

Childhood Cancer Survivors and Distance Education Challenges: Lessons Learned from the COVID19 Pandemic

Lisa Carey¹, Kathy Ruble², Juliana Pare-Blagoev³, Kimberly Milla¹, Clifton Thornton⁴, Sydney Henegan⁴, and Lisa Jacobson¹

¹Kennedy Krieger Institute

²Johns Hopkins Hospital

³Johns Hopkins University School of Education

⁴Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing

December 23, 2020

Abstract

Background: Pediatric cancer patients and survivors have historically struggled to receive adequate educational supports. In the Spring of 2020, the COVID19 pandemic forced an emergency switch from traditional in-person education models to distance education. Methods: The current study presents initial data from a quality improvement project which included a round of qualitative interviews conducted with parents of pediatric oncology patients at risk for educationally-relevant neurocognitive impacts of disease or treatment. The focus of the interviews was patient experiences of education and instructional delivery during the COVID19 school closures in Spring of 2020 and the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year; interviews were conducted via videoconference and transcripts were analyzed using a phenomenological approach. Results: Three emergent themes were found regarding the shared experiences of distance schooling for children with cancer during the COVID19 school closures: 1) attention, 2) mental health, and 3) access to instruction. This study describes and explores each theme and offers suggestions for changes to provider service delivery as a result of new pandemic-related schooling needs.

Hosted file

PCORI_qual paper final 12-21.pdf available at <https://authorea.com/users/384578/articles/500144-childhood-cancer-survivors-and-distance-education-challenges-lessons-learned-from-the-covid19-pandemic>

Hosted file

covid paper table.pdf available at <https://authorea.com/users/384578/articles/500144-childhood-cancer-survivors-and-distance-education-challenges-lessons-learned-from-the-covid19-pandemic>