

Minimally Invasive Tissue Sampling in children dying of an acute illness with varying forms of undernutrition; determining Causes of Death within the Malawian 'CHAIN' cohort. "MITS in CHAIN"



How to communicate about MITS...

What is MITS?

MITS is an abbreviation for Minimal Invasive Tissue Sampling, a novel and dignified post-mortem that involves no cutting of the body yet is effective at establishing cause of death

Why MITS in Children?

A record number of children are dying despite them being provided with adequate care in hospitals. Doctors believe that there might be underlying causes of death which, when properly understood, can be addressed and the number of children dying can be heavily reduced. The only way through which this underlying cause can be established is through a post-mortem. MITS, therefore, becomes a viable alternative.

What will the procedure involve?

The procedure will involve getting tissues from the body as is done in living people/children. These will then be examined to establish the cause of death.

Will there be any marks left on the body?

There might be small marks in the places where needles were inserted to access the tissue samples. These marks are as small as pencil tip. In Some circumstances, there are no marks visible at all.

How long will this procedure take?

The MITS procedure will usually take 2 hours. However, to properly take care of the body so that it is released to the family in a dignified state, the body will be released to the family within 8 hours.

Will MITS affect burial ceremonies?

MITS will not have a huge impact on the burial ceremony. If the body has to be washed by the family or religious leaders after a death, it can be washed; if there is a need for body viewing before burial, the body can be viewed by the family or community.

Concerns on privacy: who will have access to the samples?

*Doctors and pathologists working on the study are the only people with access to the tissue samples. These have been trained in confidentiality and are bound **not to disclose** any details to any person who is not a part of the study.*

How long after the procedure will the results of MITS be released to the family?

The results will be given to the family between 4 to 6 weeks after the procedure. This will be given to the family at the place they will have agreed.

Unanswered questions, whom to contact?

If there are questions or concerns on the study, please feel free to contact Dr Cornelius Huwa (0999 374 103), Dennis Chasweka (0991 492 070/0888 735 851) or Dave Namusanya (0999 697 873)