



SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION ABOUT PLAYING AND THE CHILD WITH CANCER: A BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY

PRODUÇÃO CIENTÍFICA SOBRE O BRINCAR E A CRIANÇA COM CÂNCER: UM ESTUDO BIBLIOMÉTRICO

PRODUCCIÓN CIENTÍFICA SOBRE JUGAR Y EL NIÑO CON CÁNCER: UN ESTUDIO BIBLIOMÉTRICO

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ABSTRACT

Objective: to characterize publications about playing and the child with cancer, disseminated online journals. **Method:** a bibliometric study with a quantitative approach. The sample consisted of 33 articles published between 1985 and 2014. **Results:** the data show that Brazil was the country that published about playing and the child with cancer and that the year 2010 prevailed with publications in "Acta Paulista de Enfermagem". Southeast was the region highlighted; Nursing was the common training area of the authors, most of them with a doctorate. **Conclusion:** scholars strive to provide a reflection on professional practice. On the other hand, it is highlighted the need for a greater quantity of publications on the theme to disseminate the importance of inclusion of playing as a therapeutic resource. **Descriptors:** Games and Toys; Child; Cancer; Bibliometrics.

RESUMO

Objetivo: caracterizar publicações sobre o brincar e a criança com câncer, disseminadas em periódicos online. **Método:** estudo bibliométrico, com abordagem quantitativa. A amostra foi constituída de 33 artigos, publicados entre os anos de 1985 e 2014. **Resultados:** os dados mostram que o Brasil foi o país que mais publicou sobre o brincar e a criança com câncer, e que predominaram as publicações do ano de 2010 na Revista Acta Paulista de Enfermagem. A região que se sobressaiu foi a Sudeste, a Enfermagem foi a área de formação prevalente dos autores, dos quais a maioria tem o título de doutor. **Conclusão:** os estudiosos se empenham em proporcionar uma reflexão sobre a prática profissional. Por outro lado, evidencia a necessidade de um quantitativo maior de publicações acerca da temática, com a finalidade de disseminar a relevância da inserção do brincar como um recurso terapêutico. **Descritores:** Jogos e Brinquedos; Criança; Câncer; Bibliometria.

RESUMEN

Objetivo: caracterizar publicaciones sobre jugar y el niño con cáncer, diseminadas en periódicos online. **Método:** estudio bibliométrico, con enfoque cuantitativo. La muestra fue constituida por 33 artículos, publicados entre los años de 1985 y 2014. **Resultados:** los datos muestran que Brasil fue el país que más publicó sobre jugar y el niño con cáncer, y que predominaron las publicaciones del año 2010 en la Revista Acta Paulista de Enfermagem. La región que se sobresalió fue la de Sudeste, Enfermería fue el área de formación prevalente de los autores, de los cuales la mayoría tiene el título de doctor. **Conclusión:** los estudiosos se empeñan en proporcionar una reflexión sobre la práctica profesional. Por otro lado, se ve la necesidad de un cuantitativo mayor de publicaciones acerca del tema, con la finalidad de diseminar la relevancia da inserción de jugar como un recurso terapéutico. **Descriptores:** Juegos y Juguetes; Niño; Cáncer; Bibliometría.

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INTRODUCTION

A child affected by cancer experiences intense suffering, usually accompanied by pain related “to the process of getting ill, the need to go frequently to the hospital, invasive procedures, changes of body and emotional state”.^{1:804} Also, the child passes through lifestyle changes, isolation, separation from routine activities, among others, exposing him to a condition of weaknesses.² Thus, the use of a toy as a creative strategy is a way to help him understand what is happening to him, since “the toy can enable the child to reflect common situations that he experiences”, besides collaborating to ease tensions and reduce anxiety since the child get closer of private, special and routine actions.^{3:7}

Considering the importance of playing for the child with neoplasia, emphasizing on a genuine care that cover not only the biological aspect, it was considered appropriate to explore the available knowledge on the subject by carrying out a bibliometric study, which shows “the work, theories and authors that are being used for the diffusion and development of scientific capital of the studied area and its chronological development”.^{4:66} Therefore, this investigation sought to answer the following guiding question: what are the characteristics of scientific production available in online journals about playing and the child with cancer?

Based on the preceding, the present study aims:

- To characterize publications about playing and the child with cancer disseminated in online journals.

METHOD

It is a bibliometric research, which “allows us to identify trends and growth of publications in a given field of knowledge, users and authors, checking the cover of magazines, measuring the spread of information and also formulating policies”.^{5:22}

It is noteworthy that this research method is growing in the field of nursing. In this sense, it is worth mentioning the following studies: the bibliometric study of publications on abortion;⁶ Scientific productions about bullying in dissertations and theses in Brazilian scenario.⁷

To carry out this work, the following operational stages were considered:

♦ **Stage 1: Survey of publications and sample selection:** at this stage, there was the review of the literature related to the proposed theme, which occurred during the period from January 2015, followed by the

screening of publications. For this, a search of the Virtual Health Library (VHL) and looking for in the Journal of Psychology Electronic Portal (PePSIC) was held at the CAPES Journal Portal and PsycINFO database.

It is appropriate to emphasize that, to retrieve information about playing and the child with cancer, the structured and trilingual vocabulary Health Sciences Descriptors - DeCS was used. Thus, in the VHL, they used the expressions games and toys, child and cancer; in the Portal of Electronic Journals Psychology (PePSIC) and Capes Journal Portal, the selected words have been playing, children and cancer; and in PsycINFO Database, the words play child and cancer. It is worth noting that all searches were carried out by combining search terms with Boolean AND operator.

The following inclusion criteria were adopted to develop this work: publications in article format, manuscripts freely available, studies disclosed in the full online collection, written in Portuguese, English and Spanish and research that have relevance to the topic in focus. It is noteworthy that the search resulted in 91 potential references. For not meeting the inclusion criteria, 58 articles were excluded. Therefore, the sample consisted of 33 studies.

♦ **Step 2: Data Collecting and organization:** it is the data collection process, mediated by a script created by the authors of the compound study, in four items: data related to databases or virtual library, the periodicals, the authors and to work, with emphasis on the latter item, the elements for the method and the keywords.

♦ **Step 3: Treatment and presentation of results:** on this occasion, the treatment was held. Thus, Excel program was used as a tool, calculating the simple frequency and relative data. In this manuscript, the results of information about the data of the articles selected for this research and related to the keywords obtained from the manuscripts that make up the sample group of this study were represented in the form of a concept map.

Such a feature should be used in the structuring of knowledge, showing how certain subject is organized by schematic representation of concepts that have significant relationship between them.⁸

RESULTS

In this section, we present the results found considering the variables chosen for the research.

◆ Data relating to journals

The sample focus of this research included studies published between 1985 and 2014, a total of 33 scientific articles. However, 2010 was the period of greatest production on the theme of this research, with a total of nine studies (27.3%); 2011 had five productions (15.2%); 2004 and 2014 totaled three research (9.1%); 2007, 2008 and 2013, with two manuscripts (6.1%) each year, and 1985, 1995, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2009 and 2012, with one article (3%) published annually.

Considering the journals with a current disclosure of related work and playing to children with cancer, it was revealed that the journal "Acta Paulista de Enfermagem" led with 12%, followed by the journal "Care é Fundamental," with 9%. The Magazines "Boletim Academia Paulista de Psicologia" and "Estudos de Psicologia" had 6% of each of the scientific productions involving psychology. The Journal "Revista Escola de Enfermagem" from USP; "Texto e Contexto Enfermagem"; Online Brazilian Journal of Nursing; "Revista da Rede de Enfermagem do Nordeste"; "Revista Gaúcha de Enfermagem"; Support Care Cancer; "Saúde Coletiva"; "Revista de Pediatria SOPERJ"; "Revista Brasileira de Saúde Materno Infantil"; "Revista Brasileira Crescimento e Desenvolvimento Humano"; "Psicologia: Teoria e Pesquisa; Psicologia", "Saúde e Doenças; Psicologia em Estudo"; "Revista Psicologia: Teoria e Prática"; "Pediatria Moderna"; "Paidéia"; Journal of Pediatric Psychology; Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology; Journal of Clinical Psychology; International Journal of Play Therapy; "Boletim Eletrônico SBPO" and "Boletim de Psicologia" represent 3% of each publication.

As for qualis of the journals, the distribution in the different strata was A1 - 4% A2 - 15%, B1 - 19%, B2 - 19%, B3 - 8% and B5 - 4%. It is worth noting that 19% of magazines are not classified in Qualis of Capes. Moreover, 12% of the journals have not been evaluated for Nursing, and for this study, it was considered the stratum of the journals for the area of Nursing.

The study showed that Brazil was the country that published on the topic of this research, with 82% of the studies, followed by the US with 12%, and Portugal and the UK, with 3% each.

◆ Data relating to authors

Investigating the authors of the articles selected for this research, it was found that 75 different researchers have developed studies between 1985 and 2014, about playing and the child with cancer. The information

collected shows that nursing is the training area prevalent among scholars, with 47%, followed by psychology, with 20%, and less significantly, by Medicine (5%) for Physical Education (4%), Occupational Therapy (2%) and Education and Social Service with 1% each. Twenty percent of the authors did not specify their education in the manuscript, and as they had no Lattes curriculum, it was not possible to obtain this information.

Regarding the degree of the researchers, the data show that 25% are doctors and masters; 17% are not applied because it involves academics and graduates; 16% could not be reached; 14% are Ph.D.; 2% are Experts, and 1% are residents.

As for the institutional origin of the authors, educational institutions gathered 73% of the researchers responsible for the studies included in this research; the health concentrated 20% of students; institutes gathered 7% of authors, and 4% involved researchers whose institutional origin could not be located. Also, three researchers have bonds to two different institutions that were accounted.

As regards the number of authors in each article, the study showed the preponderance of studies with three authors, representing 27% of publications; the study with only one authorship were 15% of the sample; 21% are articles with two authors; four authors total 24%; 6% involve scientific productions with five authors and 3% manuscripts with six researchers. This same proportion for items with eight authors.

◆ Data relating the study

Most of the studies were written mainly in Portuguese, with 85% of works, followed by articles written in English, with 15%.

Figure 1, represented by a conceptual map, shows data on publications entered in this study. It shows that most of the studies is from original articles, with 70% and that descriptive studies were 21% of the articles. The map also highlights that 85% of research related to playing and the children with cancer do not adopt any reference in their scientific productions. About the research site, 45% of studies were carried out in oncology units, and children were the group dominating (55%).

Considering 29 manuscripts of 33 studies involve human beings. Figure 1 shows that 52% of them make no reference to the protocol approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB), to Resolution 196/96 repealed by 466/2012 and/or Presentation Certificate for Ethics Assessment (CAAE).

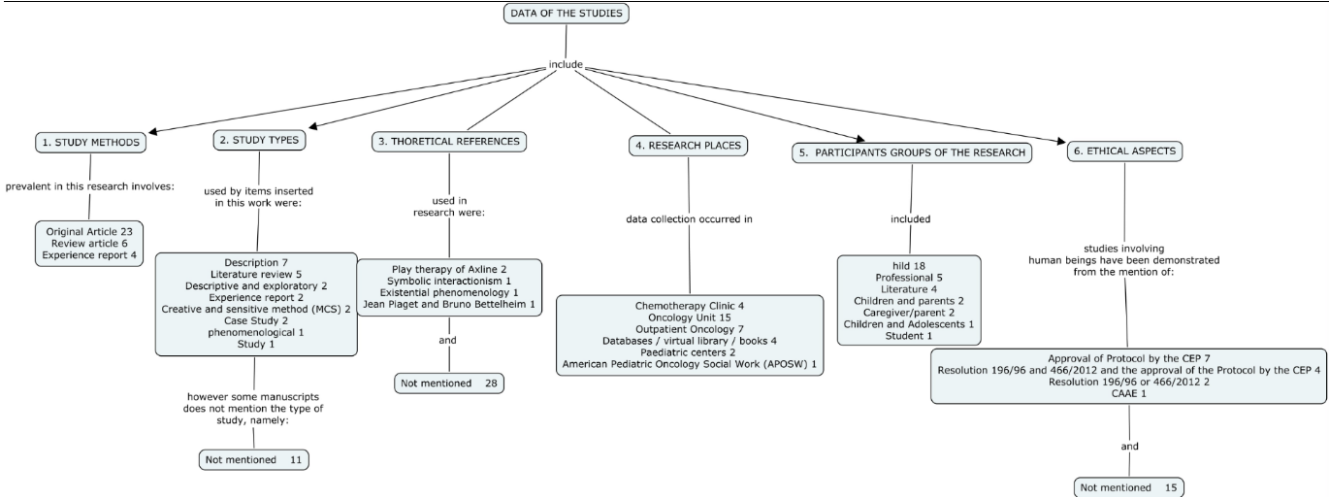


Figure 1. Concept map data of the selected articles for this research - Virtual Health Library (VHL), Electronic Journal Portal of Psychology (PePSIC), Capes Journal Portal and database PsycINFO - 1985-2014.

As for the keywords, the works had 53 different terms, of which only 38% are part of the DeCS -. Descriptors Health Sciences. Moreover, the keywords have different meanings, which promote different relationships and that because of its variability, allowed the development of a conceptual map, shown in Figure 2.

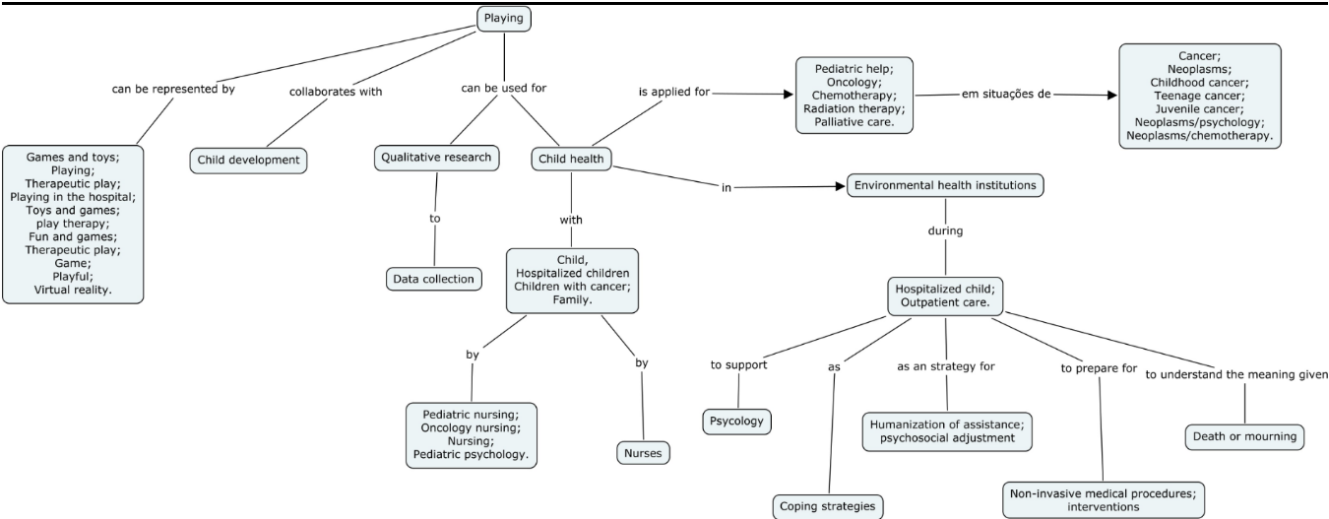


Figure 2. Concept map on the keywords obtained in the manuscripts that make up the sample group of this research - Virtual Health Library (VHL), Electronic Journals Portal of Psychology (PePSIC) Journals Portal Capes and PsycINFO database - 1985 -2014.

DISCUSSION

Analyzing the incidence of publications in the period 1985-2014, there is a predominance of scientific articles about playing and the children with cancer in 2010. This result may reflect the need to establish a quality standard for assistance in Oncopediatrics. Also, starting this year, it is evident the Ministry of Health initiatives include humanization strategies in its debates, especially from its editorial production and the activities of HumanizaSUS Network, encouraging lined studies on this theme, giving the opportunity to review the care of daily practices with health.

The journal that published more about playing and the child with cancer was the “Acta Paulista”. The concentration of productions in this journal may be linked to the fact that this magazine is situated in São Paulo (SP), Brazilian state located in the Southeast and considered a core in the

production and dissemination of scientific and technological knowledge to focus most of the Programs/Postgraduate courses in Brazil.⁹ In this sense, it is worth clarify that the “Acta Paulista” is a magazine of the School of Nursing of São Paulo at the Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP), which is linked to the research group called Gebrinq, which brings together researchers from various universities, as well as undergraduate, masters and doctoral students to develop studies with an emphasis on therapeutic play.

As for the Qualis Capes, most publications on playing and the child with cancer is conveyed in the frequency periodic B. This result is a reflection of the premise that only 25% of the world's journals are eligible to be included in Qualis A, making it difficult to publish in magazines framed in strata indicative of the highest quality.¹⁰ Moreover, this result points to increase the teaching productivity from which “the researcher/teacher has the need to publish”

to meet the requirements evaluation. bodies^{11:39}

The mapping of production points to a concentration of publications on this subject in Brazil. This expression refers to what is currently recommended by the National Humanization Policy of the Ministry of Health and supported by Federal Law 11,104, of March 21, 2005, which provides the obligatory of playrooms installation in health facilities that provide pediatric hospitalization care.

It should be noted that the playful intervention includes specialized activities that can be assigned by different professionals to disburse assistance to the child.¹² However, according to results presented in this study, nurses are part of the professional category who have demonstrated more interest in pursuing studies on the issue, because the use of toys in the hospitalized child care reduces the stress caused by the experienced situation and allows nurses to understand much more the needs and feelings of the child.¹³

As for the titration of the authors who have published on playing and the child with cancer, this manuscript demonstrates the effective participation of teachers and doctors. This finding highlights the recent spread of graduate programs in Brazil, which have markedly higher vocational training *stricto sensu*.¹⁴ Also, this data confirms a statistical study conducted in 2010 by the Management and Strategic Studies Center (CGEE), whose survey showed that education is the sector that employs more teachers and doctors.¹⁵

By analyzing the distribution of authors per article, it was found that the collective authorship highlights. The collaboration between authors in the publication of scientific papers has been increasing in all areas and is driven mainly to enable the development of new scientific knowledge and the sharing of information.¹⁶

Regarding studies modalities, Figure 1 shows that the original papers are regular, certainly for presenting new ideas and opinions about current issues and address issues or original approaches.¹⁷ Therefore, this result shows the interest of researchers in consolidating a set of knowledge about the playing and the child with cancer.

That figure reveals that most of the articles were descriptive studies, followed by studies of literature review, which emphasizes the concern of researchers in describing the importance of playing for the child with cancer and compile the scientific literature on the topic to update the knowledge produced.

It is important to highlight the largest share of related research to playing and children with cancer does not adopt theoretical references in their scientific productions. However, some studies have reported the use of reference “play therapy of Axiline” and “Symbolic Interaction,” which reveals the intention of some researchers of approaching a theoretical framework that supports scientific research about the playing. The proposal of the Theoretical Axiline shows that from the toy the child can “[...] playing, expand their accumulated feelings of tension, frustration, insecurity [...] getting rid of those feelings through playing”.^{18:28} Regarding the Symbolic Interaction, this constitutes a theoretical perspective that gives opportunity to understand the meaning the child gives his illness and cancer treatment process as well as the manner in which this understanding influences on their individual behavior in this particular event.¹⁹

As for the study scenario, the data suggest a greater quantity of research aimed at understanding and experience of the playing of children with cancer and their influence on the lives and well-being during treatment in the hospital, especially since of hospitalization and treatment rise up in the child experiences and negative feelings, which requires the team balance between biologicist care and humanized care.

Considering that the play is a narrative of the children's world and humanization care strategy with the sick child, it is understood the tendency of researchers healthcare that address on the play and the child choose to include as a participant group of the studies children, as revealed in this study.

Concerning ethical rules concerning the research involving human beings, it is observed that the guarantee and respect to the protection of study participants are not explicit in most manuscripts entered in this research. This data refers to the need for scientific journals include in their instructions to authors the relevance and need for researchers insert the methodological design of the research provisions about respect for ethical principles in the practice of scientific research with human beings so that these procedures not be considered solely a formal.

Through the conceptual map, based on the keyword of the research sample of this article, represented by Figure 2, it was possible to understand how the organization of knowledge involves the playing. To this end, it started with the assumption that the act of playing involves toys, the games, the therapeutic play, virtual reality, among other

activities, which reveal the diversity of discourses and conceptions related to the act of playing.

Despite the difficulty of reaching a consensual definition, it is undeniable that play contributes to children's development, the main topic of articles included in this study since the child can internalize the experiences with the world and with people and transform their behavior.²⁰ Under this approach, playing is a fundamental need for child development, in this case the child with cancer since it collaborates to be able to understand what's going on around him, from his experience of illness, so that the use of creative features, familiar to the infant universe in research involving children with cancer, allows them to communicate the experience because of their illness, which facilitates their interaction with the researcher.²¹

As shown by the keywords of articles that make up the sample group of this work in child health, the playful strategies apply to children, even those that are hospitalized and/or who experience cancer, besides being an instrument that can be used by nursing with the family of these little ones.

From this perspective, a toy is an important tool used to prepare children to be subjected to any procedure, during treatment and even throughout their hospitalization and a resource for the process of communication between the health professional and the child occurring effectively.²² Moreover, the toy can be used by healthcare professionals to grasp the understanding of family members about their importance as a strategy to alleviate the pain and the child's stress while conducting clinical interventions. Another important point is that the use of the toy reduces the stress experienced by health staff and parents, but also improves the relationship between them.²³⁻²⁴

It is important to emphasize that the playing, as a therapeutic tool, can be used both for Pediatric nursing as cancer and the Pediatric Psychology, as shown by the keywords of scientific publications included in this study. These two sciences can use the toy in the hospital scenario. However, each area tends to employ more appropriately, certain types of resources than others.²⁵

It must be noted that besides the playing can be used in different areas of knowledge, with its specificities, the applied terms to characterize the works selected for this survey also suggest that leisure activities can be used in different contexts, because it can be applied in medical care in oncology,

chemotherapy, the radiation therapy and palliative care. In medical care, almost all children have expressed varying degrees of sadness and concern. For this reason, it is necessary to develop recreational activities that lead them closer to their child's world and promote a humanized care.

Within oncology, development of playing gives children opportunities to address feelings that may find it difficult to express through traditional conversation. Thus, games are being developed that contribute to them to talk about their disease non-threatening, fun and creative way, sharing thoughts, concerns and desires about it and prognosis.²⁶

Children with cancer can be achieved not only by the disease because their psychosocial well-being can also be severely affected as a result of chemotherapy or radiotherapy treatment, which are very stressful experiences.²⁷ Thus, the inclusion of games in chemotherapy services is greatly important to help them relax, to have fun and express their feelings in therapy, especially for the playing being a powerful strategy for communication.²⁸

In radiation therapy, the inclusion of the playing is also a very useful tool to reduce anxiety related to radiation by reducing hospital discomfort, relieve stress and improve communication between the young people and the health professionals.²⁹

From the perspective of palliative care, the playful is shown as an adverse circumstance coping strategy imposed by the terminal condition to allow the child to design aspects related to their illness and hospitalization improving their quality of life for the simple pleasure of playing.³⁰

Given these considerations, based on the descriptors that supported the preparation of Figure 2, it is understood that, for children with cancer, playing is considered a positive strategy so that they can face the disease and treatment with less suffering and that can be employed in health institutions, during children's hospitalization and outpatient care. It serves as a psychological support and as a very important tool for humanizing assistance and give psychosocial support to the preparation of non-invasive medical procedures and interventions, and to understand the meaning assigned to death and mourning.

CONCLUSION

Playing directed at children with cancer promotes more interaction and communication between them, health professionals and their families, enabling the

sharing of experiences in the face of illness, acceptance and collaboration during the procedures and the necessary examinations and improves the clinical outcome.

Using the methodology of the bibliometric study, it was possible to find that the publications about the playing and children with cancer are still incipient. Although, there is considerable concern among researchers seeking to understand the phenomenon investigated through the development and dissemination of research grant more visibility to this issue in the academia.

This study demonstrates that research on playing and children with cancer have been developed mainly in health institutions, which demonstrates the commitment of scholars to provide a reflection on professional practice. On the other hand, it shows that it takes a larger quantity of publications about the investigated theme, both internationally and national to disseminate the importance of inclusion of playing as a resource that should be used when they are taking care of children affected by an oncological disease.

Given the above, future studies on this topic are recommended so that new elements may emerge to raise the expansion of knowledge about the playing as a key therapeutic strategy directed to children affected by cancer.

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