

# MDS in pediatrics - different cooperative groups, including the Brazilian

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**CONFERENCIAS**

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Approximately ten-years ago, prospective multi-center protocols for myelodysplastic syndromes in children and adolescents were initiated in several countries such as the USA, France, UK, Italy and Germany. The Brazilian Cooperative Group in Pediatric MDS was the first approach to treat pediatric MDS patients in Brazil. As far as we know, this program is unique in South America as it established a network for diagnosis, standardized treatment and documentation. Thus, the information derived from our experience with this effort may be relevant to others planning clinical cooperative studies on MDSs in countries with more limited medical resources. With this first National MDS Brazilian group and similar to the efforts initiated in the 1980's by the Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Brazilian Study Group and the Wilms' Brazilian Tumor Study, there was an improvement in the survival by the introduction of a standard protocol for diagnosis and treatment. This is a very important achievement and of particular importance in those institutions with previous

limited experience in the treatment of children with MDS.

In Brazil, according to the Brazilian Cooperative Group in Pediatric MDS (BCG-PED-MDS), the overall survival rate for MDS pediatric patients without BM transplantation is 20-25%. The BCG-PED-MDS, created in 1997, is a working group constituted of a range of professionals (hematologists, pediatric-oncologists, pediatric hematologists, molecular biologists and others). Nowadays, the group is divided in four committees (morphology, epidemiology, genetics and therapeutics) with the aim to study the pediatric MDS in Brazil providing an educational support, establishing epidemiologic data and offering support and orientation for diagnosis and treatment.

With that, we will show some results from the Brazilian Cooperative Group in Pediatric MDS as well the European pediatric MDS working group (EWOG-MDS) results, the Japanese MDS pediatric group and others.