

# Review of: "Effect of Clown Therapy on Symptoms and Emotions of Children with Neoplastic Disease: A Systematic Review with Meta-Analysis"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Luca Giuseppe R and colleagues present a very interesting study on an issue in pediatric hematology-oncology departments: hospital clowns. In their introduction, they describe very well the potential positive effects that clowns can bring to a ward. They present a meta-analysis of 5 studies on the benefits of clowns for children undergoing cancer treatment. They note, however, that the methodologies are quite different in terms of timing, and the effects studied are quite heterogeneous, making it impossible to draw statistically powerful conclusions.

For the same reason, an interesting question to ponder is what profile "clown doctors » should have. This is also a reality that varies from team to team, and from paediatric hospital to paediatric hospital. For some, the clowns are caregivers who have been trained in this type of communication and relationship. Their red noses enable them to deepen or modify a relational dynamic with their patients. For others, clowns are first and foremost entertainers, providing distraction and a different perspective on the lives of children and their families. They provide a temporary escape from illness and the hospital. The idea of this article is to document the interest for a pediatric center to develop a team of "clown doctors". A more in-depth review (even theoretical) of this professional profile, the type of relationship, and the therapeutic mission (or not) of the clown could complete this article.