

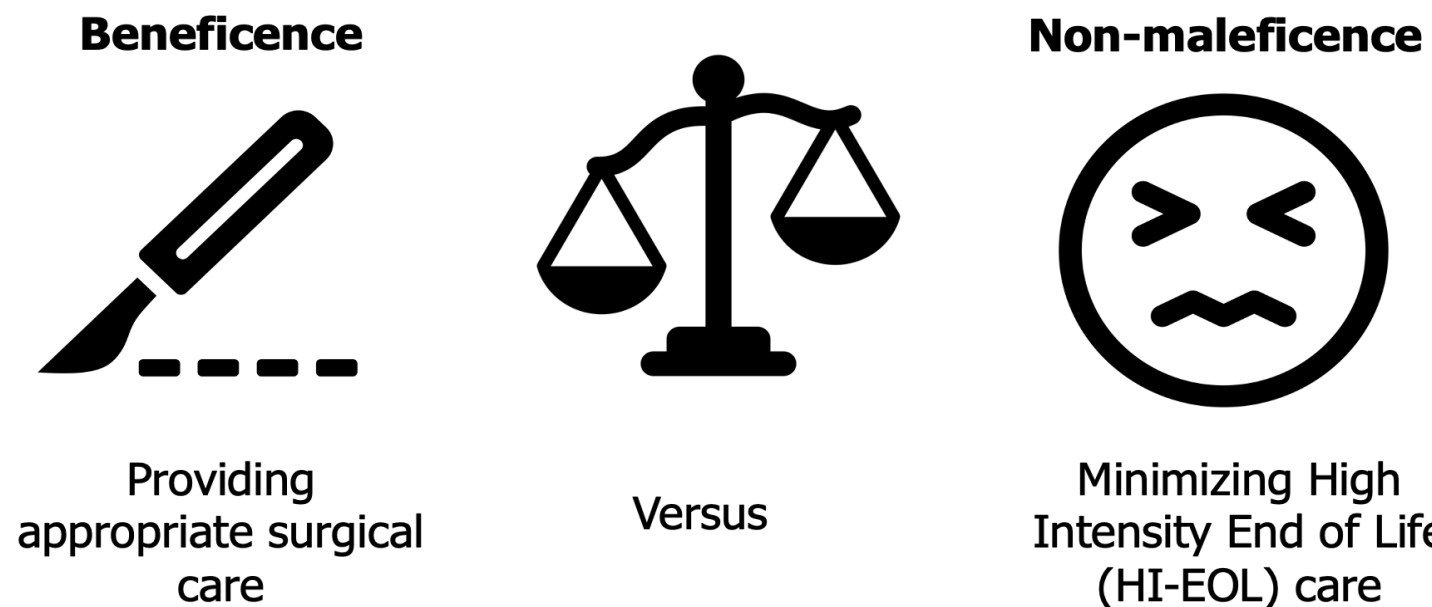
# ASSOCIATION BETWEEN PALLIATIVE CARE AND HIGH INTENSITY END OF LIFE CARE IN PEDIATRIC ECMO PATIENTS

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## BACKGROUND

- The balancing act performed by pediatric surgeons:



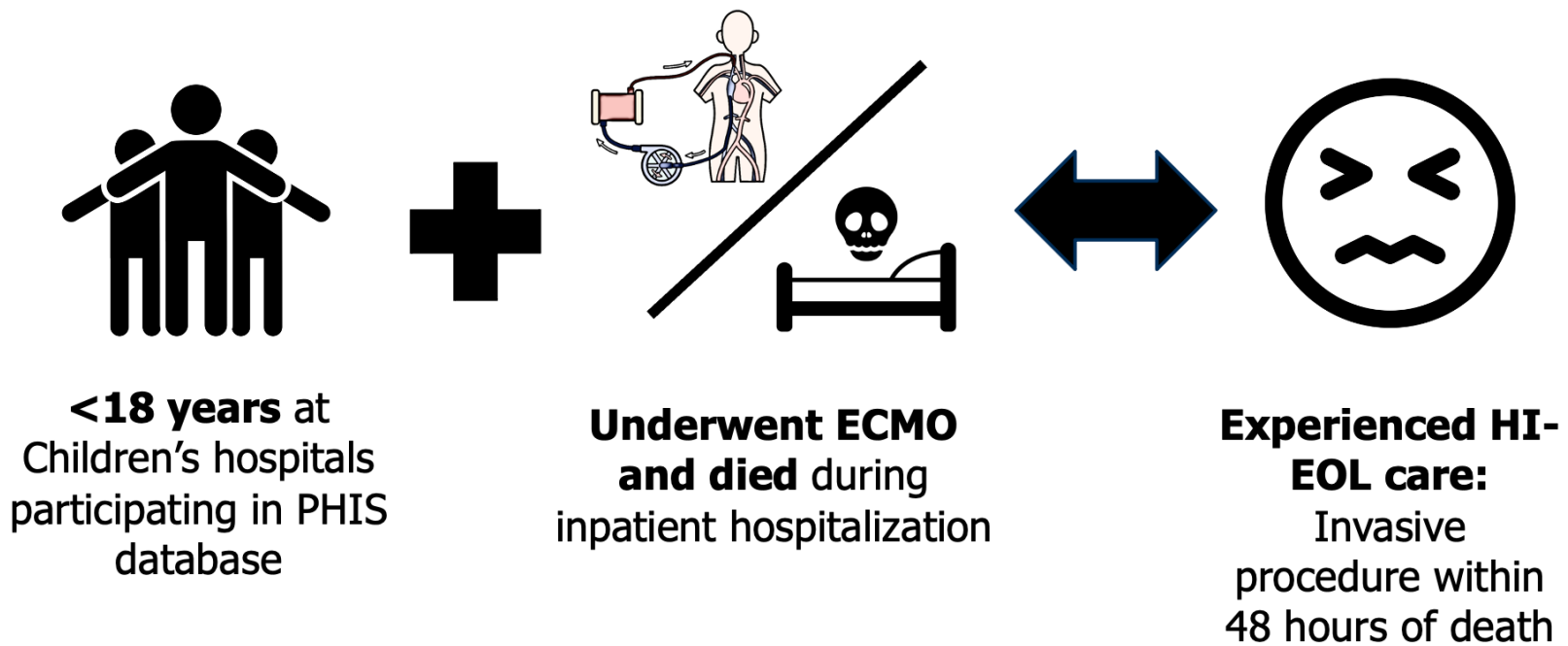
- Benefits of Pediatric Palliative Care (PPC) teams:
  1. Establish open-ended communication and coordination between medical teams
  2. Help families navigate time-sensitive complex medical decisions to ensure goal-concordant care

## HYPOTHESIS

Evaluate if PPC consults are associated with a de-escalation of HI-EOL care for pediatric ECMO patients

## METHODS

A retrospective cross-sectional data analysis was performed using PHIS database from 10/1/2018 to 12/31/2022



	OR	CI	P-value
<b>Palliative Care Consultation</b>			
Yes	0.44	0.30-0.66	<0.01
No	Reference		
<b>Age</b>			
Neonate	Reference		
Infant	1.86	1.18-2.94	0.01
Child	3.02	2.27-4.02	<0.01
Adolescent	4.73	3.29-6.81	<0.01
<b>ECMO Type</b>			
VA ECMO	Reference		
VV ECMO	0.37	0.20-0.68	<0.01
Central	0.33	0.21-0.51	<0.01
<b>ECMO Indication</b>			
Respiratory	1.00	0.64-1.57	1.00
Cardiac	Reference		
Other	1.49	1.11-2.02	<0.01
<b>DNR Status</b>			
Yes	0.53	0.35-0.81	<0.01
No	Reference		

**Table.** Multivariable logistic regression model of likelihood of undergoing an invasive procedure <48 before death for pediatric ECMO patients during their terminal hospital admission. OR = Odds Ratio, CI = Confidence Interval

## RESULTS

- Of the **2,337 ECMO terminal patients**:
  - **807 (34.0%)** had a **PPC consult**
  - **334 (14.1%)** underwent an **invasive procedure** within 48 hours of death
- Pediatric ECMO patients with a PPC consultation had a **reduced odds** of HI-EOL care [adjusted odds ratio (**aOR**): **0.44**; 95% Confidence Interval (CI): 0.30-0.66] compared to those without PPC consultation

## LIMITATIONS

- Hospital-level variations in availability of PPC services
- Exact timing of the PPC consult in the course of illness is unknown, limiting the ability to determine a direct cause and effect relationship between PPC consults and decreased HI-EOL procedures

## CONCLUSIONS

- Less than half pediatric ECMO patients have a PPC consultation during their terminal admission
- PPC consults were associated with reduced likelihood of procedural HI-EOL care
- Need for further studies to identify local facilitators and barriers to PPC consults for ECMO patients

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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