**Table 1 Total delay in relation to different patients' characteristics**

| Patients characteristics | No. of patients (%) | Total delay (d) Median (IQR: 25th–75th) | P |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Sex** | | | |
| Male | 77 (55.8%) | 29.0 (19.0–48.0) | 0.590 |
| Female | 61 (44.2%) | 42.0 (25.0–76.5) | |
| **Age** | | | |
| 0–5 years | 77 (55.8%) | 29.0 (19.0–50.5) | 0.038* |
| 5–10 years | 28 (20.3%) | 39.0 (25.5–66.5) | |
| >10 years | 33 (23.9%) | 45.0 (27.5–145.5) | |
| **Parents level of education** | | | |
| No education (illiterate) | 22 (15.9%) | 39.50 (26.75–64.5) | 0.727 |
| Low education (below high school) | 98 (71.0%) | 35.50 (20.0–70.25) | |
| High education | 18 (13%) | 33.0 (15.5–75.5) | |
| **Patient residence** | | | |
| Urban area | 63 (45.7%) | 32 (19.0–64.0) | 0.564 |
| Rural area | 75 (54.3%) | 39 (22.0–71.0) | |
| **Initial provisional diagnosis** | | | |
| Correct (suspected cancer) | 22 (15.9%) | 19.50 (12.75–39.0) | 0.039* |
| Wrong diagnosis | 116 (84.1%) | 38.0 (24.25–70.45) | |
| **Type of malignancy** | | | |
| Leukaemia (ALL+AML) | 64 (45.7%) | 31.0 (19.0–46.5) | 0.026* |
| Hodgkin's disease | 5 (3.5%) | 240.0 (44.5–368.5) | |
| Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma | 22 (15.9%) | 32.0 (23.75–55.25) | |
| Neuroblastoma | 15 (10.5%) | 39.0 (28.0–70.0) | |
| Wilms' tumour | 10 (7.0%) | 22.50 (13.5–32.5) | |
| Rhabdomyosarcoma | 2 (1.4%) | 88.5 (40.0–137.0) | |
| Ewing sarcoma | 6 (4.4%) | 72.50 (60.75–173.25) | |
| Osteosarcoma | 6 (4.4%) | 130.50 (62.0–205.25) | |
| GCT | 3 (2.2%) | 12.0 (1.0–15.0) | |
| LCH | 2 (1.4%) | 39.50 (24.0–55.0) | |
| Brain tumour | 2 (1.4%) | 44.0 (7.0–81.0) | |
| Hepatocellular carcinoma | 1 (0.7%) | 187.0 | |

*Significant at P < 0.05 (Mann–Whitney U test to compare between two groups, and Kruskal–Wallis to compare among > 2 groups).

ALL = acute lymphoblastic leukaemia; AML: acute myeloid leukaemia; GCT = germ cell tumour; LCH = Langerhans cells histocytosis.