

Table 3 Summary of Caregiver Reasons for Treatment Abandonment

Theme	Description	Frequency
Financial difficulties	When caregivers lacked money for transport, upkeep, investigations and other treatment-related expenses	16
Competing commitments	When caregivers had other obligations competing for their limited time and resources.	10
Child looked cured	When caregivers falsely thought that the child looked well and the illness was no longer a priority.	8
Faith in alternative treatment	When caregivers preferred and trusted other forms of treatment than medical care.	6
Cancer is Incurable	When caregivers believed that cancer is not curable and considered its treatment a waste of time and resources.	6
Imminent death	When caregivers thought that the child was very sick and about to die and feared the costs of transporting the dead body home.	5
Chemotherapy side effects	When caregivers felt that chemotherapy made the child sicker.	5
Unpleasant therapeutic procedures	When caregivers felt the therapeutic procedures were too unpleasant for their liking.	3