transitions from child to adult and from sickness to health require ritual to establish new orientations in the mind.

Childhood experiences of prolonged cancer treatment reverberate into adulthood long after treatment has finished. Adult survivors may remain marginalised from their peers despite support from psycho-social professionals (Larcombe et al., 2002; Stamat, 2005). Paediatricians and Psychologists largely rely on the research methods of objective science, but their reductive processes may not capture holistic experiences which require an empathic science that can understand and grasp the reality of transformations in social health. An empathic science such as Anthropology tends to be underpinned by triangulation whereby evidence from multiple sources converges and emerges as a single account. This paper based on camp observations as a Paediatrician for over ten years, interviews with staff and campers as adults in Europe and USA, and review of protocols and literature claims that the research approaches of Medical Anthropology can elucidate the experiential processes which underpin the social transformation of seriously ill children attending special holiday camps.

Camp experiences are about erasing borderlines between the ill and the healthy. Borderlines have twin functions that can be explained by the single concept of liminality (Szakolczai, 2007):

‘Both (functions) problematize the borderline, the *limes*: in one case it is ignored, in the other accentuated.’

The borderline for children with life threatening illnesses is between two kingdoms whose distinctions are effectively ignored and erased in camp. The liminal experience of fun camps are part of a recognisable tripartite pattern of separation, transition and reintegration rituals summarised by van Gennep as a rite of passage. It enables children move from the kingdom of the sick to the kingdom of the well.

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A FIVE YEAR REVIEW OF ‘REALLY SICK INPATIENTS WITH ANOREXIA NERVOSA’ AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL LIMERICK

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**Background** The Junior MARSIPAN (Management of Really Sick Inpatients with Anorexia Nervosa) guideline provides paediatricians with a framework for managing anorexia nervosa in the inpatient setting.

**Objectives** Our aim was to retrospectively review patients in our catchment area with a confirmed diagnosis of anorexia nervosa who required inpatient hospitalisation for management of their eating disorder. We wanted to compare the care provided at our hospital to the recommendations set out in the guidelines.

**Methodology** We collected data on demographics, morbidity on presentation, number and length of hospital stays, psycho-social stressors and outcomes to date in our cohort over the 5 year period of 2014–2018.

**Results** We had a total of 10 ‘really sick inpatients with anorexia nervosa’ at University Hospital Limerick during this period of 5 years. There were 7 females and 3 males. Our patients ranged in age from 10 years to 18 years. The average age of first presentation for our patient cohort was 11.75 years. The longest number of days spent in hospital by a patient in one year was 124 days. Stressors at home were a background feature in 75% of our patients. There was no associated mortality to date in our cohort. Outcomes to date are mostly good although one patient developed obesity and another is on multiple medications for psychiatric comorbidities.

**Conclusion** There is certainly a link between a greater severity of illness and comorbidities and longer inpatient hospital stays. These cases demonstrate the complexity and variety of presentations to a regional unit. There are significant challenges, in the Irish setting, in providing care to these patients. Resource limitation represents a significant factor in patient outcomes.