



## INCTR France

### Retinoblastoma Project - Early Detection and Support for Treatment

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Retinoblastoma (RB) is a rare embryonic tumor that represents 1/16,000 births in France. In Mali, a study showed the characteristics of a hospital series of cases seen in Bamako in the Pediatric Oncology Unit of Gabriel Touré Teaching Hospital and in the Tropical Ophthalmology Institute of Africa (IOTA) between January 2005 and June 2007. Median age was 4 years versus 2 years in France for unilateral disease. Near two third of children with RB had extra-ocular extension at diagnosis, which is now exceptional in France.

Only 11% were bilateral versus 35% in France. Cure rate was around 50%, but it is estimated only on the cases arriving in Bamako and with at least 20% loss of follow-up. Cure rate is over 95% in France within an exhaustive register. RB appears as an exemplary tumor and rapid improvements could be obtained in low-income countries with relatively limited means.

The Alliance mondiale contre le cancer (AMCC), the Institut Curie in Paris, which is the reference center in France for RB, and teams in Bamako were proposing a program to help the development of early diagnosis, treatments, including eye preservation, and rehabilitation of children with RB in sub-Saharan Africa in collaboration with the Groupe franco-africain d'oncologie pédiatrique (GFAOP). The official launching of this program was held in Bamako November 4th, 2011 for Mali and the surrounding regions. After this first experience, this program is now implemented in other countries.

#### INSTITUTIONS

- Hôpital du point G and IOTA, Bamako
- CHU Lubumbashi

#### OBJECTIVES

The program is aiming to improve early diagnosis in order to save vision and improve survival rates of children with retinoblastoma. In Mali, the objective is to double the current survival rate of 40%.

#### METHODS

The program extends from early diagnosis to rehabilitation; it also includes public awareness actions and training for medical and paramedical personnel, so that the cancer, which occurs most frequently in very young children, can be detected and treated early. Disease management is also facilitated.

#### PROGRESS

Dr. Fatoumata Sylla, ophthalmologist-pediatrician at IOTA (Bamako, Mali) conducted a training mission in the department of ophthalmology run by Dr. Laurence Desjardins at the Cancer Hospital at the Institut Curie (Paris, France). This mission was developed as part of the early diagnosis of retinoblastoma program in low-income countries, led by the Alliance Mondiale contre le Cancer (AMCC) since 2011. The goal of this mission was the introduction to the techniques of chemo-laser in the framework of the management of intraocular retinoblastoma forms. This program includes various components, including the training of local technical staff in order to initiate conservative treatment of retinoblastoma intraocular cases.

#### FUTURE PLANS

Next program will be developed in Ivory Coast, Senegal, Mauritania and other sub-Saharan African countries thanks to the support of the My Child Matters Programme (Foundation Sanofi-Espoir).