



**CONTENT OF DAILY JOURNALING BY CHILDREN WITH CANCER IN GAME-BASED APPLICATION**

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**Abstract**

**BACKGROUND**

Childhood cancer considerably alters a child's routines and lifestyle. This disruption can take them away from school, time with friends and family, and other activities. The Color Me Healthy Application allows a child with cancer to keep track of tasks accomplished, daily goals, and trends, and to journal about their symptoms, feelings, and daily experiences.

**OBJECTIVE**

Analyzing and comparing the daily journaling content, frequency, and associations allows for an outside understanding of the experience of childhood cancer. It provides the opportunity to assess the quality of the child's life and ensure the markers of wellbeing are being met.

**METHODS**

The children were asked to use the app for at least five days. They were allowed to access the app when they wanted and journal or not on their own accord. The data were analyzed by content and frequency of entries by age, gender, and diagnosis.

**RESULTS**

The study sample included 12 boys and 7 girls. The diagnoses consisted of 9 Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, 2 Hodgkin Lymphoma, 2 Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, 2 Osteosarcoma, and 4 Brain Tumor patients. Five participants did not use the application's journal function. Fifty-three entries from 14 children were included. Boys (B) completed 28 entries and girls (G) completed 25. On average boys journaled 36% of the time they opened and used the application and girls 47% of the time. The entries were analyzed for their use of emojis (B=2, G=3), reference to people (B=5, G=2), activities (B=5, G=2), school (B=0, G=2), the hospital or treatment (B=2, G=2), and the app (B=0, G=1), symptom journaling (B=3, G=3), and associations with positive (B=6, G=3), negative (B=0, G=0) or mixed feelings (B=1, G=1).

**IMPLICATIONS**

The journal entries allow for some insight into what the day-to-day life of a child with cancer consists of. The entries show what avenues and resources are available to these children to help cope with cancer. It is crucial that these children still get the same experiences, as they would have without cancer, so they can continue to grow and develop. The use of the journaling function in the application may support caregivers to better understand the child's experience through cancer and ensure wellbeing is met.