPORTUNITIES

- Formation of nationwide BL network
- Increasing BL awareness and childhood cancers in Tanzania
- Catalyst government policy makers and media to support the treatment of cancers in children
- Platform for introducing Paediatric Oncology into the health agenda in Tanzania
- Research and Collaborations

# SWOT ANALYSIS -THREATS

- Lack of funding after completion of the project
- Services overwhelmed and stretched to limits due to increased awareness of BL

# LESSONS LEARNED

- Even in low resource countries, with good planning and some funding it is possible to give good quality treatment to more children and improve their survival outcomes

# KEY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESENTATION

- Action needs to be taken now to improve the care and support of children with cancer in developing countries
- The objectives in the MCM Project in Tanzania are doable and achievable
- Developing countries like Tanzania should strive to work in partnership with international organisations to improve cancer services in their countries

THANK YOU

ASANTE SANA  
VIELEN DANK