



Physical Therapy and Chiropractic Utilization in Survivors of Childhood Cancer: Impact on Health- Related Quality of Life (HRQOL)

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Background

Childhood cancer survivors are at significant risk for late effects

- Musculoskeletal Dysfunction
 - Affects 1/3 of survivors
 - Osteoporosis, Pain, Decreased Range of Motion
 - 2x as likely to report performance limitations compared to healthy controls
- Neurological Dysfunction
 - Coordination and Motor Control Problems; Fine Motor Deficits
- Brain Tumor Survivors
 - 20x more likely to have disability compared to controls
 - 49% coordination problems; 26% motor control problems

HRQOL

- Decreased HRQOL Compared to Siblings/Healthy Population

Physical Therapy

- Nurses
 - Key to Making PT Recommendations
 - Involved in 27% of cancer-related visits
 - Key Members of Rehab Team

Chiropractic

- Nurses
 - NP referral = 47% to 74%
 - 23% of RN's recommend
 - 51% of RN's felt there was conclusive evidence supporting effectiveness

Methods

Design:

- Secondary Analysis of Childhood Cancer Survivor Study

Sample::

- Survivors ≥ 5 years post diagnosis
- Diagnosed before age 21
- Baseline N=14,064;
2nd Follow-up N=9,250

Primary outcome measures:

- Health-related quality of life (HRQOL)

Primary independent variables:

- Personal/demographic variables
- Diagnosis/treatment variables
- Chronic disease status
 - Musculoskeletal & neurological

Mediating Variables:

- Physical therapy use
- Chiropractic use



Implications for Nursing

Nurses' Role in Survivorship Care:

- Nurses often lead follow-up clinics
- Nurses are key members of rehabilitation team
- Tertiary prevention
- Case management
- Health promotion
 - Nursing's focus on holistic care
 - Provide patient education
- HRQOL
 - Nurses should recommend interventions that improve HRQOL
 - Understand impact of illness and interventions

Objectives

- Describe use of physical therapy and chiropractic among childhood cancer survivors and describe the relationship between chronic disease status and HRQOL
- Use the KRW Integrative Model of Biobehavioral Interactions to determine if physical therapy and/or chiropractic use mediates the relationship between chronic disease status and HRQOL

