

Looking beyond 5-year survival: What metrics should we consider in long-term childhood cancer survivorship?

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- Define five-year survival, late-mortality and excess deaths due to childhood cancer
- Acknowledge success through a disease specific example
- Demonstrate that chronic conditions and lifestyle factors impact latemortality risk
- Identify opportunities to gain understanding and improve outcomes

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Improvements in five-year survival over time



Survivorship Statistics

- >85% of children with a malignancy will achieve five-year survival
- In 2013, estimated 420,000 survivors of childhood cancer in the U.S.
- Now estimated to be over 500,000 survivors
- Approximately 1 in 750 in US is a childhood cancer survivor



Late-mortality among five-year survivors





Temporal Trends in Late-Mortality



 Strategies of lowering treatment exposures have led to reductions in survivor *mortality* over time.

Armstrong et al, N Engl J Med 2016



Temporal Trends in Late-Mortality



Armstrong et al, N Engl J Med 2016



Excess Deaths Due to Childhood Cancer



Williams, et al, JCO, 2021



Excess Risk of Death Compared to US Population



Excess deaths per 1000 person years (95% CI)

> **5-9 years** All-cause: 9.5 (9.1-10.0) Health-related: 2.1 (1.9-2.3)

≥40 years All-cause: 13.8 (11.7-16.1) Health-related: 13.1 (11.1 – 15.3)

Dixon et al. Portions of this data were presented at ASCO 2021.



- Five-year survival from childhood cancer continues to improve.
- Late-mortality, beyond five years, has also improved with reductions in treatment exposures.
- Health-related deaths in survivors of childhood cancer occur in excess of what we would expect in the general population and increase with increasing survival.



Therapy exposures among ALL survivors by era



- Reduction in use and dose of prophylactic cranial radiation
- Reduction in cumulative dose of anthracycline chemotherapy
- Concurrent increase in use of asparaginase, dexamethasone and high-dose methotrexate

Late Mortality Among ALL Survivors by Era

- Over 6000 survivors categorized by treatment groups representing riskstratified therapy changes over time.
- Survivors in 90sSR were treated without cranial radiation, using low cumulative doses of anthracycline and cyclophosphamide.
- Survivors treated with 1990s standard- and high-risk therapy experienced reduced late-mortality.



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Late Mortality Among ALL Survivors by Era





Excess Deaths Due to Childhood ALL

Excess deaths in the first five years from diagnosis have decreased.

Excess deaths in survivors 5-9 years from diagnosis have *decreased*.

Excess deaths in survivors more than $\frac{1}{2}$ 10 years from diagnosis have *remained low.*





Factors impacting late morbidity and mortality



Dixon et al. CA Cancer J Clin, 2018



Late Chronic Health Conditions associated with Cancer Treatment

Cohort Size <i>Citation</i>	≥ 1 Chronic Condition	≥ 1 Severe Condition	35 - 	1970-79 1980-89 1990-99 Siblings				
290 Eur J Cancer 1998;34:694-8	58%	_	25 - 20 - 20 -					
288 (A)JPHO 1994;16:143-52	69%	21%	- 51 -					
10,397 NEJM 2006;355:1572-82	67%	33%	n 10 - M D 5 -					
1,713 JAMA 2013;309:2371-2381	95.5%	80.5%	0 -	5	10	15	2	
					Years since diagnosis			
Gibson et al, <i>Lancet Oncol,</i> 2018					F	inding cures. Saving	g childre	



Modifiable Chronic Conditions Influence Risk



 Modifiable cardiovascular risk factors *increase* risk of future cardiac events, including anthracycline-associated cardiomyopathy.

Armstrong GT, et al, J Clin Oncol, 2013



Modifiable Chronic Conditions Influence Risk



- Modifiable cardiovascular risk factors *increase* risk of future cardiac events.
- Multiple risk factors further increased risk.
- Modifiable cardiovascular risk factors were associated with increased risk of cardiac death.



Modifiable Lifestyle Factors Influence Risk



Health-Related Mortality

- Vigorous exercise is associated with a *lower* risk of death in adult survivors of childhood cancer.
- Increased exercise exposure over follow-up was associated with a *lower* risk of healthrelated death.



Modifiable Risk Factors Influence Late-Mortality



Lifestyle factors included smoking, alcohol use, unhealthy weight and physical activity.



Modifiable Risk Factors Influence Late-Mortality



Cardiovascular Risk Factors in Survivors may be Underdiagnosed and Undertreated

- Over 500 survivors evaluated for hypertension, dyslipidemia and diabetes or prediabetes.
- 1 in 4 survivors had an undiagnosed condition.
- 1 in 5 survivors had a known condition that was undertreated.





Intervention to Reduce Cardiovascular Risk



Slide curtesy of Drs. Chow and Armstrong



- Improvements in five-year survival have been excellent but do not completely describe the increased risk of death due to childhood cancer.
- Reductions in therapy exposures have decreased late mortality and excess deaths for some groups of survivors.
- Chronic conditions and unhealthy lifestyle factors are prevalent, potentially modifiable, and associated with risk of late mortality.



- Impact of continued therapy modifications including novel and targeted treatments on risk for late morbidity and mortality.
- Implementation of recommended screening for early identification of conditions.
- Intervention to prevent, or optimally manage, conditions known to increase risk for late-mortality among survivors.

Improve the *duration* and *quality* of life for survivors of childhood cancer.





Available Resources

CHILDREN'S ONCOLOGY GROUP Foundation



http://www.survivorshipguidelines.org/ "Health Links" addressing survivor specific concerns; access to the COG Long-Term Follow-up Guidelines

https://together.stjude.org/en-us/

A resource for anyone affected by childhood and adolescent cancer, includes many resources for "Life After Cancer"



https://ccss.stjude.org/ Information about this NCI-funded survivor cohort