

Perspectives on follow-up care and research for childhood cancer survivors: results from an international SIOP meet-the-expert questionnaire in Kyoto, 2018

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Abstract

Introduction Survival of childhood cancer has increased over the past decades. This has led to the development of strategies aiming to enhance follow-up care and research, for which priorities may vary globally. We explored perspectives of an international healthcare workers panel. **Methods** Attendants of a meet-the-expert session on childhood cancer survivorship at the 2018 SIOP conference completed a survey about their view on important follow-up care and research aspects for survivors below and over 18 years. We analyzed overarching categories and subtopics, and compared Asian versus European and American healthcare workers. **Results** Fifty-eight participants from different medical specialties (67.2% pediatric oncologists) and continents (48.3% Asia, 39.7% Europe/America) responded. Follow-up care priorities for survivors below and over 18 years included physical care (39.3% [?]18 years, 35.9% >18 years) and healthcare structure (29.4%, 26.0%). Physical care was also the most important research aspect for both age groups (52.5%, 50.7%). Asian clinicians (n=22) primarily prioritized physical care aspects of follow-up care (48.0%, 45.6%), whereas European/American (n=19) clinicians underscored the importance of healthcare structure (43.9%, 34.4%). The main research priority category concerned physical care for all clinicians. Psychological support was the most frequently reported subtopic. **Conclusion** Physical care is the most important aspect of survivorship care and research according to clinicians from several continents. Asian and European/American respondents shared most priorities, however, healthcare structure was a more important category for European/American clinicians. The most common subtopic was psychological support, underlining also the need to involve psychologists in follow-up.

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