

00113 Exploring the Post Treatment Experiences and Support Needs of Adolescent Cancer Survivors Living in Singapore: A Descriptive Qualitative Study

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Aims: To explore post - treatment experiences and support needs of adolescent cancer survivors in Singapore.

Methodology: A purposeful sampling from a pediatric oncology outpatient clinic in KK Women's and Children's Hospital, is used to recruit approximately 11 – 20 adolescents (10 to 19 years of age) who had completed any form of cancer treatment at least 5 years since diagnosis. Interview guide and questions are generated using Supportive Care Needs Framework (Fitch, 1994). A semi - structured face to face interviews are conducted. Thematic analysis is used to analyze. Interviews will be conducted until data saturation is reached.

Result: Three themes are identified based on the current data collected.

1) Late side effects of cancer treatment

Some participants experienced either one or two side effects in relation to their treatment, most commonly high pitch - hearing loss. They are on annual follow - ups and diagnostic scans.

2) Energy level

Most participants felt that upon completion of treatment, they took longer time to get back their energy level and preferred to engage in lesser physical activities. Some of them also verbalized their worries in sustaining any injuries and preferred to stay away from sports.

3) Fertility and sexuality issues

Almost all the participants were not aware of the potential effect of treatment on their reproductive system. They recalled that no information was given to them directly and they have not been reviewed by any fertility specialist.

Conclusion: The study has shed light on the unique experience of adolescent cancer survivors in Singapore and the support needs they require. There is a gap on the services provided to them as much of the focus has been on the treatment phase. This brings about a great opportunity to bridge the gap and render better survivorship care for these group of patients.