Psychological adjustment to stem cell transplantation in a patient with Fanconi anemia and impact of intervention during COVID-19 pandemic: A case report

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**Abstract**

Objective: The pediatric stem cell or bone marrow transplantation (BMT) process can be a stressful experience for both the patient and family system given the complex nature of the medical treatment involved and potential for complications. During a global health emergency, the BMT process poses additional implications for the psychological well-being of patients and family members due to the unique circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and additional protective isolation required to prevent infection.

Methods: We report the case of a 4-year-old patient with Fanconi anemia (FA) who was hospitalized for stem cell transplantation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Results: We describe the significant challenges and interventions employed during and after BMT hospitalization within the context of the COVID pandemic.

Significance of results: The COVID-19 pandemic provided opportunities to deliver creative interventions to this patient in isolation that can continue to be implemented with BMT patients, as isolation after transplant is a common challenge to treatment. The use of telehealth interventions allowed for more frequent contact with the patient and family to provide support as needed and decreased the risk of exposure from multiple visits from providers. Limitations, implications for clinical practice, and suggestions for future research are provided.