

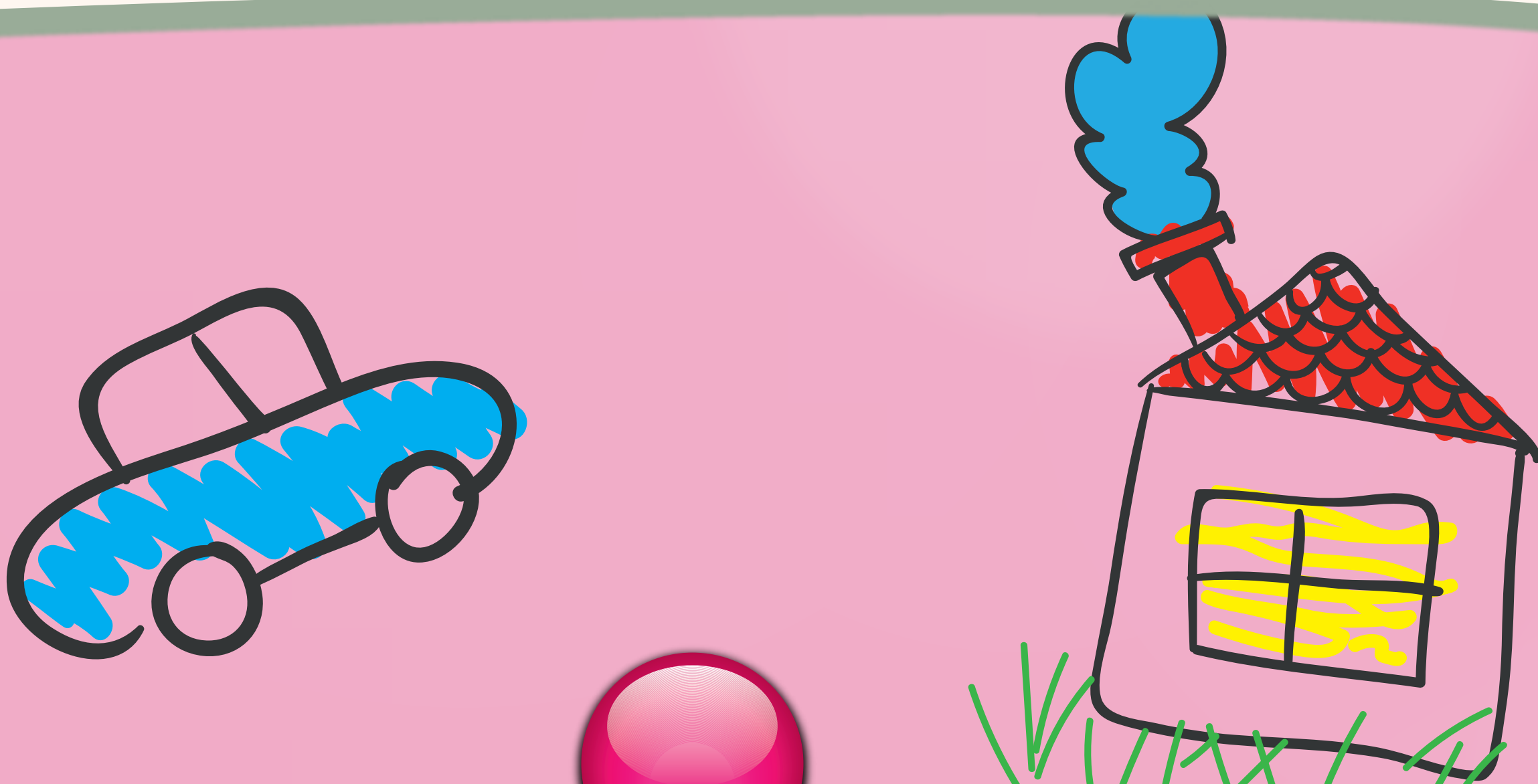
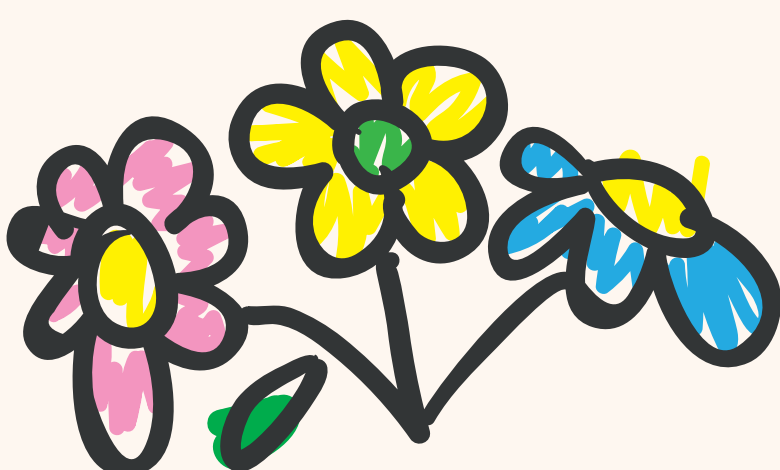
THREE-PHASE INTERVENTION STUDY OF THE NEED FOR SYSTEMATIC PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF CONSTIPATION IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH CANCER.



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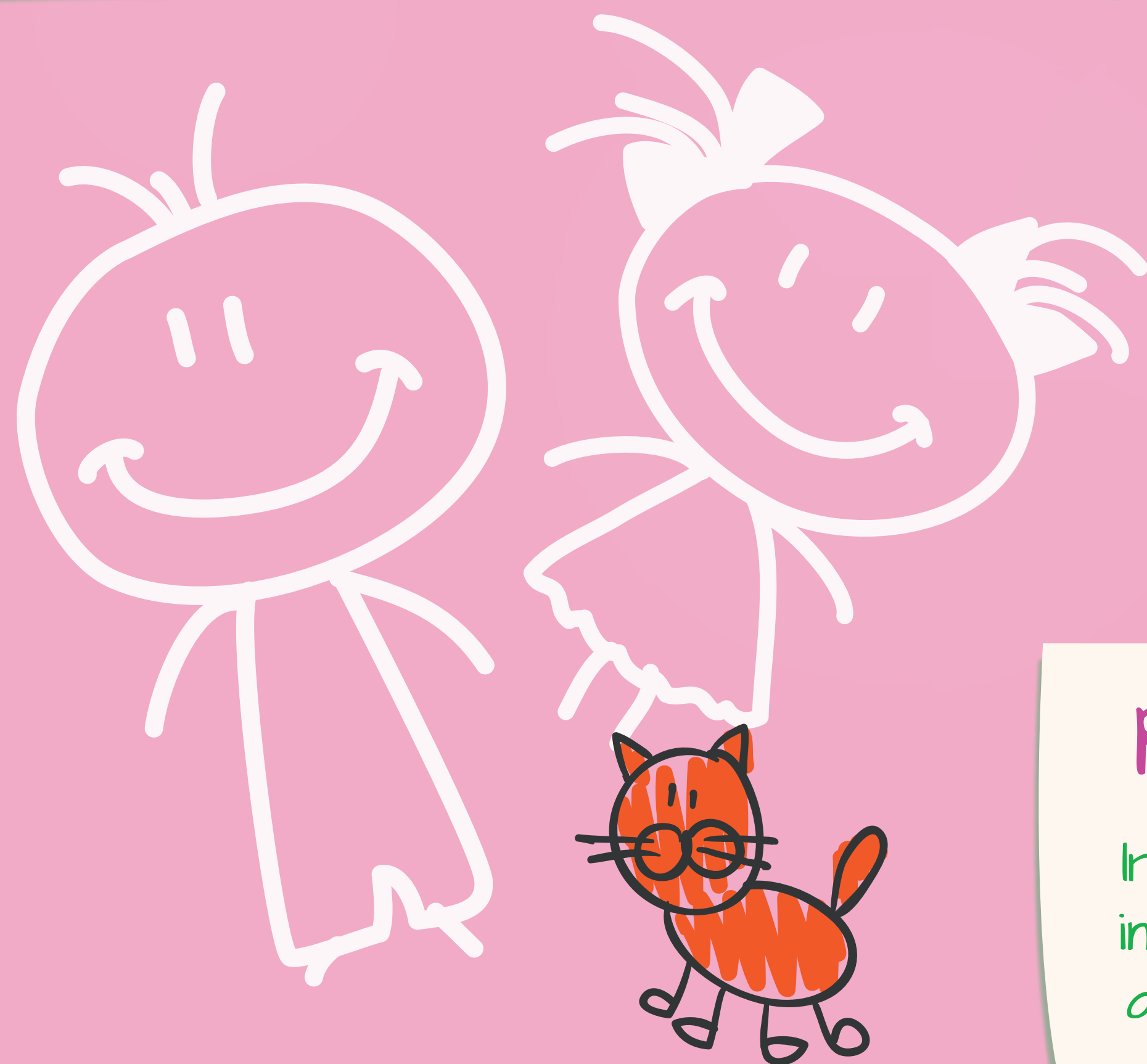
Background:

Children/adolescents with cancer often suffer from constipation due to treatment with chemotherapy and strong opioids. In the care and treatment of these patients, there are many specialized care tasks and complex issues requiring the attention of nurses and doctors. This means that the basic nursing care regarding constipation may be neglected. When a child/adolescent gets cancer, they start life-saving medical treatment with many side effects. Oral intake of medications may in itself be a daunting task for the child/adolescent because of nausea and pain; the intake of laxatives therefore often is downgraded. We find that constipation causes children/adolescent much suffering and frustration. Anal fissures resulting from obstipation are potentially life threatening because of the risk of fulminant perianal pseudomonas infection and septicemia. Constipation can also cause delays in the otherwise life-saving chemotherapy. Furthermore, studies have shown that constipation contributes to poor quality of life.



Method:

The study is a three-phase intervention study. The first phase examines the extent of the problem and its characteristics through journal audits of 10 - 15 patients, parents reported "stool diaries", focus group interviews with the pediatric oncology doctors and nurses at the ward, and interviews with parents. In the second phase a guideline will be developed based on the results of the analysis, and in the third phase the guideline will be implemented with monitoring of constipation-related problems.

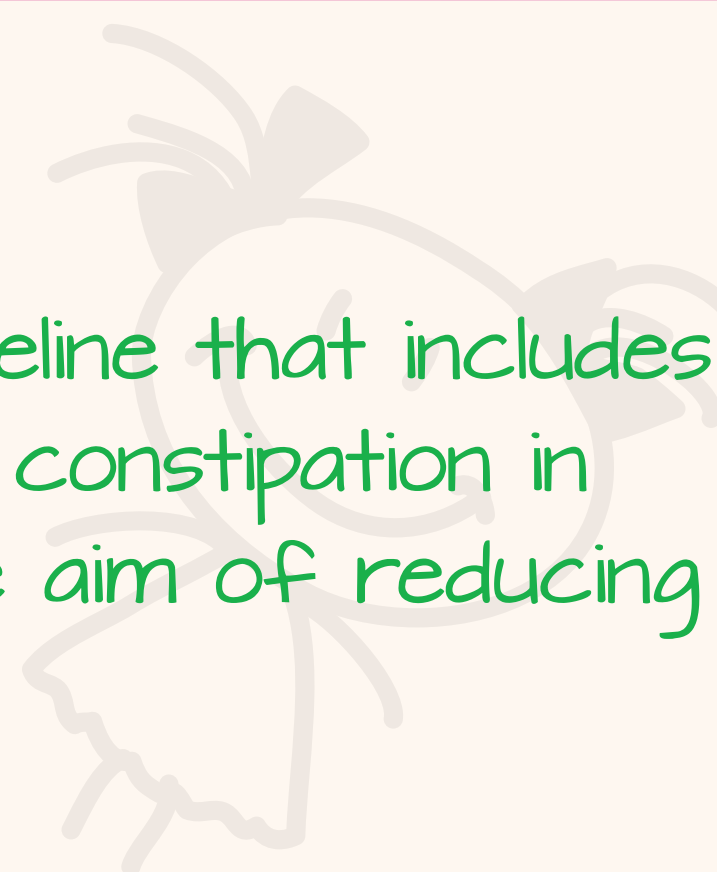


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Objectives/Aim:

The purpose of the study is to develop a guideline that includes systematic observation and documentation of constipation in children and adolescents with cancer, with the aim of reducing severe complications related to constipation.



Results/Conclusion:

In our ongoing study we hope to generate knowledge regarding the importance and effect of systematic observation, documentation and care of constipation in children and adolescents with cancer.

