

Pediatric Residents' Experiences in Children Death

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Background: Despite the pediatric palliative care has been educated in Thailand, the knowledge of doctors' experience in children death is insufficient.

Objective: To explore the experiences in children death of pediatric residents.

Method: This descriptive qualitative study had purposive sampling of 8 participants. Pediatric resident underwent a semi-structured in-depth interview. Content analysis was adopted to analyze the data.

Results: The pediatric residents' experiences were categorized in 3 periods. 1) Before children death, they perceived the suffering of patients and caregivers. They struggled to take care and tell the truth to parent in case of sudden terrible event. 2) During death, pediatric residents were sad. 3) After patients passed away, all pediatric residents were guilt. Meanwhile, most doctors were feeling lost, sad, and sorrow. The feelings and reactions depended on quality of relationship and impression of patients and families, prognosis of disease, and previous experience of doctor. Additionally, the strategies that they coped with were story-telling, suppression, rationalization, and having good team support.

Conclusion: Pediatric residents felt guilty, lost, sad, and sorrow that influenced by relationship, impression of patients and families, and unpreparedness or non-palliative care death.

Keywords: experience, feeling, reaction, children death, pediatric resident/doctor